Be Our Guest

FINDING CREATIVE TIME + SPACE
“After a residency, you might create something that would never have otherwise existed. You might land in your body, and find that those dark places are yours and that growth can hurt but is always worth it. You may learn that what is precious is what you left back home. Your peripheral vision could double. You may discover that your breathing has changed, and you are forever one degree hotter.”
The Alliance of Artists Communities is a network of artists’ communities, colonies, workspace collectives, and residency programs – *places that provide artists of any discipline with dedicated time and space for the creation of new work.*
There are roughly 500 artists’ residency programs in the U.S. and more than 1,000 internationally, in 48 states and at least 42 countries...
...providing residencies to artists of all disciplines from one week to several years, from one or two artists at a time to 60.

(left) Art Omi (Omi, NY)
(center) Pfister Hotel (Milwaukee, WI)
(right) Skowhegan (Skowhegan, ME)
While many artists’ communities provide housing and a home away from home, others offer studio residencies for local artists and a supportive community in which to create, all with their own unique way of inspiring and nurturing the creative process.

(left) Ragdale Foundation (Lake Forest, IL)
(center) Exploratorium (San Francisco, CA)
(right) Art Farm (Marquette, NE)
Residencies bring together artists from all backgrounds, ages, and creative approaches.
Residencies support every creative form – from visual arts...
…to performance-based work…
…to fiction, nonfiction, poetry, criticism, and playwriting...
...to new genres, installation, media, and experimental arts.
Many offer artists-in-residence opportunities to show or sell their work, whether in a traditional gallery or theatre, festivals, and open studios...

(above) Jacob’s Pillow (Becket, MA)
(right top) Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (NYC)
(right bottom) HUB-BUB (Spartanburg, SC)
...or on a more improvised stage.

(clockwise from top left): Art Omi (Omi, NY)
threewalls (Chicago)
Goldwell Open Air Museum (Beatty, NV)
Djerassi Resident Artists Program (Woodside, CA)
Some focus on opportunities for collaboration and exchange, while others provide solitude.

(left) Sundance Institute (Park City, Utah)
(right) Leighton Studios (Saskatchewan, Canada)
Roughly 60% are located in small towns or rural areas...

(from left) Ox-Bow (Saugatuck, MI), Hermitage Artist Retreat (Englewood, FL), LiJiang Studio (LiJiang, China)
...while others are in or near urban centers...

left, top: 18th Street Arts Center (Santa Monica, CA); left, bottom: Santa Fe Art Institute (Santa Fe, NM)
right: Prairie Center of the Arts (Peoria, IL)
But it’s more than just geography: urban residencies can offer solace, while even isolated retreats often provide opportunities to engage the public, allowing artists to choose the best community for their creative development.

(left) The MacDowell Colony (Peterborough, NH)
(right) Instituto Sacatar (Bahia, Brazil)
The sense of place is different at each artists’ community, from the reclamation and adaptive use of old buildings…

(above) Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (Omaha, NE)
(top right) McColl Center for Visual Art (Charlotte, NC)
(bottom right) Spiro Arts (Park City, UT)
… to the creation of new, state-of-the-art facilities …

(left) Atlantic Center for the Arts (New Smyrna Beach, FL)
(right) Montalvo Arts Center (Saratoga, CA)
...and from rustic retreats to industrial factories.

(left) Art Farm (Marquette, NE)
(right) John Michael Kohler Arts Center (Sheboygan, WI)
Many residency programs are also part of a museum, school, or cultural center, incorporating a residency within other programs that engage the public.

(left) Exploratorium (San Francisco, CA)
(center) Seaside Institute (Seaside, FL)
(right) Pilchuck Glass School (Stanwood, WA)
Others are part of working farms or ranches, and nurture a fellowship with the land or address the intersections between art and the environment.

(top) Colorado Art Ranch  
(left) Ucross (Ucross, WY)  
(center) Sitka Center for Art and Ecology (Otis, OR)  
(right) Espy Foundation (Oysterville, WA)
Residencies also provide a community of like-minded individuals – mentors, peers, and collaborators – in an environment that encourages risk-taking and experimentation.

(from left) Anderson Ranch, Montana Artist Refuge, Atlantic Center for the Arts
And all seek to balance solitude with community in their own way.

(from left) Hopscotch House, Hedgebrook, Atlantic Center for the Arts
In the midst of such distinctions, it is the dynamic energy between people, place, and the creative process that defines community, and unites the field of residency programs.
For more information visit the “Residency Search” at www.artistcommunities.org

Hundreds of opportunities, endless possibilities!

© 2011