Artists in National Parks

Isle Royale National Park's Artist-in-Residence program provides professional artists, working in all mediums, the opportunity to become a part of a long-established tradition of artists in our National Parks.

Artists have had a long-standing influence on the formation, expansion, and direction of America's National Parks. By painting landscapes of the American West, artists publicized many of the natural wonders of a land little known to the eastern populace. Their body of work helped to stimulate the establishment of many of our National Parks and to foster a continuing appreciation of them.

Today's artists continue to document the landscapes of the National Parks with contemporary approaches and techniques, drawing upon the site's scenic, natural, and cultural elements for inspiration. These artists translate the park's purpose — as place of pleasure and preservation — into images that bring other people new insights, enjoyment, and understanding.

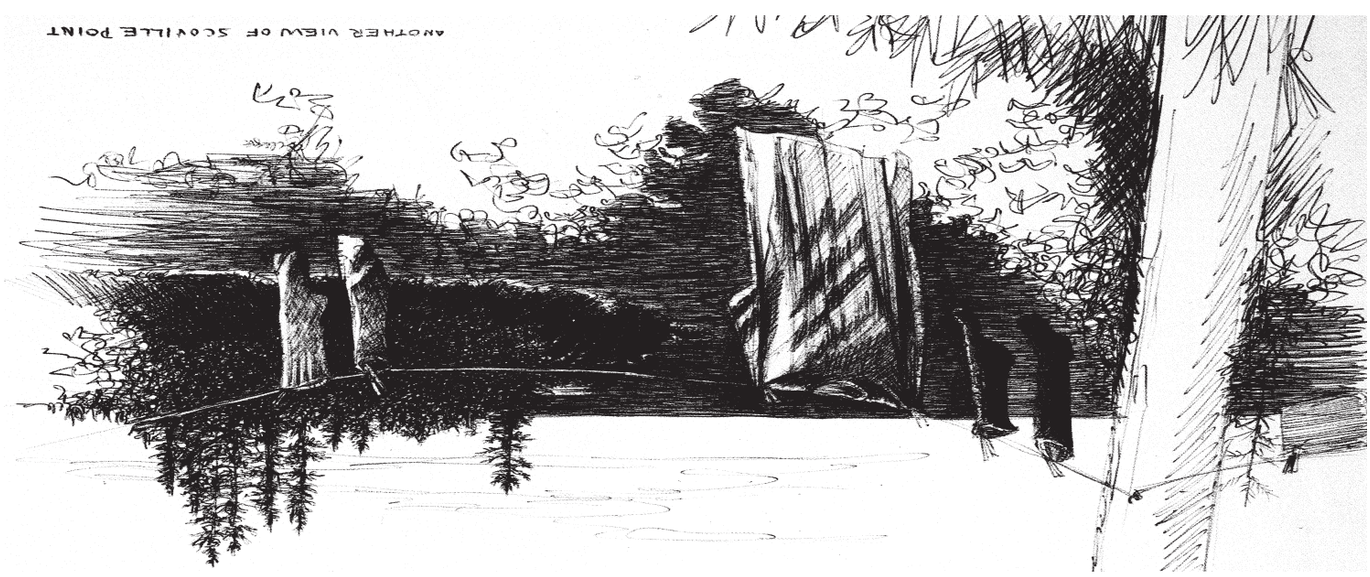
Artists-in-Residence Program

The program provides four or five artists a two or three week immersion in Isle Royale's Wilderness environment from mid-June through mid-September. This immersion provides time for the artist to connect to the many moods that only a Northwoods wilderness can provide.

The park provides an isolated rustic cabin in Tobin Harbor and the use of a canoe at no cost to the artist. Complimentary transportation to the park is provided on the National Park Service vessel the Ranger III, a 165-foot ship operating out of Houghton, Michigan.

During the residency, the artist will be asked to share their experience with the public by demonstration, talk, or other means. The presentation will depend on the artist's medium, interests, and experience and will consume a few hours of their stay. The artist is required, within a year, to donate a piece of work inspired on the island. The donated piece will offer the public an opportunity to experience our national heritage through the artist's unique interpretation of Isle Royale.

Sponsors for this program include Isle Royale National Park, Isle Royale Natural History Association, and the Copper Country Community Arts Council. The artist will be enrolled in the National Park Service's *Volunteer in the Parks Program.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Isle Royale National Park
U.S. Biosphere Reserve

