



YEAR
of
the
CROW

2024
Mildred's Lane Inc



Welcome to Mildred's Lane.

Mildred's Lane Inc. is an experimental nonprofit cultural organization and residency program where interdisciplinary collaborators practice new forms of critical social engagement at the intersections of art, ecology, and the humanities.

Mildred's Lane Inc. is headquartered on Main Street in Narrowsburg, New York, a historic hamlet on the banks of the Delaware River. Our Field Office in Narrowsburg, also known as the Mildred Complex(ity), houses the living archive of Mildred's Lane, encompassing a 25-year material history of art and social practice, open to the public.

Our residency and education programs are centered on the other side of the Delaware River, deep in the Pennsylvania woods, on the 93-acre project site known as Mildred's Lane. Founded in 1997 by artists J. Morgan Puett, Mark Dion, and collaborators, Mildred's Lane has functioned as a working / living / researching experiment for over two decades. Artists from around the world have convened at Mildred's Lane seasonally, collectively building the site and co-evolving strategies for teaching, learning, and making there. Over the years, a unique set of programs and methods for social engagement emerged, specific to the domestic environment of the site, which form the basis of our non-profit's mission, vision, and program today.



Images: (above) The Mildred's Lane Library; (below) Fireside lecture by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, 2013

Introduction 2024: YEAR of the CROW!



For more than a decade the mascot of Mildred's Lane was a single crow, which formed the center of our beloved logo designed by Jeffrey Jenkins. Over the past year, our emblem has expanded to encompass a whole swarm (yes, a *murder*) of crows. This symbolic shift accompanies the ongoing transition of Mildred's Lane into a non-profit cultural organization, forming a center for collaborative and intra-disciplinary creative practice.

Crows and ravens, both members of the *corvus* family, are characters with auspicious mythological histories. In Norse mythology, the raven is a spiritual guide whose flight has the power to extend humanity's vision. In Buddhist and Hindu traditions, it is a consort of Shiva, accompanying periods of rebirth and transformation. In Native American stories the crow is often a teacher, bringing lessons that help humanity adapt. Like witches, crows and ravens are also known for their *laughter*.

Please, crow raucously with us in 2024 as we celebrate our resiliency through years of obstacles—from the COVID plague, local politics, and economic hardship, to death and illness. We are shape-shifters, beginning again! And thus Mildred's Lane remains a vital site for engagement, because in these turbulent times, we *all* must embrace change. None of us can return to the world that was, but from here, we may collectively re-assemble the terms of living and creative practice.

In these pages we announce our 2024 program of sessions, residencies, and special events. The program's underlying vision is built on the 25-year history of experimental pedagogies played out at Mildred's Lane by its founding collaborators. *Pedagogy*, which can be defined as learning with a social aim, remains a fundamental idea for Mildred's Lane. We will continue to work toward new and emergent curriculums, guided by the following propositions:

- 1 Sites of engagement for inter-disciplinary collaboration are largely missing from traditional institutions of education
- 2 Pedagogy is a non-hierarchical exchange between disciplines, generations, and cultures
- 3 Education should fundamentally contribute to new ways of sustainable living in this challenging century.

The collection of 2024 residency sessions, co-curated with numerous collaborators, propose unique embodiments of these ideas. They create space for exploring new modes of teaching / learning / researching / making / *being* together. We hope you will join us this year!

Yours in complexity,

Alex A. Jones

Minister of Strategic Possibilities

Advisory Council Chair
– Mission & Program

J. Morgan Puett

Fugitive In Archives
President, Co-Founder

Nick Bennett

Ambassador of Trans-historical Agency

Advisory Council Chair
– Development

The Commons of Mildred's Lane

The Mildred Complex(ity)/ Mildred's Lane Inc Field Office

is the public face of Mildred's Lane Inc on Main Street in Narrowsburg, NY, in walking distance from the Delaware River. It houses the living archive of Mildred's Lane and hosts public installations, performances, workshops, and lectures.

