



## **Artist in Residence Program Overview**

The Artist in Residence program at the Art & History Museums of Maitland (A&H) has a rich history. For over 80 years, the center has provided artists with the space and freedom to break from expectations and, with a brush in hand, embrace the spirit of exploration.

The program supports today's artists by providing living and studio space to individual artists for 6-weeks. The studio and living quarters are located within the historical Maitland Art Center compound, boasting a thriving local studio residency program, an Art School, a contemporary art museum, and three history museums. The program is ideal for artists who work independently and will benefit from an atmosphere of solitude. The program is open to one visiting artist at a time, and artists receive a \$600 living stipend.

### **Program History**

The Research Studio was founded in 1937 by artist and architect Jules André Smith as a winter artist retreat. Smith was a vocal proponent for the acceptance of modern art at a time when traditional expressions still dominated artistic tastes. A chance meeting between Smith and heiress and philanthropist Mary Louise Curtis Bok would lead to a life-long friendship that would have a lasting impact on Florida's burgeoning art scene. Bonding over their shared love of modern art movements and dismay over the region's reluctance to look towards the future, the two visionaries conspired to establish a "Research Gallery" where artists would show experimental artworks. The plan quickly grew into a full-fledged residency, with four artists being brought in every winter with the goal that they would "discard as far as possible the conscious influence of other artists or paintings" and devote themselves entirely to artistic exploration. Smith affectionately referred to the Research Studio as "Espero," the Spanish word for hope, writing, "Here in Espero the "sky is the limit" in all efforts towards our expression. And so, instead of spending the winter making safe investments and sure-sellers, I would rather have you travel a more exciting route and let yourself move without fear of criticism along the lanes of new thoughts and ideas. And from time to time, it would be helpful for you to crash all barriers and see what you can bring to light."

The Research Studio operated from 1937 until Smith's death in 1959. Over 65 artists lived and worked at the site during that time, including notable artists such as Milton Avery, Ralston Crawford, Elizabeth Sparhawk Jones, Consuelo Kanaga, Teng Chui, and others. Today, the historic campus is known as the Maitland Art Center, where Smith and Bok's visionary legacy of artistic research and experimentation continues through today's Artist in Residence Program.

### **A Message from Chief Curator Dan Hess**

Welcome to Espero.



Upon arrival, you are shown your residence and historic studio, given your keys, and allowed to rest from your travels. The following day, you will be given a tour of our beautiful grounds with some historical context about the Research Studio and Espero and those who walked these spaces before you. What happens next is up to you.

The program is intended for the artist who is hungry to discover the authentic how and why of their proposed project. We have learned that the artist will only arrive at this understanding of their true intent through focused and uninterrupted time in the studio. Artists who succeed in our residency programs are self-motivated, mature enough to let go of their proposed plans when needed, and confident enough to let our location's spirit and unique energy take them on an unintended journey. This happens quite often. Through our discussions with our resident artists, we have found that the projects initially proposed are done in a work/life setting rife with distractions. Here, those distractions are removed.

We define an artist's success in our residency programs the same way our founder, André Smith, did, "...by SUCCESS here in Espero, I mean your development as an artist through the enrichment by thought and experience and searching which this interlude will offer you. The Research Studio has come into existence because of our firm conviction that true development can come only through a mental relaxation, a releasing of opposing restrictions. In every artist there is an unquenchable desire to extend themselves beyond these limiting boundaries."

### **Artist in Residence Application Guidelines**

The Art & History Museums of Maitland is now accepting applications for its fall 2024 Artist in Residence spots. Two dates are available:

- 9/10/2024 – 10/21/2024
- 10/29/2024 – 12/10/2024

Applications will be accepted December 1, 2023 – January 15, 2024.

#### **Eligibility**

A&H's Artist in Residence program is open to visual artists whose studio practice centers on painting, drawing, printmaking, installation art, and sculpture. Established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply, and the program is open to national and international artists 25+ years of age. International artists are responsible for obtaining the proper visas and all temporary immigration requirements, if applicable. A working knowledge of English is needed.

#### **Who will be chosen?**

Artistic merit and promise are the basis for selections. A panel of art professionals familiar with our residency programs will independently review applications and supporting materials. Final



awards of residencies are at the discretion of A&H. A&H cannot invite spouses or partners to accompany the artists in residence. No pets are allowed.

### **What is provided?**

A&H's Artist in Residence program offers a picturesque historical environment with opportunities for research and contemplation. The residency provides studio space, living space, and a stipend of \$600 for the six weeks. The artist must bring all artistic equipment and materials.

### **What are the expectations?**

Artists are expected to actively occupy and work in their studio space throughout the residency. Artists are also asked to participate in at least one outreach event with A&H. This can be a workshop, lecture, or other community-focused event, which will be discussed upon acceptance into the program.

### **Accessibility:**

Please note that due to the historical nature of the buildings, the studio and residence are not accessible for wheelchairs and can be difficult for those with mobility challenges. We will do our best to try to accommodate individual artists' needs. Please reach out for more information.

### **Privacy**

All application materials and work samples are confidential and retained for use of the A&H Artist Residency Program evaluation only.



## Artist in Residence Application

Email the below application in PDF format to [studios@artandhistory.org](mailto:studios@artandhistory.org), attn: AIR Application.

**Name:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Email:**

**Phone Number:**

**Are you a previous A&H Artist in Residence (Yes/No)?**

*Prior AIRs are welcome to apply after two years since their last residency has lapsed.*

**Have you participated in any other artist residencies? If so, please list them:**

**Describe your Studio Practice/Medium:**

**Brief Biography:**

**Residency Objectives:** Please clearly describe your residency objectives in a project form, and include how your proposal ties into the program's historical mission to promote experimental and explorative approaches to art:

**Equipment Needs:** List what materials you will provide and what you will need to source upon arrival so we can advise you on availability, feasibility, and cost. Please indicate if you will be working with any hazardous materials:

**Other Attachments:**

- Portfolio - Include eight examples of recently created work (upload PDF and/or include website link).
- Upload Resume/CV: Please attach a recent copy of your CV/resume outlining artistic accomplishments, awards, exhibitions, published work, etc.

**Statement of Nondiscrimination**

A&H is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all applicants without regard to race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, genetic information, or any other personal trait or characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. We aim to provide an environment that accommodates artists from multiple backgrounds and circumstances.