

ART
OMI
Artists
2017

From the Director



Claudia Chaseling in conversation with Francis Greenburger



Interior, Betsy's Cottage



Exterior, Betsy's Cottage

Dear friends,

Last year we celebrated 25 years since the first artists gathered at Art Omi for what we used to call the “artists workshop.” At that time, our campus consisted solely of the beautiful red barn and its stunning surroundings. Artists would be housed with generous locals, who would open their home for Art Omi to happen. Many things have changed since, and now our campus comprises many buildings, programs and events year around.

This year, we started off Art Omi’s next quarter century with the inception of our third dorm, Betsy’s Cottage. This superb, state-of-the-art, eight-room complex allows us to offer private rooms to our resident artists, with all comforts necessary, in an inspiring setting. The cottage is named after renowned actress Betsy von Furstenberg, who passed away in 2015. We are extremely grateful to her children for supporting this beautiful new space at Art Omi!

This year we also launched two new fellowships: one for an artist living and working in Croatia and one for a Basque artist. We are immensely grateful to our partners, The Museum of Fine Arts in Croatia, especially Branko Franceschi (2016 Critic in Residence and Art Omi board member) for being the driving force behind this initiative, and to Eremuak/Azkuna Zentroa for joining forces with us to provide these new opportunities.

Lastly, we are honored to welcome to our program board Victoire Bourgois and Art Omi 2017 Critic in Residence Larry Ossei-Mensah! They join a very committed program board; I am endlessly grateful for their enthusiasm, generosity and dedication.

In my tenth year as Program Director, I am honored to continue to lead such incredible enterprise that provides life-changing opportunities to talented artists from all over the world. I look forward to many more years of meaningful and profound experiences at Art Omi.

Claudia Cannizzaro

Artists in Residence

Kiichiro Adachi, Japan/USA

Shurooq Amin, Kuwait

Camila Arriaga Torres, Colombia

Claudio Beorchia, Italy

Anna Berry, UK, Unlimit Art Fellowship

Elaine Byrne, Ireland/USA

Claudia Chaseling, Germany/Australia

Furen Dai, China/USA, The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation Fellowship

Modou Dieng, Senegal/USA

Lang Ea, Cambodia/New Zealand

Iñaki Garmendia, Basque Country (Spain), Eremuak Fellowship at Art Omi

Barbara Kaplan, Argentina

Jennifer Karady, USA, Francis Greenburger Fellowship for Mitigating Ethnic & Religious Conflict

Francois Knoetze, South Africa, American Dream Fellowship



ARTIST ALLOWS TO SNEEZE ON THIS WORK

Anna Kristensen, Australia/USA Australia Art Omi Committee

Diego Lama, Peru

Eunsook Lee, South Korea

Rodolfo Marron III, USA, Charlotte Street Foundation Fellowship

Omar Mismar, Lebanon/USA

Branislav Nikolic, Serbia

Jebila Okongwu, Nigeria/Italy

Yann Pocreau, Canada, The Antrev/Habland Award

Viktor Popovic, Croatia, Fellowship for an Artist Living and Working in Croatia

Alejandra Prieto, Chile, Cecily Brown Fellowship

Farid Rasulov, Azerbaijan/USA

Yves Sambu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Julie Schenkelberg, USA

Omid Shekari, Iran/USA

Anssi Taulu, Finland

Thu Kim Vu, Vietnam

Critic in Residence

Larry Ossei-Mensah is a Ghanaian-American independent curator and cultural critic who has documented contemporary cultural happenings for various publications including *Neue Journal*, *Uptown* and *Whitewall Magazine*. His writings have profiled some of the most dynamic visual artists working today – Derrick Adams, Mickalene Thomas, Kehinde Wiley, Lorna Simpson, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Yinka Shonibare and street artist JR.

As a curator, Ossei-Mensah uses contemporary art and culture as a vehicle to redefine how we see ourselves and the world around us. He has organized exhibitions at commercial and nonprofit galleries featuring a roster of critically acclaimed artists, including Firelei Baez, ruby amanze, Hugo McCloud, Brendan Fernandes and Derek Fordjour to name a few. Ossei-Mensah is also the Co-Founder of ARTNOIR, a global collective of culturalists who design multimodal experiences aimed to engage this generation's dynamic and diverse creative class. ARTNOIR serves as a tangible extension of Ossei-Mensah's curatorial vision of "bridging cultural gaps." ARTNOIR has collaborated on a number of programs and initiatives with Open House New York, Moët Hennessy, Neuehouse, *The New York Times*, Random House, NYU, Wangechi Mutu, and Julie Mehretu just to name a few.

Ossei-Mensah currently serves as Co-Chair of Russell Simmons' RUSH Artist Advisory Board, a member of MoMA's Friends of Education and ICI's Independents.

"The opportunity to be the 2017 Critic-in Residence at Art Omi was an honor and privilege. Over the span of four weeks, I watched 30 artists challenge themselves and grow in their practice and as individuals. Moreover, to see the birth friendships and cross-cultural collaborations, many of which I believe will last a lifetime, is a true reflection of the magic that can only be experienced at Art Omi. I'm proud to have had a opportunity to work with this group and I look forward to continuing to collaborate in the years to come."

