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Artists Announced for Fourth Annual Artist-in-Residence Program on Mackinac Island

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to announce the artists selected for the fourth annual Mackinac Island Artist-in-Residence program, which is housed in the remodeled second floor of the Mackinac Island State Park Visitor's Center, formerly the 1915 Mackinac Island Coast Guard Station.

The Mackinac State Historic Parks Artist-In-Residence Program is designed to promote and encourage the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island. The two- and three-week residencies will begin in early June and continue through early October.

The selected artists will provide one public presentation (workshop, lecture, reading, demonstration, etc.) on the second Wednesday of their residency at 7:00 p.m. and contribute one piece of their work to Mackinac State Historic Parks within 12 months.

The residents for 2022 include:

- Alexander Utz, June 7 – June 19, workshop June 15: Utz is a playwright currently developing a play, tentatively called *Gut*, based on William Beaumont's treatment of and experimentation on Alexis St. Martin's gastric fistula, spanning the eleven years they

worked together beginning in 1822. Utz intends to work on the play during the residency and has goals to make it a play that does not need a traditional theatre space to be performed, to gain a deeper understanding of where Beaumont and St. Martin's story fits within the larger story of Mackinac culture; and to ground the play's themes in accurate science, history, and humanity. Utz is currently the Artistic Director of the Avalanche Theatre in the Chicago area.

- Leila Chatti, June 21 – July 10, workshop June 29: Chatti is an award-winning poet who currently resides in Madison, Wisconsin and is the Mendota Lecturer in Poetry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Chatti is currently at work on a number of new projects, including a collection of poems about Michigan. As a Muslim, Arab-American child growing up in mid-Michigan, Chatti often felt alone. Having left Michigan for more than a decade, Chatti has finally come to understand that she *is* a Michigander and wants to explore exactly what that means, in all its complexity. Chatti plans on working on her collection of Michigan poems, where the gift of time and space would greatly contribute to the completion of this project.
- Kateri Kaminski, July 12 – July 24, workshop July 20: Kaminski is a freelance artist and jewelry maker, using sterling silver due to the way it reflects light and for the relationship silver had in the beginning of the relationships with the indigenous peoples and the colonists who settled northern Michigan. Kaminski is looking forward to spending the residency looking for new historical content while exploring the natural formations of the island from every vantage point. Using a sketchbook and portable workbench, Kaminski will look to be inspired by the island. Kaminski is a freelance artist in Grafton, New Hampshire and owner/freelance artist for Boyne's Beyond Borders in Boyne City.

- James Swanson, July 26 – August 7, workshop August 3: Swanson is a painter and signature member of the American Impressionists Society, Oil Painters of America, and National Oil & Acrylic Society. He has entered the juried art contest at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum for over a decade and has been painting the allure of Mackinac Island for far too long from photos friends on Mackinac have sent him and is looking forward to painting with a more in-depth point of view. Swanson is also an educator for Rembrandt Oil Paint and teaches painting classes and workshops throughout the year.
- Jenna Wood, August 9 – August 28, workshop August 17: Wood is a porcupine quill artist whose process requires the gathering and processing of birch bark, porcupine quills, sweetgrass, and cedar root/bark. This process has been passed down through generational knowledge and is a state of reconnection with Wood's relatives that did this work, and is a reclamation of sound, movement, and regrowth for the stationary beings of this land. The residency resonated with Wood because, as an Odawakwe (Odawa woman), Wood's work and process is focused on reconnecting to the land. Wood is a graphic designer in Petoskey and a Quillwork consultant for the Michigan State University College of Anthropology.
- Amy Sacka, August 30 – September 11, workshop September 7: Sacka is a documentary photographer and National Geographic Explorer based in Detroit. From 2017-2021 Sacka worked on two large-scale projects for *National Geographic* documenting the Great Lakes' declining ice cover. Sacka's latest project is photographing Michigan's state parks in a project called *Love Letters to Michigan's State Parks*. Sacka's goal is to photograph

all 104 of Michigan's state parks, including Mackinac Island State Park, and this residency will allow Sacka to photograph it in a truly committed fashion.

- Jean Gumper, September 13 – October 2, workshop September 21: Gumper's color woodcut prints are represented both nationally and internationally. During her residency, she will spend time outdoors, walking, drawing, making photographs and noticing. The gift of time and space to focus on experience will be invaluable and will give her a fertile source of images and ideas from which she will be able to work for years. Specifically, she will begin with small gouache paintings and photographs of plants as sources for a suite of small woodcuts as she becomes familiar with the area. Gumper is a Senior Lecturer and Artist in Residence at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

"Mackinac State Historic Parks is very pleased with the artists selected for the 2022 artist-in-residence season on Mackinac Island," said Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Steve Brisson. "We have a diverse group of talented artists who look forward to being inspired by Mackinac and sharing their creativity through interactive workshops."

A jury of representatives from Mackinac State Historic Parks, the Mackinac Arts Council, and the Mackinac Island Community Foundation selected from a pool of 118 qualified applicants. Selections were made solely on the basis of merit and how the artist's work can advance the program's goal of encouraging the creation of artistic works inspired by the history, natural wonders, and beauty of Mackinac Island.

A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#). Additional pictures available upon request.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic

Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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