



The
ARTS ALLIANCE
of
NORTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) Artist-in-Residence Program

The White Mountain National Forest is partnering with the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire to continue the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program begun in 2011 as part of the Weeks Centennial Celebration. We are now seeking applications from interested artists in all media for 2012.



Mead Base, Center Sandwich, housing for WMNF Artist in Residence (forest campsites may also be available)

The White Mountain National Forest (WMNF)

The White Mountain National Forest encompasses nearly 800,000 acres in New Hampshire and western Maine. It includes beautiful woods, waterfalls and rivers and rugged mountains. The well-known Presidential and Franconia Ranges, the famed Tuckerman Ravine, and homes to moose, black bear and many species of wildlife are all part of the WMNF landscape. Other highlights of the Forest are the largest alpine area in the eastern United States, over 1200 miles of hiking trails, and year-round recreation, including skiing, snowshoeing, mountaineering, snowmobiling and touring by car or on foot. Considered one of the Northeast's "jewels," the WMNF is within a day's drive of 70 million people and hosts about 6 million visitors each year.

Though best known as a recreation destination, the Forest is also managed for many other purposes. Its multiple-use mission includes sustainable forestry, maintaining water quality and providing wildlife habitat and designated Wilderness. The Forest plays a critical role in the ecological health of the area and in supplying clean water to thousands of people.

The WMNF surrounds many small and mid-sized communities, each with its own special flavor. The majority of Forest visitors come from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and other Northeastern states. There are also visitors from throughout the United States and Canada as well as international travelers.



Works by 2011 AIR James Kao

The Artist-in-Residence Program

The WMNF Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program offers professional and emerging artists in all media — visual and performing artists, craftspeople, writers, composers, eco artists and media artists — an opportunity to pursue their particular art form while being inspired by the surrounding forest and sharing their work and their artistic process with members of the public.

The WMNF and the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire (AANNH) are working together to manage and sustain the AIR program. AANNH (www.aannh.org) is a nonprofit organization that works throughout the northern half of the state to promote, support and sustain culture, heritage and the arts.

Our Artist in Residence program was launched last year as part of the Weeks Act Centennial celebration; 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Weeks Act, a milestone in American conservation history. (The Weeks Act enabled the federal government to purchase land in the eastern U.S., allowing cut and burned-over lands to become publicly owned national forests, thus leading to the creation of the White Mountain National Forest and 52 other national forests.) We are pleased to continue the program in 2012, with a goal of creating a lasting Artist-in-Residence program on the White Mountain National Forest.

Goals of the residency

The residency program seeks to use art and creative expression to explore the many ways in which people relate to forests in general, and to the WMNF in particular. The program goals include:

- Capture the beauty and spirit of the WMNF through the creation of high-quality art;
- Provide learning opportunities through the arts to visitors to the WMNF;
- Help citizens understand the connections between public lands, our use of natural resources and our emotional ties to beauty, nature and self-expression, thus serving as a link between the utilitarian and aesthetic values of the forest; and
- Celebrate the power of the arts — and artists — to explore and interpret the forest environment and forest-related issues.

About the residency

- One residency opportunity of at least three weeks will be offered between July and September (the artist selected will choose his or her preferred time).
- The artist selected will be offered rustic lodging at the historic 19th century Smith House, also known as Mead Base, at the base of Sandwich Notch Road near the beautiful village of Center Sandwich, New Hampshire. The artist may also choose to stay in campgrounds at WMNF locations on an as-available basis.
- The artist will be free to work on his/her art throughout the residency period, and will be asked to provide at least one public session each week of his/her stay, during which visitors can see him/her at work, learn more about — or possibly participate in — the artistic process, and be encouraged to think about the connection between art, the forest and conservation. Programs may include demonstrations, talks, exploratory walks or hikes, or performances, based on the medium, interest and experience of the artist.
- These public programs will be scheduled in cooperation with the WMNF and AANNH, and may coincide with other activities on the Forest.
- Limited travel and mileage and reimbursement will be offered, and the cost of some materials and supplies for public programs may also be covered.
- No additional stipend is available. The artist will be expected to sign a volunteer agreement with the National Forest.
- The artist will be asked to donate one piece of work to the WMNF.
- Because of National Forest regulations, the artist will not be allowed to collect or alter forest resources on WMNF property.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

How to apply

Applications for the program must be received by May 18, 2012. Notification will be made by June 15, 2012.

Application Package

To apply, please email the following to Frumie@aannh.org and mleberman@fs.fed.us:

- Application Cover Sheet (download from <http://www.aannh.org/weeks/WMNFAIRapplcoversheet2012.doc>)
- A resume (up to 2 pages)
- An artist statement (1 page), explaining what you hope to accomplish during your residency and what you hope to gain from the residency experience

- Description of proposed public program(s) and presentation(s) (e.g., demonstrations, workshops, readings, etc.), including a brief summary of your experience in interacting with the public
- Names and contact information for three references, with an explanation of their familiarity and connection with your work
- **Work samples.** These should be emailed if possible; if files are too large to email, and no links are available to them, they can be sent on CDs or DVDs to: Frumie Selchen, AANNH, HC64 Box 223, Wonalancet NH 03897.

Suggested work samples:

- For visual artists and craftspeople, images of at least six different works in jpg. or tiff format. All images should be labeled.
- For writers, Word or PDF files of recent work (up to 10 pages).
- For composers, a link to work on the web, or a CD or DVD (PC compatible) recording.
- For all other media, including performing arts: appropriate samples of recent work (CDs, video, etc.); please email or call if you have questions.

Selection Process

A panel of arts professionals and WMNF staff will choose the artist in residence. The panel reserves the right not to award a residency in 2012, should the right candidate not be found.

Answers to Questions You May Have

Do I need to have a car? Yes. There is very limited public transportation in the White Mountains region. The artist in residence will be expected to drive to a variety of locations on the WMNF for public programs.

Can I bring my family or pet? Because housing options are limited, it will not be possible to accommodate family members or pets.

What should I bring? Materials and supplies required for your art-making, personal gear and toiletries, linens and towels and clothing (including warm clothes, rain gear and boots or sturdy walking shoes).

Note that wireless internet access and cell phone coverage will not be available at Mead Base.

If you have additional questions about the residency or the application process, please contact Frumie Selchen, Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, Frumie@aannh.org, 603-323-7302.

The USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.