Mildred's Lane is a landscape of agrarian outbuildings, camps, artists' installations, a historic homestead, and a whole ecological community of forest, pond, field, and stream. At its center is the house designed and built by J. Morgan Puett and Mark Dion, which forms the center of domestic activity at Mildred's Lane, featuring the Kitchen Laboratory and library/cabinet-of-curiosities.

The Mildred House is the old homestead, elements of which date back to the mid-18th century, which is now the trans-historical *Mildred Archaeology Project*, encompassing archival and architectural preservation to maintains the old house and outbuildings as *living spaces*.

The Barn Lyceum is the lecture hall where we gather for presentations, performances, and workshops onsite at Mildred's Lane, also housing fellows during sessions.

Department of Interstitchiarles is the project space onsite at Mildred's Lane, functioning as a gallery/studio/production facility in the restored steel Quonset hut.

93 acres of meadow, pond, forest, streams, springs, and bluestone quarry, interspersed by dwelling-installations.

image: the "Morgan House" (above) and the "Mildred House" (below)



Workstyles

A site-specific curriculum.

Creative work is a way of life at Mildred's Lane, and Workstyles is the ecological curriculum by which practitioners at Mildred's Lane weave creative labor through every aspect of living, which has evolved over 25 years of experimental practice.

There are no private studios at Mildred's Lane; rather, the whole site becomes a collective space for creative engagement. Nor is there a permanent staff supplying a service industry for residents and guests; rather, every participant at Mildred's Lane contributes to the domestic needs of the collective and the site, engaging in "creative domesticating" guided by the curriculum of Workstyles. The system cultivates an expanded view of artistic work, which does not relegate certain labors to the realm of tedious chores, but elevates them to creative acts in themselves.

The Workstyles curriculum is a continuity that runs through our ever-evolving, experimental program. All residency programs include an orientation to Workstyles. The goal of Workstyles is for shared experiences at Mildred's Lane to have lifelong effects on how we think of ourselves as creative practitioners functioning in the 21st century. Workstyles invites us to question our relationships with our environment, with each other, with systems of labor, forms of dwelling, and with art.

image: The Kitchen Laboratory at Mildred's Lane



Workstyles is motivated by a collective urge to devise sustainable ways of living for the 21st century, rooted in mutual stewardship and care. It constitutes an "ethics of comportment" that helps residents engage in more rigorous and rewarding ways with everyday life, with each other, and with the site. The Greek root of the word ecology is *oikos*, or house, fundamentally connecting concepts of domesticity with ecology. Workstyles invites us to re-consider how we inhabit the world through the shared home of Mildred's Lane.

You will leave Mildred's Lane with skills you didn't have before, and, hopefully, with a sense of satisfaction having contributed to a community-based project. We hope you will come away sharing our conviction that **Being is the practice.**