Larry Ossei-Mensah

Frances Richard (Art Omi Critic in Residence 2009) has published three collections of poetry – *Anarch.* (Futurepoem, 2012), *The Phonemes* (Les Fignes Press, 2012) and *See Through* (Four Way Books, 2003) – as well as the chapbooks *Shaved Code* (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs, 2008) and *Anarch.* (Woodland Editions, 2008). She writes frequently about contemporary art and is co-author, with Jeffrey Kastner and Sina Najafi, of *Odd Lots: Revisiting Gordon Matta-Clark's "Fake Estates"* (Cabinet Books, 2005).

She has been a visiting scholar at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, and is the recipient of a Creative Capital/Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant, and a research grant from the Graham Foundation. Currently she is editing two volumes of essays: *Joan Jonas is on our mind* (Wattis Institute, 2017), and an as-yet untitled publication considering site-specific works in the collection of The New School in New York City. She teaches at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

“During the days I was at Omi, in addition to meeting an amazing group of artists and having more interesting, complicated, exciting conversations about more various kinds of works than one would think could be crammed into a single week, I was also working on an essay about the artist Michael Rakowitz and his project Radio Silence (2017).”

Frances Richard

Monotype Project

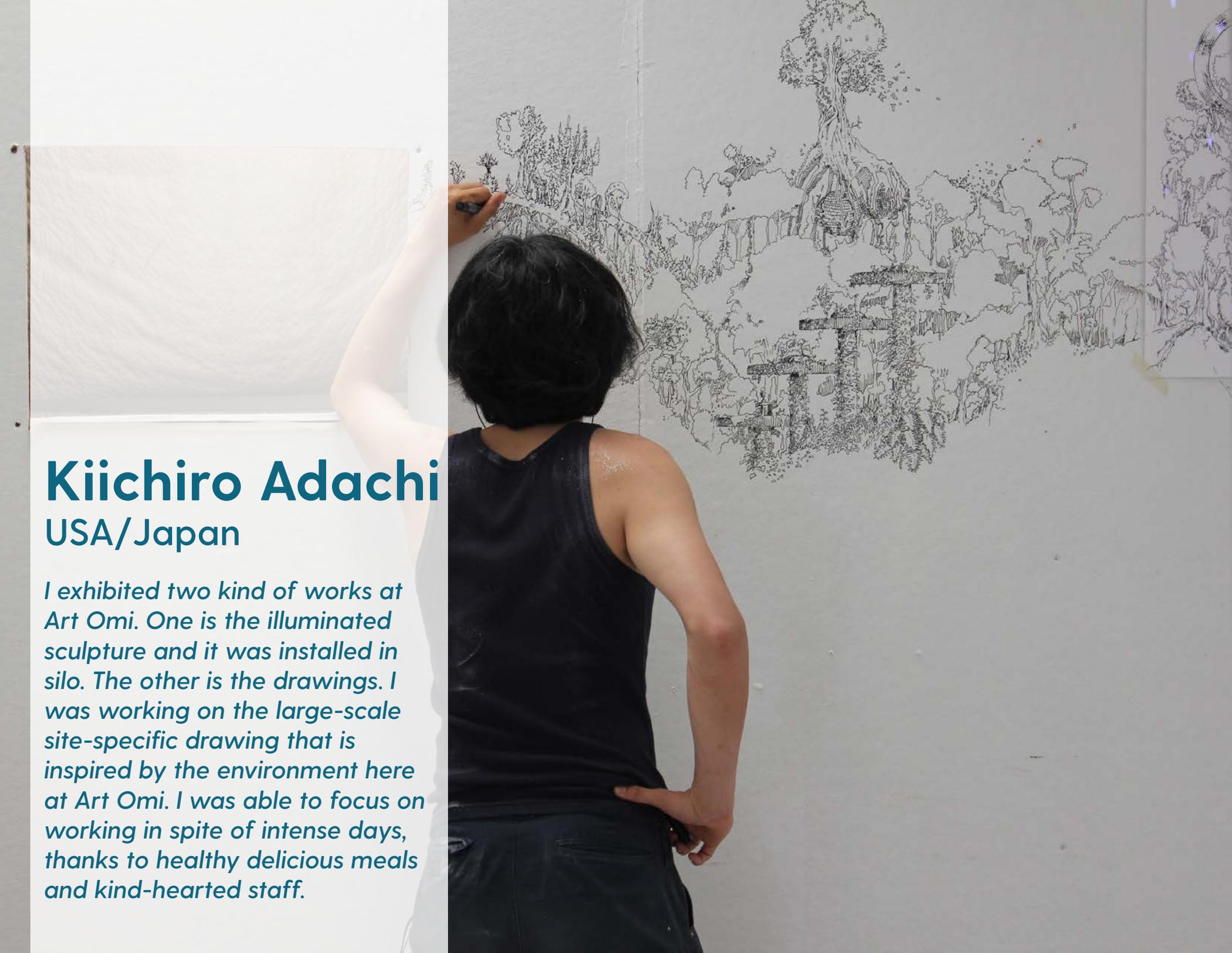


Since 1992, Art Omi has offered artists in residence the opportunity to work with Tamarind printers Melissa and Ted Braggins of Pondsides Press, Rhinebeck, NY. They create beautifully printed monotypes of the highest quality through collaborative efforts by artist and printer. Art Omi provides all material needed for the monotype project to the artists for free.

