

# Great Sand Dunes

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Great Sand Dunes  
National Park and Preserve



## Artist in Residence Program 2012



National parks have always welcomed artists' interpretations of nature and culture. In fact, Thomas Moran's evocative paintings directly influenced the establishment of our first national park (Yellowstone, 1872). This artistic tradition continues today with more than 50 Artist in Residence programs throughout the National Park Service system.

At Great Sand Dunes, artists use both traditional and contemporary techniques to interpret this rugged, diverse landscape. Find more information about recent Great Sand Dunes Artists in Residence at: [www.nps.gov/grsa/artists-in-residence.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grsa/artists-in-residence.htm)

Artist in Residence Joseph Palmerio, 2011

### Overview

The Artist in Residence program at Great Sand Dunes offers professional artists an opportunity to live and work in the national park, benefitting the artist and those who will enjoy their unique vision for generations to come.

Two artists (painters, sculptors, fine art photographers, or other fine art visual media) will be selected for two-week residencies in 2012:

- Friday, September 14 - Thursday, September 27
- Friday, September 28 - Thursday, October 11



Artist in Residence Angela Mestas creates collage cutouts with children at local school, October 2010

### Housing

The national park provides housing for selected artists. Housing options include an RV site with hookups or an apartment unit in the park staff residence area.

The specific RV site, apartment or duplex unit will be determined based on housing availability.

### Expectations of a Residency

1. The willingness to share your inspiration with others is a central tenet of the Artist in Residence Program. As a resident artist, you will present at least one public program during the residency. This presentation shall be based on your artwork, experiences, and interests, and may be a workshop in your medium, artist demonstration, art program in a local

school, etc. Your presentation(s) should be developed in consultation with park staff, and should be appropriate for general park audiences. Other than your presentation, your time is free to explore and create.

2. Artists shall permit park staff to photograph artwork created during the residency, and program(s) given during the residency. Photos will not be used for commercial purposes, but may be used for education or interpretation by the National Park Service or Western National Parks Association.

3. The artist will exhibit a residency-inspired artwork during one of the annual fine art shows at the Visitor Center. Due to limited space in park facilities, the park can no longer accept donations of artwork to our permanent collection.



Artist in Residence Kathy Hodge (right) with two sketching workshop participants, 2009

## Interpretive Themes

The Artist-in-Residence Program is designed to interpret the park and preserve's many natural and cultural resources through the unique creative vision of each artist chosen. The park's most important interpretive themes have been defined to help focus interpretive efforts:

A. The unexpected combination of massive dunes surrounded by alpine peaks, a desert valley, and creeks flowing on the surface of the sand makes Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve a unique landscape that inspires awe, mystery, and wonder.

B. Although the active dunefield appears stark and empty, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is actually a rich and complex environment where many different plants and animals live in a variety of distinct natural communities.

C. The tall dunes and the life they support are the most visible indicators of the health of the natural system that extends beyond park boundaries. To protect the ecological health of the park, the National Park Service must partner with the larger community.

D. Just as human survival is dependent upon water, this complex, dynamic dune system, with its distinctive geological and biological character, is dependent on the area's unusual, fragile, and near-pristine water system for its continued existence.

E. The same physical characteristics that influenced the formation of the sand dunes created a cultural crossroad, resulting in a landscape of special significance to many people over thousands of years.

F. The wilderness areas within Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve offer spacious relief from urban America, exceptional solitude and quiet, and a remarkably unspoiled day and night sky.

## How to Apply

### Required:

- Volunteer Application for Natural Resource Agencies (Form # OF301\_06\_07.pdf, available at: [www.nps.gov/grsa/artists-in-residence.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grsa/artists-in-residence.htm)) Please indicate on this form which of the residencies/housing options you prefer.

### Requested information:

- Statement of Purpose: Briefly explain what you hope to accomplish during your residency at Great Sand Dunes, and what type of public program you might do. (No more than one page).

- List of teaching experiences and/or other public interaction

- Samples of works (do not send originals): Send digital images (preferred) via email or CD, or a link to a website, or transparencies of at least 6 different images. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like transparency samples returned to you.

- Contact information for two professional references

Submit the items and information via email or mail. Any application with incomplete or excessive materials will not be considered.

Mail:  
Great Sand Dunes NPP  
Artist in Residence Program  
Visitor Center  
11999 State Highway 150  
Mosca, Colorado 81146

Email:  
[patrick\\_myers@nps.gov](mailto:patrick_myers@nps.gov)

### Calendar for 2012 season

Entries will be accepted with postmarks dated on or before January 31, 2012 (or accepted via email by that date). Applicants will be notified no later than February 12, 2011. Applications postmarked (or received via email or fax) after January 31 cannot be considered.

### Selection Process

Selection is based on artistic merit as demonstrated by the examples submitted, the ideas expressed in the statement of purpose, and the feasibility and potential public interest of the proposed public program. A panel of National Park Service staff and Western National Parks Association representatives chooses the resident artists.

Please contact Patrick Myers at 719-378-6343 with any questions. We look forward to viewing your artwork!



Artist in Residence Sally Gierke, 2009, leads a pottery program at the Visitor Center