SESSIONS & EVENTS 2024

SESSION | JUNE 10–15

Land Stewardship Skill-Share

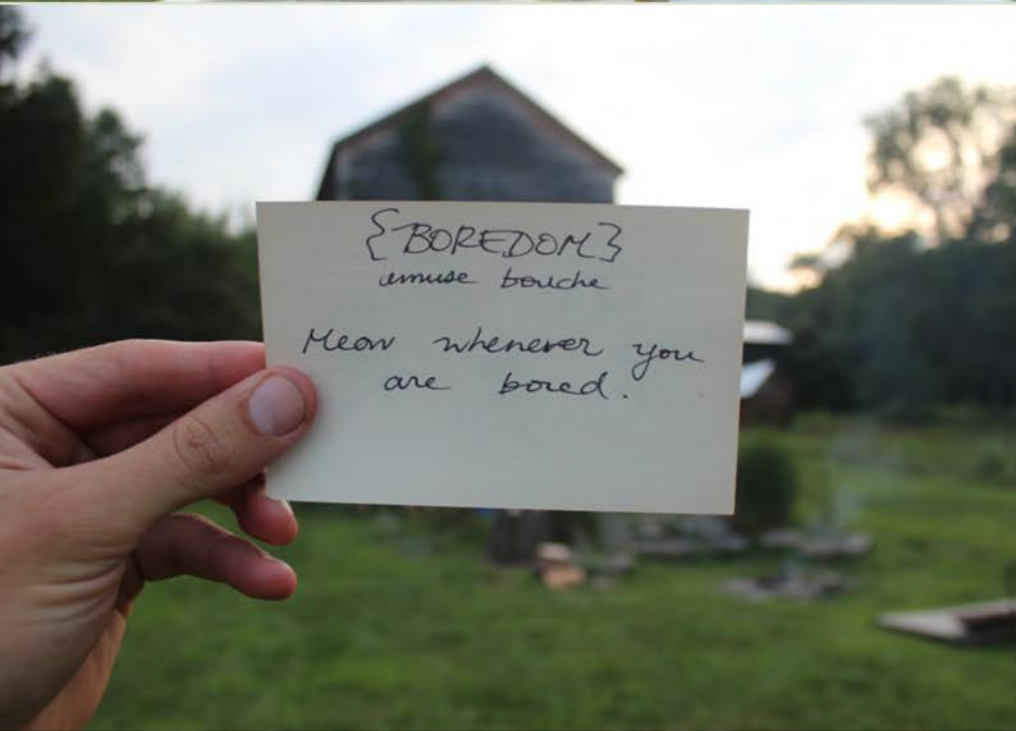
A week of workshops at Mildred's Lane to share land stewardship skills and cultivate regenerative practices.

This session will create an environment for knowledge exchange with daily workshops at Mildred's Lane covering topics including composting, sustainable medicine harvesting, habitat management, deep listening, twig broom-making, and more. The emergent dialogue will resist extractive and instrumentalizing logics prevalent in some contemporary notions of wildcrafting, placing emphasis instead upon regenerative and non-invasive traditions.

Workshops and lectures by day will be followed by shared dinners that extend skill-sharing into the Kitchen Laboratory, recognizing that food production and consumption are forms of land stewardship. The session will coincide with a re-design of the kitchen composting system and the installation of a composting toilet at Mildred's Lane! These projects aim to embody the intersection of artistic and ecological practice—a systems aesthetics for the 21st century. *Workshop details to be announced!*

Image: Resident Artist-in-Complexity (RAIC) in the garden at Mildred's Lane





SESSION | JUNE 17–23

Bibliophantics IV: *Marx For Cats*, and other interspecies dialogues

A residency session for readers and writers coinciding with the Deep Water Literary Festival (June 21–22), Narrowsburg’s most prestigious cultural gathering!

This week-long session at Mildred’s Lane will develop literary tools for decentering the human and deepening relations with the more-than-human world. Through writing workshops and reading discussions spanning political philosophy, speculative fiction, and mythology, we will invite interspecies awareness, eco-political agency, and even metamorphosis. As with all “Bibliophantics” sessions, there will be ample quiet-time for reading and creative experimentation in dialogue with the landscape-site. What if you penned a eulogy in the voice of the dying ash trees of Mildred’s Lane? Or even a mythological ode to the misunderstood “monster,” the black-legged tick?

Anchoring themes of the session is *Marx For Cats: A Radical Bestiary* by Leigh Claire La Berge (Duke University Press, 2023), which traces class struggle as a historical dialogue between humans and felines. For this session, La Berge will present a workshop on writing animal histories. *Additional workshops and guests to be announced!*

image: Social Saturday at Mildred’s Lane, July 27, 2013

SESSION | JULY 1–19, 2024

In the Cloud of Unknowing: Encounters With the UFO

An immersive residency for art practitioners, theorists, researchers and students interested in exploring the broad spectra of issues emerging from discourses surrounding the global UFO Phenomenon.