Visitors Program

The Visitors Program is a vital part of the artists' experience at Art Omi. Gallery dealers, curators, critics and artists are invited to meet the residents and discuss their work. We are committed to this tradition as a way to foster a more connected community among professionals in the visual arts. We thank these generous art professionals for taking the time to travel to Art Omi to visit the artists in residence:

Alison Kuo, Artist, Program Coordinator, School of Visual Arts MFA Fine Arts Program
Amanda Parmer, Curator, Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School and Founder, Parmer Projects
Ayesha Williams, Director of Strategic Partnership, The Laundromat Project
Carmen Hermo, Assistant Curator, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum
Catinca Tabacaru, Owner, Catinca Tabacaru Gallery
Charlotta Kotik, Art Omi board member, Curator Emerita Brooklyn Museum
Danny Baez, Contributor Arts/Style, Fairs representative Gavin Brown Enterprise
Douglas K Walla, Founder and Director, Kent Gallery
Ella Marder, Director of Cultural Programs, NeueHouse NY
Emmanuel Iduma, Writer and Art Critic, co-Curator of the Nigerian Pavilion Venice Biennale
Ghiora Aharoni, Artist and Designer, Principal of Ghiora Aharoni Design Studio
Helen Toomer, Director, Pulse Art Fair
Jasmine Hernandez, Founder, Gallery Gurls
Jasmine Wahí, Co-Owner/Director Gateway Project Spaces, Founder and Director Project For Empty Space
Jennie Lamensdorf, Curator, Francis Greenburger Collection, Curator Art In Buildings, Art Omi board member
Katie Fuller, Independent Curator
Katherine Carl, Curator, James Gallery, The Graduate Center, CUNY
Lauren Kelly, Director, Sean Kelly Gallery
Lilly Wei, Critic and Independent Curator, Art Omi board member
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Nomaduma Masilela, Independent Curator
Paul Laster, Writer, Editor, Independent Curator
Peter Hopkins, Founder, Art Helix
Rene Riccardo, Independent Curator
Rocio Aranda Avarado, Curator, Museo del Barrio
Sally Szwed, Director, Creative Time Summit
Sara Reisman, Artistic and Executive Director, The Rubin Foundation, Art Omi board member
Sasha Dees, Independent Curator, Art Consultant, Film Producer
Susan Cross, Curator, MASS Moca
Susan Hapgood, Executive Director, ISCP
Tze Chun, Founder, Uprise Art
Victoria Rogers, Director of Arts, Kickstarter
Will Penrose, Executive Director, Nurture Art



Kiichiro Adachi

USA/Japan

I exhibited two kind of works at Art Omi. One is the illuminated sculpture and it was installed in silo. The other is the drawings. I was working on the large-scale site-specific drawing that is inspired by the environment here at Art Omi. I was able to focus on working in spite of intense days, thanks to healthy delicious meals and kind-hearted staff.



Shurooq Amin Kuwait

What distinguished Art Omi for me and made it an exceptional experience for me was not only the opportunity to work in a high-caliber structured program within a stunning environment, but specifically the Studio Visit Week which enabled artists and curators, gallerists, etc., to meet for the first time and open a dialogue that could not have taken place anywhere else or at any other time.

These encounters are crucial to the career of a serious artist, and Omi provided that. And to top it all of, I made lifelong friends with many of the artists at the residency! What could be better than that?



Camila Arriaga Torres

Colombia

My experience at Art Omi exceeded expectations. I had the opportunity to experiment, explore new territories and face new challenges as an artist and as a person. I feel very lucky to have worked in that gorgeous studio barn, with the staff who are beautiful and generous people, always willing to help you. And of course, for sharing experiences with wonderful and talented artists from all over the world, with different visions about life and art.



Claudio Beorchia

Italy

Art Omi has been a great experience. During the residency I had some good new ideas for new projects. The time spent in the studio, the implicit and explicit interactions with fellow artists, the conversations during the studio visits favored their genesis. Ideas are the lymph of my artistic practice.





