



Fire Island National Seashore

Artist-in-Residence Program

Art and the National Parks

The National Parks have provided inspiration to people of all walks of life. Many artists including the Hudson River School painters, the transcendentalist writers, photographers including Ansel Adams, and composers such as Aaron Copland, have all created in response to the beauty and drama of the great American landscape. They have documented their interpretations of natural and cultural wonders and shared their visions with a populace who may otherwise have little knowledge of such places. Historic painters such as Thomas Moran, George Catlin, and Albert Bierstadt were essential advocates for stimulating the establishment of the national parks, and contemporary artists continue to work in support of the park's mission "for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations."

Fire Island National Seashore and the Arts

The rhythmic waves, high dunes, ancient maritime forest, historic landmarks, and wildlife of Fire Island make it a special place. Far from the pressure of nearby big-city life, the dynamic barrier island beach, including the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness Area, offer solitude and spiritual renewal. When Fire Island National Seashore was established in 1964, its enabling legislation stated that the preexisting communities and commercial uses would be allowed to remain. The dynamic balance of this environmental treasure with human habitation has led to a culture steeped in artistic tradition.

Mission Statement

The Fire Island National Seashore Artist-in-Residence Program honors the longstanding tradition of art in the national parks and on Fire Island by facilitating artists to create relevant place and story-based work that brings a broader understanding of the unique elements that comprise Fire Island. The goals of this program are to provide creative and educational opportunities for artists of all disciplines to explore the qualities of the natural environment, culture, and/or history of Fire Island, and to support the mission of the NPS to promote the conservation and preservation of the park.

National Park Service Mission Statement

"The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The park service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world."

Accommodations

Artists accepted into the program will be based in national park housing located at Watch Hill on Fire Island. The house will be fully furnished, including kitchenware, Personal sleeping bags and/or blankets and linens are the responsibility of each visiting artist. Additionally, artists must provide their own groceries and personal amenities.

Calendar

Two-week residencies will be held during the period of late May to approximately June 25 of each calendar year, and early September through mid-October. These are considered the shoulder seasons of visitation for most visitors on Fire Island. During this time, ferry schedules and other commercial services are very limited, so it is important to pay attention to transportation and personal needs prior to your residency, as outlined below.

Transportation

Cars are not allowed on Fire Island, wherein access to the residences at Watch Hill from Patchogue is by ferry or boat only. Ferries run on a limited, albeit regular, daily schedule, weather permitting. The Davis Park Ferry company schedule and prices are available online at their website, www.davisparkferry.com/index.htm Additionally, the nearest residential/commercial community, Davis Park, located to the west of Watch Hill, is a 1/2-mile walk from their ferry terminal on Fire Island to Watch Hill. Limited amenities in Davis Park include a grocery store and restaurant, although their schedules should be checked for times when they may be open during the months of May and June.

Transportation to the Watch Hill Ferry Terminal by train or car is very convenient. Parking is free at the ferry terminal, but any valuables left in your vehicle during your stay are your sole responsibility. If you choose to arrive by train, the Long Island Railroad has service from Penn Station in New York City to the Patchogue Station, which is a short, two-block walk to the Patchogue/Watch Hill Ferry Terminal.

Additional Information

Artists should be in reasonably good health and expect solitude and damp conditions, and be prepared for insects, including ticks and mosquitoes. Additionally, applicants should know that:

- No stipend is provided with this residency, though housing is offered at no cost to the resident.
- Pets are not allowed
- Guests are limited during the artist's residency and require prior approval.
- Smoking in any housing or other federal buildings is prohibited.
- Kite flying is not allowed in order to prevent disturbances to nesting shorebirds, including threatened & endangered species.

Please check with the Artist-in-Residency Program Manager if you plan to bring or do anything that may differ from the "ordinary" and which may require prior approval.

Selection Process

A panel of professionals from diverse artistic disciplines and NPS representation will review applicants for acceptance into the program. Selections will be based on the criteria indicated below. The number of artists selected for each calendar year will be determined by available housing, which may vary annually.

Selection Criteria

This program is open to established and emerging artists. All applicants must be 18 years of age or older. The selection will be based upon artistic merit, Statement of Intent, and the ability to interpret Fire Island National Seashore. Proposals are to focus on the environment, culture, and/or history of Fire Island. Examples of work submitted should reflect aspects of the artist's Statement of Intent.

In Return

Selected artists will be required to participate in a public outreach program which may include an exhibition, presentation, or workshop during or within one year following their residency. Arrangements will be made on an individual basis. Artists may also be asked to join the selection panel for the following year's Artist-in-Residence applications.

Application procedure

Artists must submit application information and materials exactly as instructed in the downloadable Application and Checklist form on this web page. Adding or withholding information is cause for application rejection. **Deadline will be March 1 of each calendar year.**

Use of Artists' Products

In order to maintain an updated Artist-in-Residence Program web page, we ask that artists provide images of themselves and/or their work for possible use on this site. The purpose is to help potential applicants to understand what artists have accomplished during and subsequent to their residencies, and the experiences they may have encountered during their time on Fire Island. Any work that is specific to an artist, including those that may have been submitted with the artists' applications, will only be used with the artist's full concurrence and consent.



Fire Island National Seashore Artist-in-Residence 2014

Application Form & Checklist

Artistic Medium: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email: _____

Date of Proposed Residency: _____

Checklist

All applications must include the following information in digital format - flash drive, CD or email:

____ Completed application form

____ Resume including exhibits, publications, and/or performances - not exceeding four pages

____ Statement of Intent for residency – not exceeding one double-spaced page

____ Samples of artistic work

- Visual Artists (painters, sculptors, photographers, printmakers, mixed media artists, etc.)
6 images, jpg format, each image is not to exceed 1MB, total email should not exceed 10 MB.
- Literary Artists (writers, poets, etc.)
4 -6 samples, not to exceed 6 pages
- Musicians, Composers, & Sound Artists
3 compositions not to exceed a total of 10 minutes, CD, DVD, or link
- Performance Artists, Film Makers, and Videographers
3 productions not to exceed a total of 10 minutes, DVD or link

____ A non-refundable application fee of \$35. Make checks payable to Fire Island National Seashore and note the “Artist-in-Residence Application Fee” on the memo line.

Applications may be submitted online at: FIIS.AIR@nps.gov

Or mailed to:

Postmark Deadline March 1, 2015.

Artist-in-Residence Program
Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772