This residency session takes a transhistorical and interdisciplinary approach to the UFO phenomenon, forming an intensive context in which to consider the subject through divergent research methods and artistic practices. Organized into 3 week-long modules, culminating in a hybrid in-person/online symposium, the curriculum encompasses readings, screenings, discussions, and field trips that divide the expansive topic of the UFO into thematic territories of interest.

WEEK ONE:

FIRST CONTACT (July 1–6)

Contact experiences will be analyzed through the psychological and affective lens of The Uncanny. Artistic documents will highlight knowledge beyond the limits of perception and cognition, exploring the alienating quality of the UFO topic, while discussions unearth settler-colonial psychologies inherent in concepts of “the alien” and “first contact.”

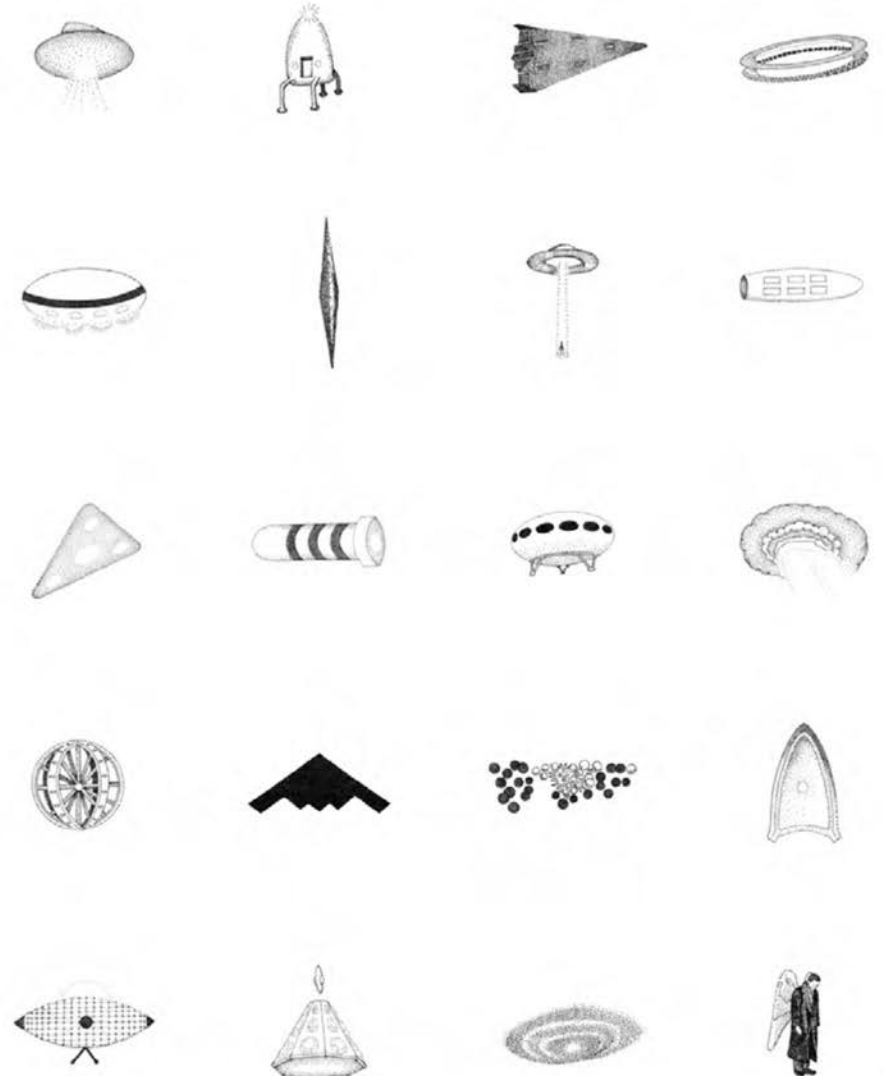


image: Bryan Wilson, selections from *A Taxonomy of UFOs*, 2023–ongoing.