Anna Berry

United Kingdom

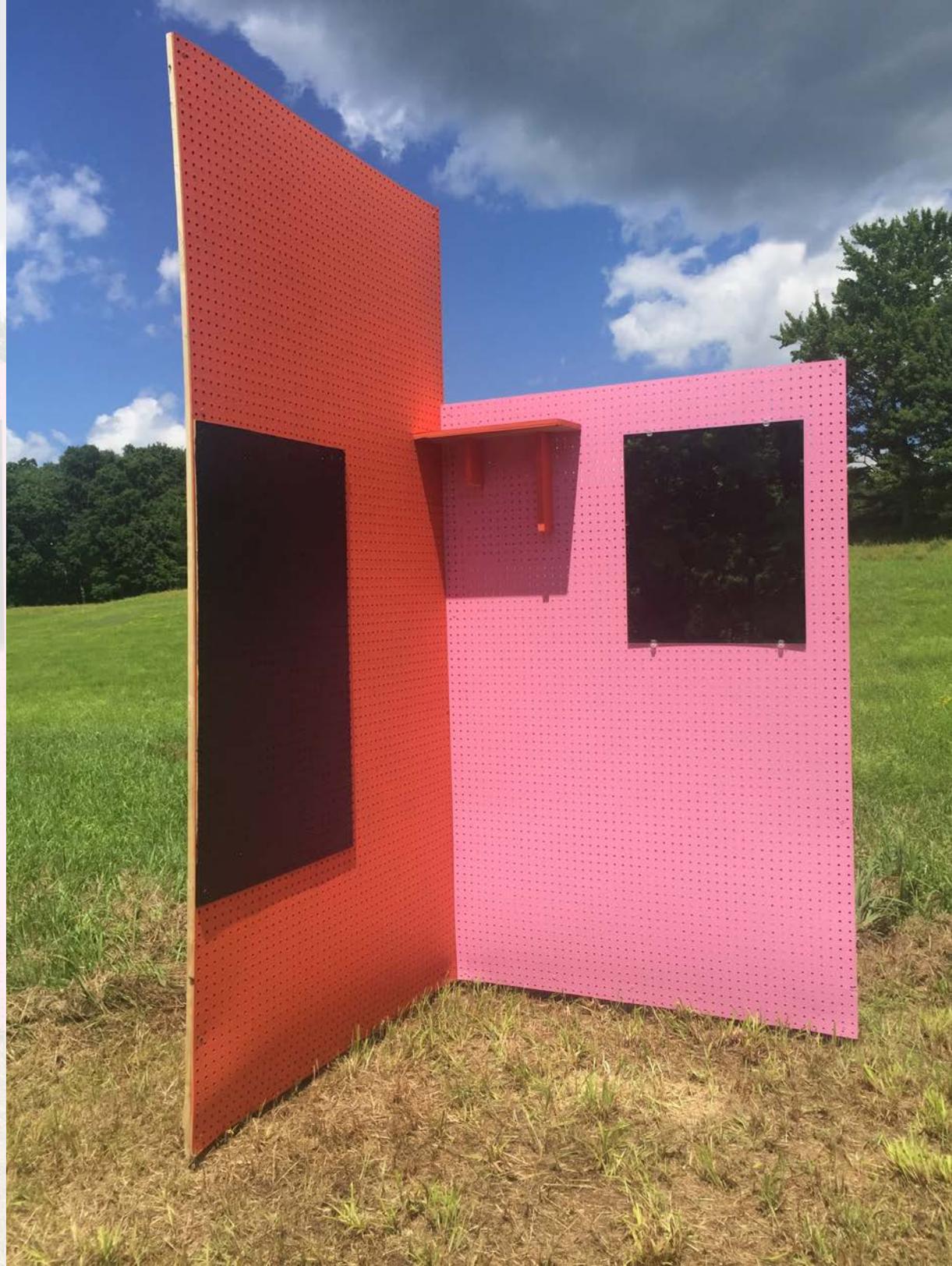
Unlimit Art Fellowship

The privilege of being at Art Omi gave me many great gifts. The time and space to explore new ideas and new approaches is always welcome. But Omi sets itself apart from other residencies in many ways. The dedication of the body of staff to facilitating the artists' experience is humbling and is really successful at allowing us full engagement with our work and the experience as a whole. The opportunity to meet and form great connections with a truly global mix of people is also rare and beautiful. There is a perfect balance between engagement with one's private work and an enriching social engagement, which nourishes ideas and processes, and feeds back into that work. The visits from art professionals were often inspiring, forcing a new way of conceiving of a body of work. The appreciation from the public at open weekend was a cathartic and perfect end to what was a wholly inspiring and productive experience. My time at Omi will be nourishing my work for a long time to come!

