



YEAR
OF
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MILDRED'S LANE,
THE MILDRED
COMPLEX(ITY),
A GUIDE TO
THE FIELD,
2019

MILDRED'S LANE: AN INTRODUCTION

Mildred's Lane is a 94-acre site deep in the woods of rural northeastern Pennsylvania on the border of New York State. It is an ongoing collaboration with Mark Dion, Grey Rabbit Puett, and J. Morgan Puett along with other family, friends, and colleagues from around the world who convene here seasonally. We are coevolving pedagogical strategies around contemporary topics by practicing a generous and rigorous engagement with every aspect of life.

This is a working-living-researching experiment centered on domesticity. This entire site has become a series of rarified experiences, a new contemporary art complex(ity). Importantly, it is not a typical art site: it is about people working together on art projects and research.

Becoming involved means embracing every aspect of collective existence through rethinking new modes of being in the world. This evokes a creative, social, civic, political, and critical entanglement investigating: 1) our relationships with each other, 2) our relations to the environment, 3) challenging systems of labor, 4) forms of dwelling and comfort, 5) inventive design apparatuses -- strategies, and 6) creative and critical domesticating. All of this composes an ethic of comportment; a working-living-researching-making strategy that we call workstyles. Being is the practice.

What is different about Mildred's Lane is that it is home. Here we reassemble connections between working, living, and researching, through specific concepts and projects sensitive to the site. This unusual art project invites participation in shared experience and production of research-driven projects within an actual, transdisciplinary and collaborative work environment.

Apparent obstacles in traditional fine arts classrooms have been counterproductive to developing environments where the practitioner, the student, and the institution can collapse roles in an attempt to coevolve a curriculum for new practices. The Mildred's Lane Project exists in the

everyday with a revolutionary-rigorous-rethinking (the 3 Rs) of the contemporary art complex. Such rare and valuable conditions of exchange, collaboration, and generosity are experiences that have transformative and lifelong effects on how we think of ourselves as creative practitioners functioning in the social and civic sphere. At the core of this new curriculum are two principles: 1) to strive for site-sensitive, research, and project-based learning in context of an actual site with a community; and 2) education should be principally involved in the development of new modes of living -- workstyles.

Work is our life; therefore, we weave our lifestyle through it; taking our practices out of the studio and applying the conceptual tools to every aspect of life; with creative, mindful, adaptive reuse of everything we have at hand to sustain our needs -- being local.

J. Morgan Puett

Ambassador of Entanglement

A few of the creative practitioners in support of Curriculums for New and Emergent Practices for the 21st-Century are:

David Brooks / Nina Burleigh / D. Graham Burnett / Jorge Colombo / Donna Cleary / Susanna Crum / Deborah Davidovits / Mark Dion / Jeff Dolven / Juliet Dunn / Coco Fusco / Hope Ginsburg / Leila Gordon / Pablo Helguera / Amanda Heidel / Aaron Hicklin / Jeffrey Jenkins / Alex Jones / Cameron Klavsen / Athena Kokoronis / Leigh Claire La Berge / Abby Lutz / Kevin Mahoney / Kristyna Milde / Marek Milde / Nate Padavick / Rebecca Purcell / Garnett Puett / J. Morgan Puett / Joshua Quarles / Sal Randolph / Rodolfo Salgado Jr. / Gina Siepel / Alex Schecter / Shelley Spector / Amy Lou Stein / Dannielle Teger / Mark Thomann / Rebecca Uchill / James Voorhies / Caroline Wallner / David Wood / Caroline Wallner / Bryan McGovern Wilson / Caroline Woolard / Amy Yoes / Or Zubalsky / and others swarming. Updates monthly!





THE MILDRED COMMONS

The Mildred's Lane Transhistorical Society and Museum is a land trust becoming for the preservation of this contemporary/historical site living with the past, present and future. It currently manifests itself in the ongoing project Mildred Archaeology, as we slowly repair and install the 1830's homestead and outbuildings dating back to mid-eighteenth-century.

The Mildred Complex(ity) is the public face of Mildred's Lane on Main Street USA, in the Upper Delaware River Valley community; closely situated to Mildred's Lane, walking distance across the Delaware River in nearby Narrowsburg, NY.

