Pond Farm Artist in Residency

Julia Terr Fellowship

Beginning in 2021, The Pond Farm Artist Residency will be underwritten by The Julia Terr Fellowship to support residencies that give priority to both emerging and established BIPOC artists and writers. It is the goal of the fellowship program to welcome diverse artists and writers to work on specific projects they want to address or new areas in which to investigate. The duration of the residency is a one month and offers a one bedroom self-accomodating cabin on the site of Pond Farm Pottery, as well as a stipend of $250 to help cover some expenses for food or travel.

This is a unique opportunity for artists of all kinds, to be immersed in nature and inspired by the spirit of past Pond Farmers, and to have the space and time to create. The Guest House is ADA compliant and disabled artists are encouraged to apply. Information about the Guest House can be accessed at: https://www.stewardscr.org/pdf/Pond_Farm_Guest_House.pdf

We welcome artists and academics of all types, whether painters, writers, art historians, architects, weavers, metalsmiths, anthropologists, poets, musicians, etc. At this time there are no working facilities to accommodate potters. Pond Farm is located in Austin Creek State Recreation Area therefore artwork impacting the landscape such as large scale sculpture and earth art many not be appropriate for the site. Media and processes such as welding may not be appropriate during months of high fire danger.

More information and to apply visit: https://www.stewardscr.org/pond-farm-artist-in-residence.html

The Stewards’ vision

Pond Farm is a special place, originally started as an artists’ community in the late 1940s, then transitioned to Pond Farm Pottery, where studio pottery artist Marguerite Wildenhain lived, worked, and taught annual summer workshops. Marguerite Wildenhain dedicated her life to her craft. After finishing her studies at the Bauhaus she became the first female master potter in Germany, and was a remarkable woman who touched many lives through her work and her teachings. Marguerite strongly believed that the journey to become a true artist was not about learning a technique, but much more about the development of the whole person, an “opening of the soul.” She taught her students for over 30 years at Pond Farm Pottery -- to look and see into nature, to sketch, to discuss philosophy, and, of course, to be truly dedicated to the rigor of the craft – really to teach a way of life.

Much effort has gone into preserving Pond Farm and its legacy. Bringing artists to live and work at the site again will ensure that the vision of Pond Farm is not lost. It will also provide an
opportunity to encourage a dynamic engagement with park visitors and the broader community.

Location

Guerneville, California: United States

Pond Farm is a rustic oasis nestled in the middle of Austin Creek State Recreation Area, which is contiguous to the majestic old growth forest of Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve. In addition to access to the 5,000 acres of inspirational space, residents will experience the grandeur of Austin Creek, a dramatic natural setting near the Pacific coast. The weather for the nearby town of Guerneville can be found here:


The Pond Farm Historic District was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. The buildings include an historic barn, originally built in the late 1800s, Marguerite’s house, which was built in 1952, and the “Guest House”, built in 1962 and remodeled and updated in 2018. More details about the site and Marguerite Wildenhain are available in documents on the website: www.pondfarmpottery.org. Marguerite modeled her Pond Farm Pottery studio on her experience as a Bauhaus student. Artists will not be able to access or use the historic Pond Farm barn studio. We ask that residents respect the historical legacy of the site, and help preserve its current state by not adding to the site or taking away anything that is there. The barn will be open only during docent-led guided tours, which are usually given once a month. Visitors are asked to register ahead of time on the Stewards’ website, which can be found at: www.stewardscr.org. Artists will be free to work in the guest house or on the surrounding property, in addition to the covered breezeway of the barn.

Statistics

- Residency Length: One month
- Average number of artists in residence at a time: 1
- Number of artists accepted most years: 8
- Months available – March through October, In 2021 available from June through October
- Accessibility – The Pond Farm Guest house is ADA compliant

Eligibility & Submission Timeline

- Collaboration: Must apply and be accepted individually
- Next submission period: March 1, 2021 to April 15, 2021
- Selection Period: April 16 to April 30, 2021
- Artist Notification: May 1, 2021

Additional expectations / opportunities

Pond Farm was built by like-minded individuals who were dedicated to the arts and nature, and who engaged with and contributed to the community through teaching, lectures, workshops, fireside chats, and collaboration. For Pond Farm to continue its legacy and thrive in the future,
it is important for us to maintain and foster this legacy of community spirit. As such, an important component of this residency is supporting engagement with the communities that Stewards serves, including youth engaged in Stewards’ environmental education programs (many of whom deal with socio-economic challenges); the local community of artists and their supporters who live and work in and around the Russian River area; and the general visiting public who learn about Pond Farm through a visit to the area or through websites, social media and press coverage. Most of the target audience will be from the greater Bay area, although it is not uncommon for the park to see national and international visitors.

During the artist’s residency, we ask the artist to give back in some way to the Park and the community. It is up to the resident to propose how they would like to engage with the community—whether onsite at the Park, locally with the artist community in Guerneville, or reaching out to schools and/or broader communities in San Francisco and beyond. Applicants are encouraged to include their proposal for how they would like to give back in their application packet. Doing so will increase the likelihood of acceptance. Examples of engagement with the community could consist of things such as onsite workshops that can take place in nature, or at the Guest House, the conference room at the Stewards office, or in the town of Guerneville. Additionally, there are First Friday Art Walks and opportunities to show one’s work and/or give talks at shops and galleries in Guerneville and other nearby towns.