Elaine Byrne

Ireland/USA

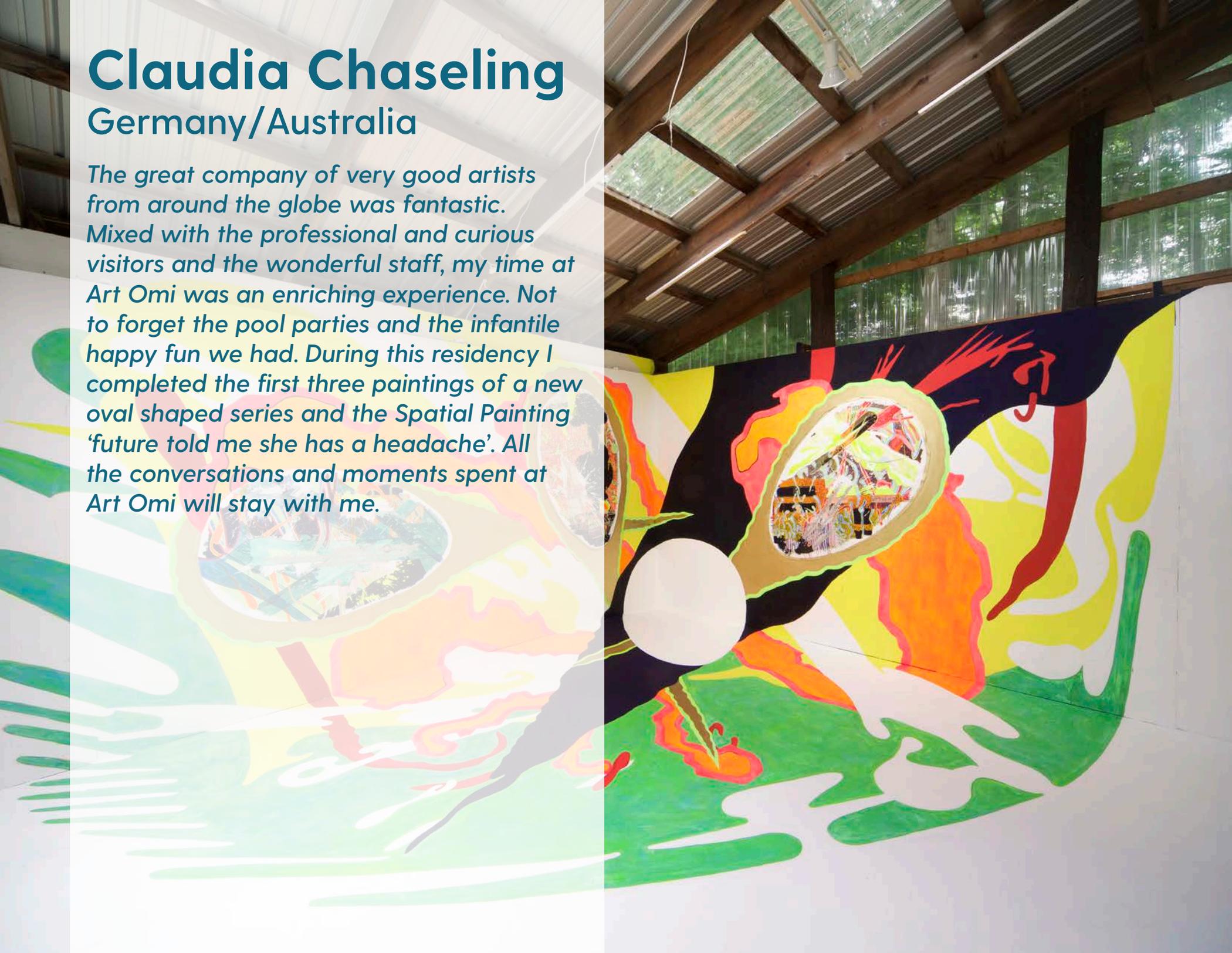
Art Omi has been a special and unforgettable experience. It is an amazing place to work and meet other artists from around the world. Having the workshop and technical help on hand meant I could explore some new ideas and ways of working which I had been thinking about for a while. I feel so thankful for the opportunity to be part of this community, for all the laughter and inspiring studio visits. Long lasting friendships have been made.



Claudia Chaseling

Germany/Australia

The great company of very good artists from around the globe was fantastic. Mixed with the professional and curious visitors and the wonderful staff, my time at Art Omi was an enriching experience. Not to forget the pool parties and the infantile happy fun we had. During this residency I completed the first three paintings of a new oval shaped series and the Spatial Painting 'future told me she has a headache'. All the conversations and moments spent at Art Omi will stay with me.





The suggested use time is 3 months.

Furen Dai

China/USA

The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation Fellowship

My experience at Art Omi included an amazing, supportive, and inspiring group of fellows who will be lifelong friends; incredibly supportive staff, beautiful landscape, great food, gallery and museum excursions, along with remarkable networking opportunities and studio visits – all of which inspired my research, resulting in a sculpture/video installation in response to my residency at Art Omi, the Hudson River Valley and its history.

THE FUTURE



Modou Dieng

Senegal/USA

Sharing live and work space with my peers from all over the world gave me the most amazing life changing experience in my practice.