After a long series of think tanks on the future of exchange in contemporary art, Mildred's Lane established this off-site storefront-studio-project space for broader community discourse



and social experimentation. Town projects aim to explore the dynamics of community through exchange and collaboration. Practitioners experiment with new ways to integrate communities through interconnecting disciplines that have been over-coded by exclusionary systems.

Town projects with fellows, contributing practitioners of Mildred's Lane, and Resident-Artists-In-Complex(ity) manifest in installations, performances, workshops, lectures, debates, town meetings, and, subsequently, more civic involvement. These community collaborations always activate within particular geography to building renewable sociality charged with local environmental activism.

Department of Interstitchiaries is the studio /office at Main and Bridge Street in Narrowsburg, where fellows gather around workshops, making, and sharing ideas. During the summer, the space functions as a presentation space for Town Friday events, open and free to the public.

A Guide to the Field, situated in nearby Mountandale, NY is a project gallery co-curated by J. Morgan Puett, Ambassador of Entanglement of Mildred's Lane, in collaboration with Abby



Lutz, Minister of Strategic Possibilities. It (re)presents artists swarming around contemporary topics in a designed environment of contemporary art, collaborations, furniture, handmade garments, artifacts from social practice artists, textile collections, publications, artist editions, and events.

Unlike a typical 'field guide,' where one searches for identification and definition of the natural world, A Guide to the Field creates a field by naming it. It offers alternatives to what needs guiding, interpretation, and consumption, and questions what a future field looks like. Very like a typical gallery, it exhibits and sells things. However, these creative individuals are redefining retail practices for the 21st-century from this brick-and-mortar space by swarming around topics they propose, thus co-curating the gallery collectively.



BLUR OF OPEN SESSIONS

COME BY THE DAY, WEEK, MONTH!

A Guide to the Field will be in full stitching-making-mode at the Department of Interstitchiaries), sewing ongoing projects throughout the year. (Skilled stitchers who work collectively are sought after.) Factory, the Spring/Summer exhibition, brings together several creative practitioners in a discursive, active environment of making-thinking-doing that the public can collect, instead of merely shopping.

Town Fridays are events and exhibitions at The Mildred Complex(ity) Project Space, with a series of local creatives presenting and in conversation. Amy Yoes and Jorge Colombo, currently activating their new Narrowsburg home base/studios/project space just down the block from The Mildred Complex(ity), will be hosting some of the Town Friday events and lectures in their renovated Main Street barn space including screenings, workshops, and more, throughout the season. Sign on to the mailing list for announcements.

Social Saturdays heat up on May 25 and continue throughout the summer. Request an invitation here. A calendar of events will be posted later in Spring.

MAY 27 - JUNE 16

WILDING WASTING WORKSTYLING

Kristyna and Marek Milde, Amy Lou Stein, Athena Kokoronis, Amanda Heidel, Laura Silverman, James Voorhies, Deborah Davidovits, and other contributing artists, local naturalists, gardeners, botanists, and beekeepers will workshop around topics including collecting, tincturing, planting, apiculture, soil biology -- wildcrafting. We are focused on the Mildred Garden, adjacent to the Mildred's Lane TransHistorical Society and Museum.

The original Mildred Miller garden was a small swatch near the Mildred Archaeology site. We created a new garden out of the fieldstone from foundations of the old barn with Yale



Sculpture students of 1999, many of whom made history with us and are still partners in projects at Mildred's Lane. The garden again transforms our future with another iteration. Once a vegetable garden, riddled with constant distress as we battled our wild neighbors; the groundhogs, deer, and other varmints. The soil was remediated by the Wilding session 2016, and we are ready to rearrange and redress the site into a pollinating garden, inspired by the Milde's Plantarium Project around the adjacent Radical Apiary.

More monthly events at A Guide to the Field in Mountaindale, with James Voorhies at the One Grand Books Reading Parlor, and Mildred's Lane as we blur into Bibliophantics.

