

# Artist

At Pine Needles



## ENHANCING SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING THROUGH ART

A residency program sponsored by the St. Croix Watershed Research Station,  
a department of the Science Museum of Minnesota



Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota

SUMMER 2023



## The Program

The St. Croix Watershed Research station is an environmental research department of the Science Museum of Minnesota that seeks to better understand humanity's relationship with our most precious resource: fresh water. We study how land use, climate change, atmospheric deposition and other factors affect watersheds, thus informing policy and management and contributing to the scientific understanding of our priceless aquatic systems around the world.

With the vision to enhance scientific understanding through art, each summer the St. Croix Watershed Research Station welcomes three to four creative individuals to our historic Pine Needles cabin as our Artists in Residence. Since 2001, the Artist at Pine Needles program has hosted over 55 artists and writers who seek to further deepen the recognizable connection between the arts and sciences and pass that understanding on to the community. In this unique program, each resident is invited to interact with the scientific staff of the Research Station and the Science Museum during their stay to further expand the intersection of art and science.

*"[W]hat sets the Pine Needles Fellowship apart from other artist residency programs is the access to everyone at the Research Station. Conversations with scientists and lab technicians were the starting point for new poems." - Kim Roberts, 2016*

## The Artists

Applications are accepted from writers and artists of any discipline who focus on environmental or natural history topics. We seek those who strive to connect the complex world between art, the natural world, and the sciences. In addition to accepting applications from established artists, the Pine Needles Residency includes an emerging artist category to encourage and support upcoming artists with this same calling. Emerging artists show some evidence of achievement but, to date, do not have a substantial record of accomplishment and are not yet recognized as established artists by other artists, curators, critics, and arts administrators. Emerging artists will be considered in a separate pool and must be of age 21 or older. Three to four artists are selected each year.

Artists applying for the program are encouraged to design a community outreach project. These may include a school visit, demonstration, outdoor workshop, virtual exhibit/presentation, evening lecture, reading, or informal discussion. Venues for these programs have included the Marine on St. Croix village hall, library, and elementary school. Arrangements are made individually with each artist.

Artists are also asked to contribute an original work from their residency for the benefit and use of the Research Station within one year of their residency. This contribution should consist of artwork suitable for exhibition and/or publication, or writings appropriate for possible inclusion in Research Station publications.

Selection of artists, made by a committee of research station staff and community members with expertise in the arts, is based upon quality of work submitted, value of planned community program, and relation to the program mission of *enhancing scientific understanding through art*. The committee's decisions are final. *(Employees of the Science Museum of Minnesota are not eligible to apply.)*



*"I would repeat this residency in a heartbeat!" - Jeanne Kosfeld, 2010*





## The Setting

The Pine Needles cabin is located on a 20-acre site north of Marine on St. Croix, MN along the St. Croix River, a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River. The secluded site is heavily wooded, with spring-fed streams, native wildflowers and local wildlife. The main cabin was built before World War I and was the family retreat of James Taylor Dunn, a well-known local historian. The cabin is located approximately three miles north of the Research Station's main campus.

The rustic, comfortable cabin includes a three-season porch, full bath, bed/sitting room and kitchen. The generous enclosed porch, overlooking the river, is suitable for writing, sketching, and reflection. During their residency, each artist will have the sole use of this unique lodging.



*"It was wonderful to experience relative isolation in a live-work space with amenities nearby. This allowed for solitude, slow contemplation, and efficient working time...all things that were particularly beneficial for my time consuming detail-oriented techniques. The environment was both peaceful and engaging, and offered much in the way of inspiration." - Robin Smith, 2009*

## The Community

The village of Marine on St. Croix, nestled along the scenic banks of the St. Croix River, is home to nearly 700 residents. The entire central village area is a designated historic district; the Village Hall, Community Library, Stone House Museum, Mill Site and Fire Hall being sources of pride for the tight-knit community. The Artist at Pine Needles program provides an opportunity to link the village, the Research Station, and the artists in a unique collaborative experience.

*"I canoed to the tavern in town for a pint of local Stillwater-brewed ale; biked the state park to the north and every other day to the eagle nest in Marine; and used Line Two (my feet) to access everything else." - William Powers, 2011*

## The Research Station

The St. Croix Watershed Research Station is the environmental research department of the Science Museum of Minnesota. The facilities include a research library, microscopy and wet-chemistry laboratories, conference room, and gathering area. Artists can have access to these spaces along with the biological and archeological collections at the Science Museum of Minnesota's St. Paul location. Learn more about the St. Croix Watershed Research Station at [www.smm.org/scwrs](http://www.smm.org/scwrs).