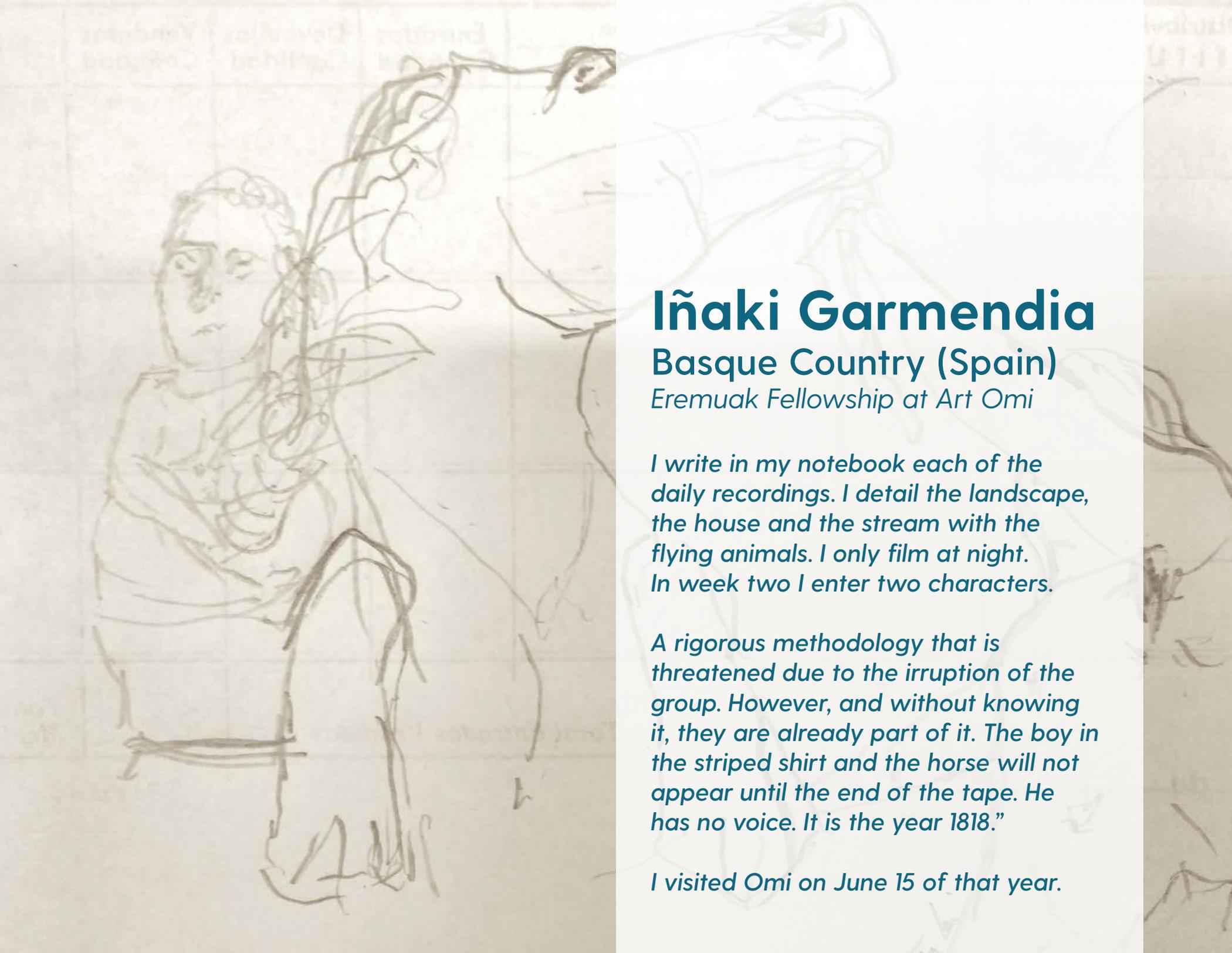
The global idea and dialog Art Omi is provoking and nurturing must continue.

Lang Ea

Cambodia/New Zealand

There are very few truly great experiences in life that are worth bragging about, however Art Omi 2017 exceeded all my expectations, I feel proud that I was given the opportunity to participate in this amazing international artists residency. To be among such a talented group of international artists and to have writers, curators and prominent NY gallerist like Sean Kelly say what a talented painter I was . . . is priceless!"





Iñaki Garmendia

Basque Country (Spain)

Eremuak Fellowship at Art Omi

I write in my notebook each of the daily recordings. I detail the landscape, the house and the stream with the flying animals. I only film at night. In week two I enter two characters.

A rigorous methodology that is threatened due to the irruption of the group. However, and without knowing it, they are already part of it. The boy in the striped shirt and the horse will not appear until the end of the tape. He has no voice. It is the year 1818.”

I visited Omi on June 15 of that year.

Barbara Kaplan

Argentina

During the residency I was able to have totally fresh new ideas of works that were born by the limitations of material resources, since Omi is strategically located away. The natural environment and the communal relations with artists were the sources in where I found inspiration.



Jennifer Karady

USA

Francis Greenburger Fellowship for Mitigating Ethnic & Religious Conflict

Art Omi was a unique and rewarding residency, unlike any other I've been to. As part of this engaging global art community, I found myself energized to take risks in my work and experiment, both conceptually and formally, with video. Because of the relationships made with residents, visitors and staff, the end of this residency felt more like it could be the beginning of something exciting.

Francois Knoetze

South Africa

American Dream Fellowship

During my time at Art Omi, I decided to collaborate with each one of my fellow residents. In this collaborative process and through the studio visits, I gained valuable insight into my own practice, but also made friends from all corners of the globe.





Anna Kristensen

Australia/USA

Australia Art Omi Committee

My experience at Art Omi was so valuable due to the level of support the residency offers, providing an intensive and productive working environment in the peace of upstate New York, with the generous assistance of staff and Omi facilities. For me, the best part of the program was to make work in this environment while getting to know other artists from diverse backgrounds, with different voices and experiences – such a pleasure.



