



Artists Invite Artists Sessions (AIA)

Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts is a nonprofit residency/retreat program for artists from across the country and abroad. The peaceful environment and informal atmosphere provide residents with undisturbed time to concentrate on their work and a unique opportunity for collaboration, experimentation, and an exchange of ideas. Up to twenty artists (including staff artists) per session work, eat, and live in the intimate community setting.

Artists Invite Artists sessions are two-week residencies for professional artists. This program is a rare opportunity for professional artists to arrange a residency with their peers to share studio space, conversation, and great food, including Maine lobster! Past sessions have ranged from a reunion of former graduate students with their mentor to a session which featured painters, ceramists and architects from the United States and Portugal who came together to experiment and collaborate with wet bricks.

One or two artists may initiate an AIA group by inviting up to eight other artists to work together during one of Watershed's summer sessions, and submitting a proposal with supporting materials (see: guidelines). Up to five additional spaces in the session will be filled by artists who apply to attend through Watershed's regular application process. Artists who work in any media are welcome. It is essential that the group understand that the studio is primarily a clay facility. Although technical help is available, there are no personal studio assistants.

Location

Located in Newcastle, Maine, Watershed is about an hour's drive northeast of Portland and three hours from Boston. Watershed's thirty-two rural acres are set on gently rolling hills of both open and wooded land, surrounded by a neighboring farm, nature conservancy land, and the Sheepscot River. Several lakes and the ocean are a short drive away.

Facility

The studio is housed in a spacious old brickworks barn. Sixteen thousand square feet of space on two floors supply ample, flexible studios. Watershed's studio barn is currently undergoing renovation and having kilns rebuilt. However, there are always a variety of gas, electric, and wood kilns available, as well as raku and pit firings. Other equipment includes potters' wheels (electric & kick), slab rollers, extruders, clay mixers, and pug mill. Limited shop equipment for metal and wood is also available. A hillside of local earthenware brick clay is free and abundant. Other standard clay and glaze materials are available for purchase. Studio technicians manage and maintain the studio. A separate residence building, Thompson Hall, provides dorm housing and shared baths, including a central living and dining room - sites for conversation and superb meals prepared by staff artists. There are individual cabin rooms for double or single housing with private or shared baths.

Fees

The inviting artist pays no fee and receives studio space, meals, and private accommodation with bath. AIA participants pay a residency fee of \$1150 and no application fee. This fee reflects a 15% discount off the regular residency fee, and is subject to change. The fee includes studio space, all meals, and dorm housing. Private and semi-private cabin housing may be requested at extra charge. Housing upgrade costs vary by the accommodation desired (see: schedule). Clay and glaze materials are charged at reasonable prices. Firing fees are charged per kiln, with cost split between users.

Participants are encouraged to apply to their schools, universities, local arts councils, etc. for travel and residency fees support. Watershed will be happy to supply documentation for such applications.

Participants are also eligible to apply for funding through Watershed's Kiln God Funded Residency Program. Applications for Kiln God Funding are published each January online at www.WatershedCeramics.org. Artists applying for support are required to pay the application fee and send all required materials by the April 1st deadline prior to the AIA Residency session.

Guidelines for forming Artists Invite Artists groups

Time: Any summer session, June thru August, for a two-week session (currently planning for summers 2012-13) Please indicate summer session date preference according to month - June, July, August

Group Size: You may invite up to 8 artists to be part of your group. Minimum group size is 7 (including yourself).

Fees: Inviting Artist is free. All invited artists agree to pay the 2-week AIA discounted residency rate of: \$1150.00 (this rate is forecasted and subject to change). This includes studio space, dorm housing (up to 4-5 persons per room in the main house) and all meals.

Rates, per person, to upgrade to the Cabins for two-week residency:

Shared Bathroom:

Double room \$225

Single room \$450

Private Bathroom:

Double room \$360

Single room \$725

Submitting a Proposal for an AIA Group:

Watershed currently schedules programs approximately two years in advance. AIA proposals will be reviewed by the Executive Director, Residency Manager and the Board of Trustee's Program Committee.

Criteria for selection includes:

- completed proposal (see:below)
- quality of work and selection committee's interest in the proposal

- availability of requested time frame
- Watershed tries to balance its summer programming both thematically and geographically

If your group is selected but cannot be accommodated during the session or residency year proposed, it can be carried over, if desired, to the following summer. Groups must have firm commitments from all participants no later than October 1 of the fall before their summer residency. Complete participating artist information (e.g., name, address, email, images etc) will be provided to Watershed by October 1st the fall before the scheduled summer session for publicity purposes.

Receipt Deadline: May 1st annually for the following year with notification on August 1st.

Proposal materials should be presented on Mac-readable CD and include the following:

- Name, address and phone number of group leader(s)
- List of artists' names, addresses, email, and phone numbers; resumes; All artists should have been contacted prior to mailing the proposal. Please note if an artist has limited or no experience in ceramics.
- 3-4 slides/images for each artist
- Brief description or title of the session. Goals, a theme, etc. may be included, but are not necessary.
- Special needs list (for example, please note if special materials will be needed, assistance in securing airfare for international artists, etc.)
- Preferred session dates- early-summer (June), mid-summer (July), late-summer (August)

Please send all proposals to:

Reed Fahnestock, Residency Manager
Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts
19 Brick Hill Road
Newcastle, ME 04553

Proposals will be reviewed by the Executive Director, Residency Manager and the Board of Trustees' Program Committee.