JUNE 10 - JUNE 30

BIBLIOPHANTICS

Featuring the Mildred's Lane Library and a project wrapping around Narrowsburg's mid-June Deep Water Literary Festival, with Aaron Hicklin of One Grand Books. A well-used library gets rummaged, and though we encourage this, each season

our floor space gets smaller, now years of books growing everywhere. Our cozy fire/library needs some landscaping; those who join us rearranging, categorizing, reading, rifling the stacks now come to be known as The Bibliophants and will take on the task, directing us in the hoosh as we organize and annex a book chamber into to the Barn Lyceum Archive Room, curating an ongoing read-a-thon as we go. Among the playful reads, Pablo Helguera and Dannielle Tegeder reactivate The Alpine Rooster Collective, their parlor game consisting of creating conceptual poetry out of rediscovered books. In residence, guest readers and writers, including Pablo Helguera, Dannielle Tegeder, James Voorhies, Nina Burleigh, and other celebrated authors in town during the literary festival.

JULY 1 - JULY 28

MULTIPLE PROJECTS

Pondhousespringhouseicehousepond. This has been a project of ongoing negotiations in the landscape for over a decade. During this month, we are in the water, which is so alive we call it laughing water. Cameron Klavsen and Alex Schechter are designing a diving platform based (literally) on the boulder feature that mysteriously disappeared after the pond settled. Hope Ginsburg and friends will be working



on an underwater film, while Joshua Quarles creates music in collaboration with the pond.

The Un-Bored-Walk. David Brooks will be in residence with a new landscape project, a design and build study of emergent walks interrupted by navigating the actual and the man-made.

Mildred Archaeology. Investigations around the eighteenth-century home The Mildred House, the historic homestead/installation/residency at Mildred's Lane. Mildred Archaeology is proving to be a more in-depth study of the site, finding new information about the Steffens, the Lillie family, and other 18th-century settlers, in search for traces of cultures going back six thousand years. Rodolfo Salgado and Susanna Crum, of Calliope Arts Printmaking Studio & Gallery in Louisville, KY will be with us.

JULY 27TH - THROUGH SEPTEMBER

GINA SIEPEL: SELF-MADE

Gina Siepel proposes a personal, queer investigation into the ideals of American masculinity and self-reliance. Opening July 27th at The Mildred Complex(ity) in Narrowsburg, NY.

JULY 29TH - AUGUST 4TH

MARX FOR CATS

In residence with their ongoing project, Caroline Woolard and critical theorist Leigh Claire La Berge whimsically explain keywords in contemporary capitalism, in an artwork designed to both educate and entertain. Juxtaposing the time of foregone capitalism with the anticipatory time of catpitalism.

AUGUST 10th - THROUGH NOVEMBER

PHALLACIES

A Guide to the Field rubs shoulders with the sex industry. These Little Phaluses is a collection of artist-made sex toys, accompanied by conversations/ presentations with co-curators artist Caroline Woolard, critical theorist Leigh Claire La Berge, and artist Paige Landesberg. Opening August 10th at A Guide to the Field in Mountaintdale, NY.



BEING THERE

Mildred's Lane operates as an emergent event, affording us the ability to collaborate in creating a workshop or event specific to any group's needs and desires. Individuals, classes, and institutions often visit for an overnight stay, weekend, or for a full week during the year as available.

Mildred's Lane is an ideal site for institutions to hold retreats, workshops, conferences, or think tanks, using the site -- and the creative practitioners that move through it -- as a pedagogical tool. It is a tranquil meadow, far from distractions, deep in the woods, with a unique cultural atmosphere to catalyze creative discussion and making. We are equipped to rustically lodge 25-35 people at once, with outbuildings for discussions and meetings as well as presentation spaces, and with a studio and project space in the nearby town of Narrowsburg, NY. In addition to this bewildering site's amenities, we provide artful meals with the freshest seasonal, local, organic produce.



We invite small groups, researching fellows, adjunct relationships or others wherein Mildred's Lane and The Mildred Complex(ity) may host your retreat or intensive engagement.

How do I apply as an individual to summer sessions?

Welcome. Request an invitation by submitting an essay or letter of interest explaining the reasons for wanting to come to Mildred's Lane, along with a resume or other form of introduction, such as a website.