**WEEK TWO:
A LIVING MYTH**
(July 8–13)

A historical review will consider paranormal phenomena within shifting cultural and religious contexts, encompassing recent controversies generated by government UFO disclosures. The limits of historical and scientific observation will be balanced by the richness of folklore, cinema, and popular culture as essential vehicles for the phenomenon across time.

**WEEK THREE:
MEN IN BLACK**
(July 14–19)

Reflecting on power structures it draws attention to, the UFO phenomenon will be employed as a point of access for broader investigation of a “post-truth” context of knowledge-creation. We will question the role of artists as adepts in the mediation of esoteric vs. elite knowledge.

EVENT | JULY (DATE TBA)

**A Symposium on the
UFO Phenomenon**

The first-ever hybrid online symposium hosted at Mildred's Lane, featuring presentations of research from within the intensive session *In the Cloud of Unknowing* as well as a wider global community of researchers engaged with UFOs and other liminal phenomena, especially within the fields of artistic practice, art history, and media studies.

The symposium will culminate in the construction and burning of an *arte povera astronave* (“poor spaceship”).

Call for papers and Admission Options to be announced in March 2024.



image: *Academia de los Nocturnos*, performance by Pablo Helguera and Retail 21st Century fellows, June 2011

EVENT | JULY 20–21, 2024

The 2nd Annual Corvus Summit

Old friends and new come together to benefit Mildred's Lane, collectively shaping the future of our organization.

Co-curated by the Mildred's Lane Advisory Council, a Social Saturday gala event on July 20th will feature a spectacular lineup of special guest speakers and performers! On July 21, the Advisory Council and other allies will strategically continue to plan for the future of Mildred's Lane

Social Saturday tickets will be available to the public, details to be announced! To join our Advisory Council, please inquire with Nick Bennett at workstyles@mildredslane.com.



SESSION | JULY 29–AUGUST 4, 2024

Queer Ecologies Research Collective II: CREATION/ BECOMING/CHAOS

A space for embodied and performative research in pursuit of creative entanglement and co-evolution.

Ecological collapse is a theater of the absurd—how do we play upon its stage? The Queer Ecologies Research Collective (QuERC), as embodied by participants of this residency session, will embrace CREATION / BECOMING / CHAOS as a guiding logic for emergent experiments in theater and expanded cinema, as well as readings and discussions. Over the course of the session, participants will generate new terms for the collective publication “A Glossary for Queer Ecologies” (2023–ongoing).

Dada and drag will provide frames of reference as playful and subversive art movements that speak to the power of the absurd, the disorienting, and the fantastical. The QuERC will assert these affective tools as necessary to the pursuit of a regenerative spirit, and to our ability to intra-relate with concepts such as extinction and apocalypse. Within the practice of queer ecologies, adaptation and metamorphosis become dynamic forces of entanglement, which on a human scale become processes of social as well as biological change.

image: Queer Ecologies Research Collective: LAND/BODY/EROS, July 2023

SESSION | AUGUST 19–25, 2024

Dis-Entanglement / Re-Embodiment

Artists, writers, and activists gather to unravel structures of oppression, fostering collective dialogue and action

Entanglement is key to understanding how systems of domination and inequality—political, economic, social, and spiritual—are deeply engrained into culture. Inter-connected manifestations of oppression, which must all be disentangled in order to re-embody a new society. But *how*? How does one *perform* disentanglement, and how do artistic practices intersect with socio-political aims? This residency session fosters collective exploration, dialogue, and action at the intersection of art and activism.