www.nps.gov/isro

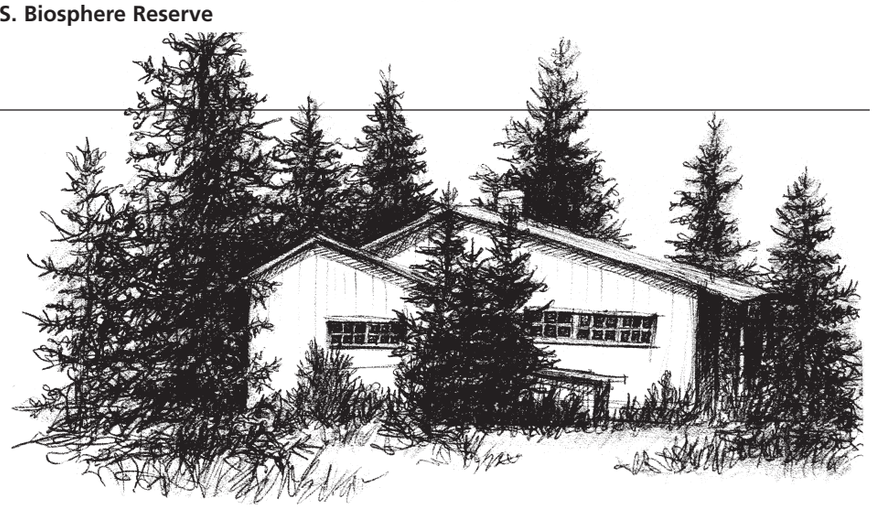
Isle Royale

AN ISLAND WILDERNESS

Artist-In-Residence Program

Isle Royale National Park
Isle Royale Natural History Association
and the Copper Country Community Arts Council

800 East Lakeshore Drive • Houghton, MI 49931
(906) 482-0984 • www.nps.gov/isro



Isle Royale National Park

Isle Royale, a remote wilderness island, is located in the northwestern section of Lake Superior. The park consists of one main island surrounded by over 400 smaller islands. The area has seen many changes since French fur traders named it in honor of their king in 1669. Since that time, human activities have included copper mining, logging, commercial fishing, and vacationing. Evidence of the past can still be seen on the landscape today.

Today Isle Royale has reverted back to an isolated wilderness, a roadless backcountry which is home to wolves, moose, second growth forests, refreshing lakes, and rugged scenic shores.

The Island's vast and varied cultural and natural resources provide the foundation for this creative endeavor. The cabin's location not only assists in guiding this creative process through solitude, serenity, simplicity, and primitiveness, but it also allows for a deeper connection to Isle Royale National Park.

Accommodations

The Artist-in-Residence program is based in the former summer cottage of the Dassler family from Leavenworth, Kansas (cir. 1905). The cabin, located in Tobin Harbor, is two miles by canoe or trail from the park's development at Rock Harbor. A small guest house at the site serves as a second quarters, studio, or storage facility. Accommodations are simple — pit toilet, no electricity or running water. The park provides fuel, a canoe, linens, cooking equipment, and utensils; the selected artist must supply personal gear, food, and art supplies.

Isle Royale is a remote wilderness and all visitors must be well prepared. The artist should be self-sufficient, in good health, and expect cool temperatures and simple facilities.

The Selection Process

A jury composed of a park representative and professionals from various disciplines will select the finalists. The selection is based on artistic integrity, a statement of purpose, ability to reside in a wilderness environment, willingness to donate a finished piece of work inspired on the island, and ability to relate to and interpret the park. We consider all forms of art except those that manipulate or disturb the park's environment.

The sole submission of a resume is insufficient. We ask all applicants to refer to the application procedure when preparing their application. Proper scoring of each application can only take place if all required information is submitted.

Selections are made without regard to race, religion, marital status, sex, age, or national origin. The facilities being used for this program are not wheelchair accessible.

Application Procedure

Deadline: Applications must be postmarked or delivered to the park no later than February 16th. Entries postmarked or hand delivered after February 16th will not be considered. Notification will be made on or before May 1.

An application must include the following items, placed in a single envelope:

1. Your resume of no more than four pages.
2. A summary of creative works (exhibits, shows, galleries, published list, etc.)
3. Statement of purpose – a statement from the applicant explaining what they hope to gain from an Isle Royale residency.
4. A statement of your ability and willingness to present one public program per week of residency.
5. A statement of your willingness to donate a piece of work inspired on the island.
6. Samples of recent work:
   Visual Artist: No more than six images on a CD (JPEG format) or six 35mm slides. Label CD and slides with name, medium(s), image size (height x width), and with slides, indicate the top with a 'T'. Images should focus only on the actual artwork; extraneous backgrounds, mats, or frames should not be included. Professional quality images aid the jurors in the selection process.
   Performing Arts: One CD or cassette tape from musicians and composers or one DVD or videotape from dancers and other performing artists.
   Writers: A brief manuscript excerpt, short story, essay, poem, or other written work.
7. A list of your preferred two or three week residency period between mid-June and mid-September.
8. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope large enough to cover the return of all application materials.
9. Include a completed entry card with application.
10. Send all materials unfolded, without staples to the following address:
    Artist-in-Residence Program • Isle Royale National Park • 800 East Lakeshore Drive • Houghton, MI 49931-1869

Other National Parks Artist-in-Residence Programs

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/archive/volunteer/air.htm

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isle royale national park
a u.s. biosphere reserve

Isle Royale Natural History Association

Isle Royale Artist-in-Residence Program
Entry Card (please type or print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____

Medium: _____

Check List

Be sure to include all of these:

- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Summary of Creative Works
- ☐ Artist's Statement of Purpose
- ☐ Provide Public Programs
- ☐ Provide Donation
- ☐ Preferred Dates
- ☐ Self-addressed Stamped Envelope with Sufficient Postage
- ☐ Entry Card

Indicate materials enclosed:

- ☐ 35 mm Slides or CD
- ☐ CD or Cassette Tape
- ☐ DVD or Video Tape
- ☐ Manuscript

Signature _____
I concur with the stated conditions of the Residency program