Please note that we take a small group of people for each week during the summer months, and those spaces go fast, so we advise being in touch with us as soon as possible. Select the period of attendance with alternative dates. One week, ten days, two weeks or more. Contact us soon.

Can I simply visit without going through a whole session?

Yes. Drop in for a day visit. Request an invitation. Day visits are subject to availability. Join our mailing list for calendar announcements and invitations for events including tours of Mildred's Lane Projects, daily lectures by international visiting artists, and artful Digestion Choreography. Share in the experience.

How can I support a fellowship for an individual?

An individual philanthropist may donate tuition to support a fellow. Name a scholarship, even select and correspond with the fellow supported.

Institutional partnerships

It's easy. Just commit to send a fellow to any part of the season, one, two, three weeks or by the day. We think of this program as an award for the most exceptional student(s) or faculty. Departmental faculty may nominate or select each fellow. In either case, we are happy to help select who might be right for this unorthodox project. Please make selections by May 1st.



A sending institution structures scholarship funds in various ways to support fellowships for one or more persons in the sessions. Sending institutions may want to make this an internal process by selecting a fellow they feel is right for this highly unique, socially engaged program.

We review independent applications year-round. Please apply as early as January and no later than May. Places go quickly. Applicants should send pdf files to mildredslane@gmail.com.

Institutional application process: the right fit?

Mildred's Lane is not right for everybody; it is a highly unusual social engagement and experience. There are no studios. The entire landscape is the studio -- this is an intra-experiential, working/researching practice:

Studio practitioners may also apply. Mildred's Lane seeks rigorous individuals able to function within a small group of other highly skilled, creative practitioners. We provide young creatives with vital skills in functioning within a given community, our specialty. Ask questions such as:



Is the individual ready for a rustic experience deep in the woods? Is the individual willing to share the daily workstyles? Is the individual willing to work with others collectively? Is the individual self-motivated? Curious? Ready for change -- to be a part of change? We are excited to work together!

Application

We accept applications on a rolling basis. Early applications are desired. Please do not wait for deadlines.

1) an essay or letter of intent explaining the reasons for wanting to come to Mildred's Lane; 2) a letter of recommendation from a colleague or mentor; 3) a résumé; 4) a digital portfolio or website (visual, writings or other) of twelve samples of current work.

All applications should come as early as January and up to June. Note: We require a 50% non-refundable deposit toward the length of stay upon acceptance, and the full balance upon arrival to Mildred's Lane.

What does the cost cover?

This year, the structure has shifted so that there are more opportunities and choices. Any person may come during the summer and there will be a calendar of creative practitioners working on projects and destination contributing guests lecturing daily. Some days are softer, while other days are intense with visitor activity. There will be more levels of engagement with contributing guests coming and going.

You are lodging in the deep woods, in a world-renowned, large scale, art installation and vernacular architecture landscape/nature site -- a transformative experience. We produce three homemade fresh, creative, artful meals a day from local farmers, guest chefs, or rotating foodies in each group. There are daily activities including intensive workshops, lectures, and seminars by dynamic contributing guests, thinkers and creative producers that outnumber fellows by three to one during the summer months. We work together -- in collaboration -- on large-scale artist site works.

We are interconnected, international characters from all disciplines that help guide and create new sustainable habits for the future through the philosophical,

experience-based teachings of workstyles. Together we conceptualize and produce socials, public engagements with the town and greater community.

Importantly, the experience forms lifelong friends, career networking, and other attachments, especially to Mildred's Lane. Finally, with extended stays and collaboration, projects and exchange, a special Certificate of Plenipotentiary is awarded for a one-of-a-kind knowledge-based experience.

Costs for sending institutions, faculty, student, and individual applicants

If you are being subsidized by an institution or grant for individual research, we ask that you contribute the regular rates. We offer discounts for extended stays if you are an institutional group and retreat for faculty and students, extended stays or shorter stays. If you are an individual applicant for the summer sessions, we offer discounted rates. We also offer extended stays in exchange for work on projects and contributions in kind.