Disentanglement/Re-embodiment is a multi-year project of extrication from bonds of gender-based oppression, undertaken by Jill Goldman and collaborators through film and performance works. The project strives for personal and collective re-embodiment based on values of equality, community, and reciprocity. Goldman's research areas include Dystopian/Post-Apocalyptic Fiction, Utopian Societies, Matriarchal Studies, the Gift Economy, and post-Capitalist economies, topics which will inform the curriculum of the session, encouraging research and praxis for all participants.



image: Jill Goldman, *DISENTANGLEMENT/RE-EMBODIMENT*, 2022, performance at Mildred's Lane

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Enroll in a Residency Session

Residency sessions are intensive, 1-3 week research-based and project-based engagements held between May and October. As a session fellow, you will be in residence alongside project collaborators, guest lecturers and performers, and Resident-Artists-in-Complexity during our dynamic program season.

Enrollment Costs

1-week residencies...\$1,300

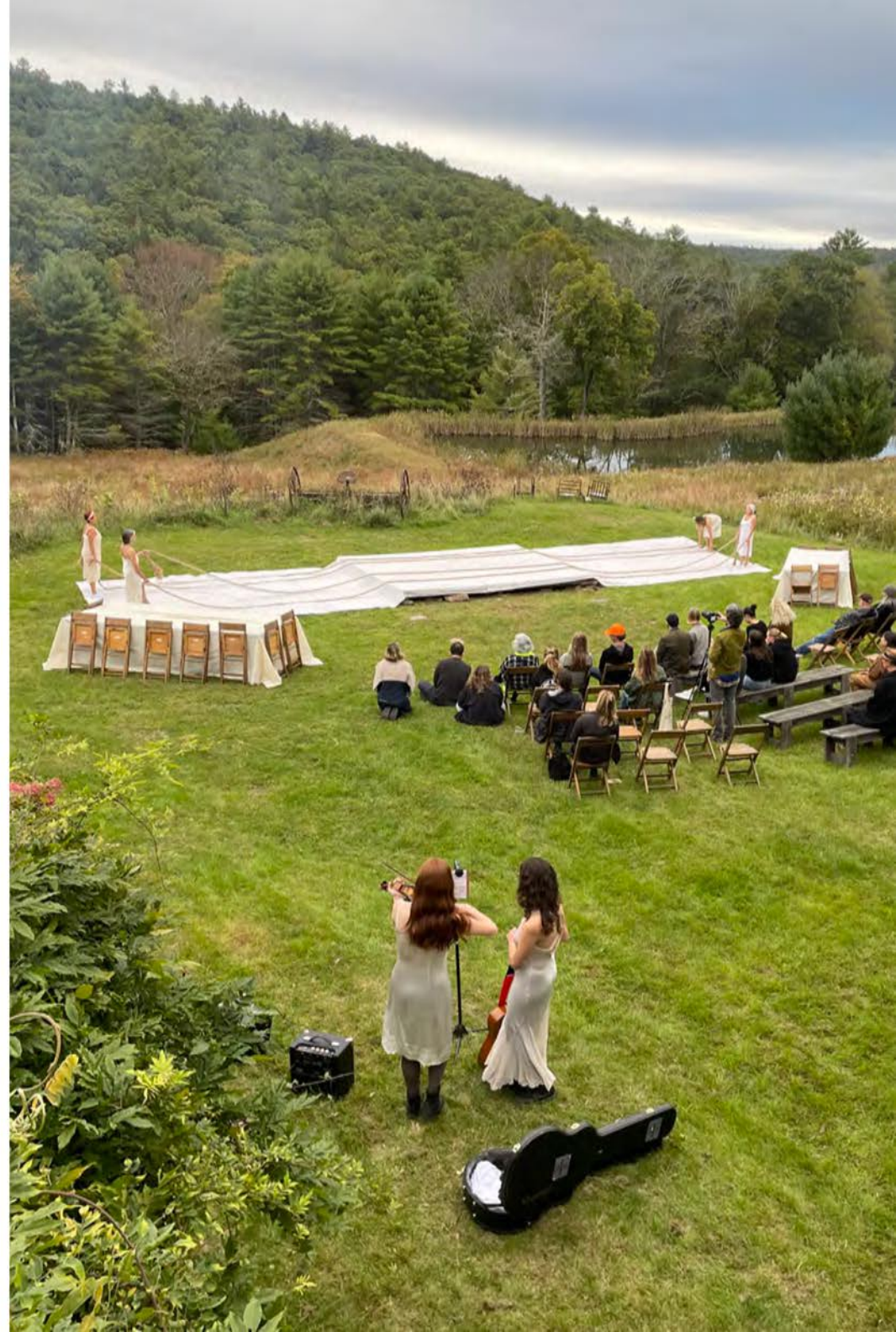
2-week residencies...\$2,500

3-week residencies...\$3,600

Cost encompasses room, board, and materials related to your residency session. Graduate students, faculty, and museum curators are encouraged to ask their institutions about funding for research and enrichment that can support their enrollment in residency programs at Mildred's Lane.

If you are an independent artist or scholar self-funding your enrollment, please enquire about possible scholarships.

image: Jill Goldman, *Disentanglement / Re-embodiment*, 2021 performance at Mildred's Lane





Application Process

Welcome! First, please consider the section at the end of this publication, “Is This the Right Fit?”

To apply for a spot in a residency session, please send us a **letter of interest**, 1-2 pages or equivalent. Please include a **resume** and **portfolio** and/or **work sample**. Please **specify the residency session you wish to join, or indicate your interest in independent study options**.

Materials can be sent by email to workstyles@mildredslane.com or by mail to **Mildred’s Lane Inc, P.O. Box 454, Narrowsburg NY 12764**

We will also request a **letter of recommendation** from a teacher, mentor, or colleague prior to admission, which you may include in your initial application materials if desired.