Diego Lama

Peru

Experiencing the residency surpassed by far any expectations I had, as the intellectual and emotional exchange with so many talented artists made me reexamine the uncertainties of my work and regain a sense of purpose in my practice, while becoming part of a valuable community.



Eunsook Lee

South Korea

Art Omi was my first residency program; I was able to accept and experience it without any prejudice. It was amazing. Most importantly, I believe it encouraged and gave me a first step forward my next project. I made fresh start at Art Omi.

I was appreciated and respected as an artist during the program. This encouraged me and motivated me. The comfortable accommodations and the food being served definitely let the artists focus on their work and gave more time to work. I believe this program is like a paradise to every artist. The visitors and critics programs was the most powerful and productive. They were very supportive and willing to hear artists and give realistic feedback.

Art Omi is very valuable and unforgettable experience to me. In fact, I was not familiar with party and not good at networking, yet I started to enjoy my time and people around me. I truly thank Art Omi for having me participate in the program.



Rodolfo Marron III

USA

Charlotte Street Foundation Fellowship

My time during Art Omi 2017 was in one word, paradise. We artists immediately clicked over the breathtaking views of the Catskills, amazing food and dance parties. The staff of Omi were very hands-on and extremely helpful to each individual artist. For myself, it was from bringing aloe plants in for my presentation, to making shelving units to display work.

The dynamic of this residency is a special one; with trips to Dia: Beacon, Larry Ossei-Mensah as our critic in residence, many studio visits and the Open Weekend event. Art Omi and all the artists that were selected this year truly gave me a sense of love and nurturing.





Omar Mismar

Lebanon/USA

Aside from the spacious studios, the accessible facilities, the lovely team, the wonderful meals, and the captivating scenery which all nurture a glistening environment for thinking and making, Art Omi is in itself a work, a project of social practice.

The flashlight pool parties we threw, the conversations we delved in, and the dialects we exchanged kindled friendships – indispensable constituents that we will carry for a long time, like a tick on a deer.





Branislav Nikolic

Serbia

I am amazed how the selection committee managed to select 30 outstanding artists from around the world. And not only outstanding artists, but also extraordinary people. It was the starting point for all our works, discussions, parties, fun and cooperation. I will always be grateful for this incredible experience!



Jebila Okongwu

Nigeria/Italy

At Art Omi I was able to dedicate myself totally to my art in a very stimulating environment. The staff were incredibly warm and supportive and the surrounding landscape is stunningly beautiful. We had the opportunity to forge professional relationships with many important NYC art world figures. All these factors led to an intense period of discovering new directions in my work, personal and professional growth and many happy memories.



Yann Pocreau

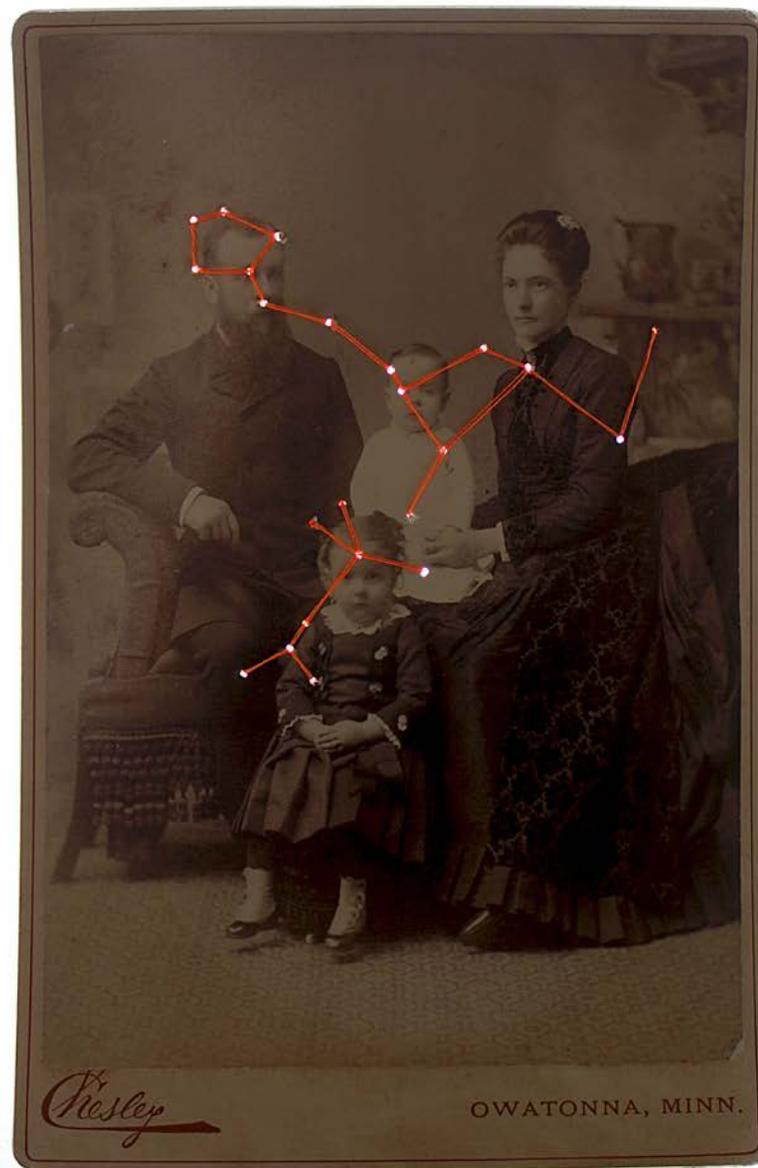
Canada

The Antrev/Habland Award

Art Omi for me . . . It's hard to find the right words! It has been such a singular and extraordinary art, experimental, community and life experience. One of the most precious creative moments of my young career.