By the day...	\$150/fellow	One-week....	\$1000/fellow
Two-week.....	\$2000/fellow	Three-week..	\$3000/fellow

Costs for day visits

You may drop in for the day during summer sessions at Mildred's Lane. A day visit includes meals and events, \$75/day.

Visits as destination guests, independently subsidized groups, or individual retreats

Mildred's Lane is open to private retreats, institutional visits, class projects, invitations, adjunct relationships, and propositions. Please contact us; we will formulate costs tailored to needs and numbers.

Community involvement: Town Fridays

Resident Artists in Complex(ity) on show as installations, performances, workshops, lectures, debates, town meetings, and subsequently, more civic involvement. These activities are for



and with our community building renewable sociality charged with local environmental activism. Free and open to the public.

Social Saturdays

We open to the public for an artful Digestion Choreography and a special evening presentation, for a sliding scale contribution. Request an invitation.

Student.....	\$25/person	Generosity...	\$100/person
Full price...	\$50/person		
Member...	\$25/person with membership fee or contribution...		\$100/person

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

Supporting Mildred's Lane

The costs are never-for-profit. Mildred's Lane functions as a generosity project working collectively and generously toward forming a landscape trust. All proceeds go to the artist

projects, maintenance and repairs. We accept donations year-round. We are seeking institutional involvements to help the greater project. Become an annual member. Thank you for your support and involvement in this unique place becoming.

Costs for regular destination guests year-round

- If you are a business, corporation, or other commercial venture, we ask that you pay regular rates.
- If you are well paid or independently wealthy and are able to afford a more generous offering to Mildred's Lane that helps other independents and students attend, that is deeply appreciated; you become an Honorary Fellow of Mildred's Lane.
- If you are looking for an AirBnB like experience, regular costs apply during summer months, but seasonal costs are discounted. Contact us with your intentions.

Lodge Room (shared baths; includes meals)
\$200/day; \$1300/week

Lodge Room (private bath; includes meals)
\$250/day; \$1650/week

Shack/cabin (includes meals) \$175/day; \$1200/week

Wall tent glamping: \$150/day; \$1000/week

Camping with your own gear: \$50/day, meals extra

This is a no service site. Leave no trace. If you prefer cleaning service, the fee is \$50. All fellows are stewards of the site and artfully maintain it.

We are proudly working in partnership with several institutions, which have in past years included:

Arizona State University School of Art, Phoenix, AZ / Columbia University Graduate School of Fine Art, New York, NY / University of Hartford, The Hartford Art School, West Hartford, CT / The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL / Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA / The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA / Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD / The New School Parsons School of Design, New York, NY / School of Visual Arts, New York, NY / SUNY New Paltz Department of Fine Art, New Paltz, NY / Portland State University, Department of Art, Portland, OR / University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN / Virginia Commonwealth, University School of the Arts, Richmond, VA / University of Florida Department of Art & Art History, Gainesville, FL / University of Virginia / Department of Art, Charlottesville, VA / Washington University, Sam Fox School of Art, St. Louis, MO / FLORA Ars+Natura, Bogotá, Colombia, South America / Bauhaus University, Weimar, Germany / Cumbria University, Institute of Art, Carlisle, UK / University of Northern Iowa / Columbus State University, GA / Princeton University //

2019 MILDRED FELLOWS (STAFF)

Mildred Fellows are people deeply involved over time at Mildred's Lane. Many are graduated fellows that show interest in furthering their work at the site; and also, colleagues from around the globe who are collaborating and guiding others through the program and daily workstyles.

Ambassador of Entanglement: J. Morgan Puett

Cabinet Minister Peregrinator: Mark Dion

Fire Master: Grey Rabbit Puett

Fugitive Ambassador of Transhistorical Agency: Natalie Wilkin

Recorder of Retinal Memories: Jorge Colombo

House Steward: Juliet Dunn

Digestion Choreographers to be announced

Rolling Positions

Land Steward / Officer of Complex(ity) / Ministry of Comfort
Fugitive in Archives / The Bibliophant
Department of Interstitchiaries / Stitchers

CONTACT

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Mildred's LANE THE LAND SESSION FIELD (→)

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NATURAL BEAUTY ONCE