Space for residency sessions is extremely limited, and enrollment is open only until sessions fill, so we advise contacting us as early as possible! We review applications year-round, and can give early enrollment choice for the subsequent program season if you apply early.

Join us for a Social Saturday or special event

We host numerous events throughout the program season (May–September) that are free and open to the public – please see our social media and website for announcements.

We also host ticketed “Social Saturdays,” unique events which constitute a signature art-form of Mildred’s Lane, several times throughout the program season. Co-curated by project collaborators and Resident-Artists-in-Complexity, Social Saturdays typically encompass a dinner party and guest lecture or performance by notable visiting artists.

Supporter ticket price \$80
BIPOC & student ticket price \$40

Ticket costs support fellowships for the Resident-Artists-in-Complexity who co-curate and choreograph these unique events.

Follow our social media and newsletters for event dates and details, announced throughout the season. Tickets may be purchased on our website in advance, until they sell out – *Social Saturdays are rain or shine!*

Become a Sending Institution

Are you a faculty member or program director at a university or other institution of education? Mildred’s Lane has worked with graduate programs and academic departments annually for over two decades. Sending Institutions sponsor enrollment in our residency sessions for graduate students and faculty.

Sending Institutions structure **scholarship funds** to support one or more fellowships for graduate students and/or faculty attending our annual sessions. We recommend allocating 3 weeks of funding (\$3,600), allowing one to three awarded

individuals to attend Mildred’s Lane residency sessions (one fellow awarded a 3-week residency, or three fellows awarded one-week residencies). Awarded fellows may select the residency session they wish to join, pending availability; due to limited space, we strongly encourage sending institutions to select their fellows and commit enrollments by **May 1st!**

Institutions may contract Mildred’s Lane in **adjunct partnerships**, allowing for more expansive use of the site and facilities for special projects, summer courses, and retreats, as devised by the institution with support from our team.

