



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Shenandoah National Park News Release

Shenandoah National Park announces artists selected for 2024 Artist-in-Residence program

LURAY, VA – Shenandoah National Park has selected five artists for its annual Artist-in-Residence program. The program gives artists an opportunity to creatively explore Shenandoah's natural and cultural resources and pursue their artistic discipline. Each artist will spend three weeks in Shenandoah and create an original piece reflecting the experience to donate to the Park. Artists also present public programs about their art and their residencies.

Shenandoah's Artist-in-Residence program is supported by generous donations to the Shenandoah National Park Trust.

Shenandoah is one of numerous National Park Service sites across the country that have Artist-in-Residence programs to inspire artists to create and share art that not only motivates and encourages millions of people to visit and explore, but also helps build awareness and develop stewardship of these beautiful public lands.

The following artists have been selected for Shenandoah's 2024 Artist-in-Residence program:

Lia Pikus – Lia is a cellist, composer, and multidisciplinary artist whose practice centers around art's ability to cultivate experiences of connection, both within community and in dialogue with the natural world. As a Thomas J. Watson fellow, she researched this connective power on a global scale, exploring the role of art in fostering community specifically in the context of collective re-imaginings of justice. This research forms the foundation for her current explorations of live looping as a form of meditative ritual and is the central focus of the songs on *Ritual*, which released in February of 2024. Her current preferred media are cello, loop pedal, voice, field recordings and biodata sonification. Lia was selected as the May artist and will be in the Park from May 1-22.

Megan Evans – Megan uses her art to investigate nature, specifically the way in which mathematical concepts are represented. She has always been interested in the recurring shapes seen within the natural environment. Through the repetition of shape and natural elements, her paintings reflect elements of this world in a non-traditional way. Megan is also a highly regarded visual art educator, driven to inspire all of her students to become life-long arts enthusiasts, while also preparing students for careers in visual art. She has worked for Columbus City Schools for 25 years, while continuing to create and exhibit her own work throughout Ohio. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Art from the University of Findlay and a Master of Art Education from The Ohio State University. Megan was chosen as the July artist and will be in the Park from July 8-29.

Jo Clark – Jo is a writer from Charlottesville, Virginia. She's interested in all the threads that weave through nostalgia, and the simultaneous refuge and ruggedness of the natural world. She is an Master of Fine Arts candidate at Syracuse University where she teaches undergraduate writing and works for Salt Hill Journal. Before moving to Syracuse, she received her Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing and Medieval & Renaissance literature from the University of Virginia. Her work can be found in Sundog Lit, Hooligan Magazine, Whale Road Review, Volume Poetry, and elsewhere. She is a 2024 Elizabeth George Foundation grant recipient and a finalist for Shenandoah magazine's Graybeal-Gowen Prize for Virginian poets. Jo was selected as the August artist and will be in the Park from August 5-26. For more information about Jo, visit joclarkwriter.com.

Susan Patrice – Susan is a documentary and contemplative photographer. Her photography and public installations focus on the Appalachian landscape and its people and feature intimate images that touch deeply into questions of place and belonging. Since 2016, her work has primarily explored the nature of visual perception and its impact on our feelings of kinship with the natural world. She engages in intimate gestural conversations with the land through the use of hand-built cameras designed in response to place. She lives in Marshall, North Carolina, where she is the director of Makers Circle and a co-founder of the Kinship Photography Collective. Susan was chosen as the September artist and will be in the Park from September 9-30.

Aimee Bobruk – Aimee spent 15 years in Austin, Texas learning to write songs and perform until songs and love took her to the edge of the Baltic Sea where she now resides on an island in Denmark. In her own words, "I write to make sense of the world and my place in it." In 2024, Aimee is releasing her album, *Malybanchia*, inspired from her journey along the Mississippi River and residency at the childhood home of American author, Carson McCullers. She is also launching an online global songwriting club for teens called, Tuneagers. She has released three additional studio albums and has written over 25 songs with international artists and publishing companies. In 2018, she made a documentary film, *Borderlanders*, where she rode the Texas/Mexico border on a motorcycle and interviewed locals about life in this region. During her residency, she will be writing songs inspired by nature and the stories she encounters from Park visitors. Aimee was selected as the October artist and will be in the Park from October 3-24. For more information about Aimee, visit www.aimeebobruk.com.

- www.nps.gov/shen -

About the National Park Service: Since 1916, the National Park Service has been entrusted with the care of America's more than 400 national parks. With the help of volunteers and partners, we safeguard these special places and share their stories with millions of people every year. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

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