Presley

OWATONNA, MINN.



Presley

OWATONNA, MINN.

Viktor Popovic

Croatia

Fellowship for an Artist Living and Working in Croatia

Untitled (Archive ST3: Military Hospital) is the continuation of work that started in 2015. The project focuses on the re-contextualization of the 1960s architecture, in this case the former Military Hospital in Split, Croatia, which housed advanced equipment and had a cutting-edge approach to architecture and design. The work is a hybrid between photography and light installation. It consists of the digital prints of archival photographs of the hospital's interior taken in 1965, prior to the hospital's inauguration. The hospital scenes evoke uneasiness, further stressed by the emptiness of the interior, creating intrigue towards a document of a very specific situation. The work questions the position of personal and social memory in relation to the heritage of modernist architecture.





Alejandra Prieto

Chile

Cecily Brown Fellowship

Alejandra Prieto works with sculptures and videos. Minerals are the material she uses and where her ideas take form and reach socio-economical and political issues. During the residency at Art Omi she started to work on a project that will be exhibited in 2018.



Farid Rasulov

Azerbaijan/USA

Brilliant idea, great team, talented artists and studio visitors, fantastic food, beautiful deer, rabbits, and bugs, peace and calm combined with high-speed creativity. Thank you for organizing this experience for us!

Yves Sambu

Democratic Republic of Congo

My Experience at Art Omi has been a very enriching one. It has also allowed me to expand my horizon and my perceptions in the field of Contemporary Art. In addition, I have learned a great deal about the professional requirements for artists who want to make a living in the city of New York. And without a doubt, It has been a great adventure and also quite a performance on its own.



Julie Schenkelberg

USA

Reconnecting to my studio practice in this picturesque place was an important part of my experience at Art Omi. The amazing, supportive, respectful environment created by the staff was a catalyst for great creativity. The ever-living thing during and beyond my experience was the meaningful connections and friendships made with other artists.





Omid Shekari

Iran/USA

The idea behind Art Omi is genius; it is a carefully designed program any artist covets. It allowed us from different cultures, backgrounds and knowledge bases to share and contribute our ideas.



Anssi Taulu

Finland

These four weeks at Art Omi were something really special. It was a unique opportunity to get to know professional colleagues from all over the world and work together. We speak the same language, the language of art. Thank you for making this possible!



Thu Kim Vu

Vietnam

When I first came to Art Omi, I wanted to do an installation with light sculptures made out of papers. As soon as I got here, I got a studio that was full of natural sunlight and a beautiful low ceiling which was perfect for hanging. And my whole idea changed. I made an installation of hanging paper sculptures resembles the cityscape with my miniature ink drawing.

Within one month of being at Art Omi, It has been a great opportunity for me to meet so many visitors, being with artist friends and these encounters have influenced my works to many new directions. I am leaving Omi with my head full of new ideas and my heart full of love and friendship with people i have met here.

Open Studios Day

Every year, the four-week residency program culminates with an Open Studios event, which attracts hundreds of people who enthusiastically gather to Art Omi to meet the artists, learn about their art practices, and enjoy the projects the artists have worked on. The day starts with an earthy country brunch, followed by an afternoon of performances, site-specific installations and informal conversations with the artists in their studios.



Performance by Francois Knoetze





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* in memoriam

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Author

Sponsors + Fellowships

Each year we partner with several organizations and individuals to ensure artists from all over the world are given the opportunity to participate in our program. This year we thank the following partners:

Antrev Management

Supporting an artist living and working in Montreal, Canada.

Art Omi Australia Committee

Supporting an Australian artist.

Charlotte Street Foundation

Supporting an artist living and working in Kansas City, USA.

Eremuak & Azkuna Zentroa

Supporting a Basque artist.

Francis Greenburger Fellowship

For an artist whose work or project focuses on mitigating religious and ethnic conflict.

Golden Rule Foundation + an anonymous donor

Supporting a fellowship for an artist who has never been to the United States before.

The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation

Supporting an artist living and working in the United States.

The Museum of Fine Arts in Split, Croatia

Supporting an artist living and working in Croatia.

Unlimit Art fellowship

Supporting an artist with disabilities.

The National Endowment of the Arts

Providing general support for our residency programs.



Thu Kim Vu in her studio



ART OMI

Cover artwork by Kiichiro Adachi; back cover artwork by Rodolfo Marron and Francois Knoetze