Past and current Sending Institutions include:

Brown University Dept. of Social Humanities, Providence
University of North Carolina Department of Art
University of Minnesota Department of Art, Minneapolis
Carnegie Mellon College of Fine Arts, Pittsburgh
Royal College of Art, The Curatorial Study Program
Columbia University Graduate School of Fine Art, NYC
Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts
Portland State University Department of Art, Oregon
FLORA Ars+Natura, Bogota, Colombia, South America
Cumbria University, Cumbria Institute of Art, UK
Parsons The New School for Design, New York City
Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston
Arizona State University School of Art, Phoenix
University of Hartford, The Hartford Art School
The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
University of Arkansas Department of Art
Columbus College of Art and Design, Ohio
School of Visual Arts, New York City
Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany
Kingston University Fine Arts, UK
University of Tennessee
HEAD, Geneva, Switzerland
SUNY New Paltz

Propose an Independent Study

Individuals and groups may come to Mildred's Lane independent of any particular residency session or project. Please follow our Application Process and indicate your interest in independent study. Enrollment costs may be discounted based on seasonal availability, and for extended stays.

Become a Resident-Artist-in-Complexity (RAIC)

Resident-Artists-in-Complexity are living and working at Mildred's Lane year-round. These individuals are selected or referred by mentoring project artists or institutions for longer engagements, often for the entirety of a summer season (May-August) and in the off-season (fall/winter).

RAICs collaborate on longer-term projects at Mildred's Lane and guide others in the art of Workstyles, the system aesthetics of living-working-researching-doing-making at Mildred's Lane. This is an awarded position with monthly stipend.

Visit as a Destination Guest

Individuals or groups may be attending for overnight stays or self-organized retreats year-round. Costs are negotiable according to seasonal availability. Request pricing by email with an introductory letter of interest.

images: (Above) A "Town Friday" event at the Mildred Complex(ity) in Narrowsburg, NY; (below) In the pond at Mildred's Lane



IS THIS THE RIGHT FIT?

Mildred's Lane is a self-selecting environment with few specific eligibility requirements. Our program attracts artists, architects, academics, historians, scientists, chefs, curators, writers, activists, gardeners, and other creative practitioners from all walks of life.

Mildred's Lane seeks rigorous, curious individuals able to function collectively within small groups of diverse collaborators. This is a uniquely social environment. Unlike "typical" arts residencies which provide private studios for solitary work, residencies at Mildred's Lane are collaborative, social experiences. All residents and visitors are also expected to participate in mutual care for the group and stewardship of the site.

Mildred's Lane is a rustic environment, formerly an agrarian homestead, deep in the Pennsylvania woods. There are numerous challenges to physical accessibility inherent in this beguiling landscape, and some of our facilities are not wheelchair accessible at this time. We welcome residents and visitors of diverse abilities, and encourage those with accessibility concerns to reach out directly

Ask yourself: Are you ready for a rural experience deep in the woods? Are you interested in working with others collectively? Are you self-motivated? Curious? Open to new experiences? If so, we are excited to receive your letter of interest!

You must be 21+ years of age to attend residency sessions at Mildred's Lane. You must follow the application process to demonstrate your interest.

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, background, or professional qualification. Enrollment in sessions is first-come, first-serve.

We require all visitors to sign our Hold Harmless Agreement or request a copy of the respective institutional liability waiver or other school-sanctioned off-campus activities waiver for our records.

We cannot accommodate any pets. The rustic environment and wildlife pose dangers to them, and they to sensitive installations and ecosystems.

Leave No Trace. All fellows and visitors become stewards of the site and are expected to artfully maintain it.



image: Mark Dion

Mildred's Lane Inc.

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Provisional Executive Board

J. Morgan Puett, *President*
Adam Curtis, *Secretary*
Bianca Nelson, *Treasurer*

Workstyles Bureau

Alex A. Jones
Minister of Strategic Possibilities

Nick Bennett & Natalie Wilkin, *Ambassadors of Transhistorical Agency*

2024 team in formation...

Advisory Council

Nick Bennett
David Brooks
Courtney Dailey
Grey Rabbit Dion Puett
Mark Dion
Jill Goldman
Hope Ginsburg
Jeffrey Jenkins
Cameron Klavsen
Richard Klein
Abby Lutz
J. Morgan Puett
Thyrza Nichols Goodeve
Shelley Spector
Dr. Robert Williams
David Wood



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