*"I have been to a rather large number of artist residency programs and art colonies, so I have a good basis for comparison—and I can say without hesitation that this program is well organized, specific in its scope, and extremely well run. I plan to recommend it to others. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity."*  
— Kim Roberts, 2016

# 2023 APPLICATION

**Submit/postmarked by February 28, 2023**

Notice to applicants by March 31, 2023

**Mail Application Packet to:**

Artist at Pine Needles  
St. Croix Watershed Research Station  
16910 152nd Street North  
Marine on St. Croix MN 55047  
Telephone: 651-433-5953 ext. 12



*"Pine Needles is a glorious place. There could not be a more beautiful or peaceful place for creative pursuits. The richness of the Dunn legacy is evident, and helps artists connect with the local history...[and the] charm of the place." - Gary Noren & Marty Harding*

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Artists, 21 years or older, of all disciplines, are eligible to apply provided the submitted narratives show an established connection between their work and the environment/natural world.

Each applicant must complete all components of the application packet and have either postmarked or submitted the application by 11:59pm on February 28, 2023. Application packets can either be mailed to the address above or submitted electronically via Google Drive.

### **NARRATIVE ATTACHMENTS:**

1. An **artist statement**: What do you hope to gain from this residency? How would this experience benefit you as an artist or writer? Why have you applied for this residency?
2. A **program statement**: How does your work connect science and art? How will interacting with the scientists and the natural environment of the Pine Needles property help further develop the science and art connection in your work?
3. A **community engagement statement**: How do you propose to share your work with the community? Please also consider alternatives to indoor events due to the shifting COVID safety precautions.

### **ARTISTIC WORK SAMPLES:**

4. Provide curated **examples of your work**: either 7 to 15 photos, 3 to 5 video/audio clips, or up to 4 pages of writing samples. An image/file list is recommended.
  - Accepted file formats: JPEG, PNG, PDF, MP3, MP4
  - Audio tracks or video clips: Up to 5 minutes in length
  - Writing samples: Can be multiple excerpts of different works but not to exceed 4 pages in total

### **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:** (Optional; recommended but not required)

You may also include gallery statements, CV/resume, exhibitions, awards, publication list, etc.

## HOW TO APPLY:

**By Mail:** Print out completed application form, narrative statements, and any supplemental materials. Include a CD or USB drive containing your artwork examples. Mail packet to address above; must be postmarked by February 28, 2023. USB drives will be returned to applicant after the selection process.

**Electronically:** Email [researchstation@smm.org](mailto:researchstation@smm.org) to request your personalized link to a Google Drive folder. Use the email subject title "PNAiR 2023 Electronic Submission Request". A staff member will respond back with a Google Drive folder link to upload your application materials to. Completed application form, all narrative statements and any supplemental materials must be in PDF format. Application packets must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder by 11:59pm on February 28, 2023.

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*"Creativity can really bloom when it has no interruption and you can get lost in your dorky little imagination"*  
- Joshua Cunningham, 2015

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about this program? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you are applying as an emerging artist: ☐ Yes ☐ No

### PREFERRED SESSION: (select only one session and choose either the 2, 3, or 4 week option)

#### Session 1

- A \_\_\_\_ 2 weeks: May 18 - June 2  
B \_\_\_\_ 3 weeks: May 18 - June 0  
C \_\_\_\_ 4 weeks: May 18 - June 16

#### Session 3

- A \_\_\_\_ 2 weeks: July 27 - Aug. 11  
B \_\_\_\_ 3 weeks: July 27 - Aug. 18  
C \_\_\_\_ 4 weeks: July 27 - Aug. 25

#### Session 2

- A \_\_\_\_ 2 weeks: June 22 - July 7  
B \_\_\_\_ 3 weeks: June 22 - July 14  
C \_\_\_\_ 4 weeks: June 22 - July 21

#### Session 4

- A \_\_\_\_ 2 weeks: Aug. 31 - Sept. 15  
B \_\_\_\_ 3 weeks: Aug. 31 - Sept. 22  
C \_\_\_\_ 4 weeks: Aug. 31 - Sept. 29

### ALTERNATE SESSION CHOICE: (Circle session and letter, using the above list as reference)

Session 1: A B C  
Session 2: A B C

Session 3: A B C  
Session 4: A B C

*We will consult with chosen artists before scheduling final residency dates.*

Please include the following: (See instruction page for more details.)

1. An **ARTIST STATEMENT** of what you hope to accomplish during your residency and how this experience would benefit you as an artist or writer.
2. A **PROGRAM STATEMENT** about how your work connects science and art and how you believe interacting with scientists and the natural environment at Pine Needles property will help further develop that connection in your artwork.
3. A **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT** on how you propose to share your work with the community.
4. **EXAMPLES OF YOUR WORK:** 7 to 15 images or up to 4 pages of writing samples. You may also include gallery statements, CV, exhibitions, awards, and publication list.

## AGREEMENT:

I understand that if I am chosen to participate in Artist at Pine Needles, I will receive housing and studio space at the Pine Needles cabin of the St. Croix Watershed Research Station for an agreed upon time period in exchange for an original piece of work within one year of my residency along with an optional public presentation. (Credit will be given each time the artwork is used by the Science Museum of Minnesota/St. Croix Watershed Research Station.)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_