

YEAR OF ARBO- REALITY

MILDRED'S LANE,
THE MILDRED
COMPLEX(ITY),
A GUIDE TO
THE FIELD,
2020





WELCOME TO MILDRED'S LANE.

Mildred's Lane is a 94+-acre project site in the Pennsylvania woods on the Upper Delaware River. It is an ongoing collaboration with Mark Dion and J. Morgan Puett with their son Grey Rabbit Puett. A landscape built by and with friends and colleagues applying new ways of thinking -- doing -- making. Artists from around the world convene at Mildred's Lane seasonally, coevolving pedagogical strategies around contemporary topics that concern us. Collectively, we are practicing social engagement in every aspect of life centered around domesticity.

For over two decades, Mildred's Lane has functioned as a working-living-researching experiment in living, encompassing a series of rarified experiences. Practitioners apply tools and concepts of contemporary art to landscape, vernacular architecture, installation art, sculpture, history, archaeology, natural sciences, utopian studies, and creative domesticity.

Mildred's Lane is a transdisciplinary site that concentrates on broadening skills that aid us as cultural practitioners working in the social sphere.

WORKSTYLES

Those who become involved embrace every aspect of collective existence through rethinking new modes of being in the world evoking a creative, social, civic, political, and critical entanglement questioning; 1) our relations to the environment, 2) our relationships with each other, 3) challenging systems of labor, 4) forms of dwelling, 5) inventing new design apparatuses, and importantly, 6) critical and creative domesticating -- all of which compose the Mildred's Lane ethics of comportment - workstyles. Being IS the practice, making this project one of the most innovative platforms in education and experience.

Work is our life; therefore, we weave our lifestyle through it. Our practices come out of the studio, applying the history of conceptual art to every aspect of life with creative, mindful, sensitivity in everything we do. We work with what we have at hand to sustain our needs -- being local and sensitive to the environment. The critical pedagogical principles: 1) to strive for research and project-based learning in the context of an actual site with a community; and, 2) education should fundamentally include the development of new comportment for sustainable living in this challenging century.

The Mildred's Lane Project exists in the everyday home with a revolutionary -- rigorous -- rethinking (the 3 Rs) of the contemporary art complex. These rare and valuable conditions of exchange, collaboration, and generosity are transformative experiences. These shared experiences have lifelong effects on how we think of ourselves as creative practitioners functioning in the social and civic world in the twenty-first century.



Cultural producers are contributing over the years by lecturing, performing, fire making, creating events -- daily life at Mildred's Lane. These creative practitioners are in support of curriculums for new and emergent practices for the 21st-century. Artist-residencies-in-complexity at Mildred's Lane include:

David Brooks / Nina Burleigh / D. Graham Burnett / Jorge Colombo / Scott Constable / Susanna Crum / Mark Dion / Jeff Dolven / Juliet Dunn / Hope Ginsburg / Pablo Helguera / Aaron Hicklin / Jeffrey Jenkins / Cameron Klavsen / Athena Kokoronis / Leigh Claire La Berge / Robert Marbury / Krystyna Milde / Marek Milde / Claire Pentecost / Rebecca Purcell / J. Morgan Puett / James Prosek / Joshua Quarles / Rudy Salgado / Gina Siepel / Dannielle Tedeger / Mark Thomann / James Voorhies / Robert Williams / David Wood / Caroline Woolard / Amy Yoes / and so many others.

COMMONS OF MILDRED'S LANE.

Mildred's Lane is a landscape of agrarian outbuildings, camps, artists' installations, a historic homestead, and a whole community of animals, forests, ponds, fields, and streams. The old homestead house is now the Mildred's Lane Transhistorical Society and Museum, an ongoing project, and land trust becoming. We are slowly working on the preservation of a historical site, living with the past, present, and future. Currently, it manifests in the ongoing project, Mildred Archaeology, as we slowly repair and install the 1830's house and outbuildings, with parts of the site dating back to the mid-eighteenth century.

Other project spaces include:

The Mildred Complex(ity) project space is the public face of Mildred's Lane on Main Street U.S.A. Closely situated to Mildred's Lane, the storefront is walking distance across the Delaware River in nearby Narrowsburg, manifesting in installations, performances, workshops, lectures, debates, town meetings, and, subsequently, more civic involvement.

The Town Projects manifest in installations, performances, workshops, lectures, debates, town meetings, and, subsequently, more civic involvement. These community collaborations activate this particular geography charged with local environmental activism.

Department of Interstitchiarities is the studio /office at Main and Bridge Street in Narrowsburg, where fellows gather around workshops, making, and sharing ideas.

A Guide To The Field is a shared curatorial and exhibition platform for artists swarming around storefront practices in the social sphere. Artists respond to topic-driven conversations that emerge as installations -- swarmings -- in a game-like manner.

BEING THERE.

Mildred's Lane is an ideal site for institutions, students, individual and group retreats, workshops, conferences, and think tanks. It is a tranquil meadow, deep in the woods, far from distractions, with a unique cultural atmosphere to catalyze productive discussion and making. We house two dozen or less people at once. Mildred's Lane is a no-service system but, in addition to this bewildering site's amenities, we help organize the freshest seasonal, local, organic produce for meals. Guest artists are chefs, or rotating fellows in each group work with creative Digestion Choreographers.

There are daily activities, including intensive workshops, lectures, and seminars by dynamic contributing guests, thinkers, and cultural 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 the greater community.

Importantly, the experience forms communities, lifelong friends, career networking, especially to Mildred's Lane. Finally, At the end of sessions with extended stays of three or more weeks, a Certificate of Plenipotentiary is awarded for a one-of-a-kind knowledge-based experience.



MILDRED'S LANE SESSIONS 2020: YEAR OF ARBOREALITY

Charlie Adams / Nina Burleigh / D. Graham Burnett / Donna Cleary / Jorge Colombo / Scott Constable / Susanna Crum / Oliver Davidson / Mark Dion / Noah Doely / Jeff Dolven / Juliet Dunn / Justin Ginsberg / Hope Ginsburg / Alastair Gordon / John Haskell / Pablo Helguera / Jeffrey Jenkins / Alex Jones / Cameron Klavsen / Leigh Claire La Berge / Samantha Lopez / Abby Lutz / Kristyna Milde / Marek Milde / Jac Mullen / Leonard Nalencz / Rebecca Purcell / Grey Rabbit Puett / J. Morgan Puett / Joshua Quarles / David Richardson / Anna Riley / Rudy Salgado / Alex Schechter / Gina Siepel / Laura Silverman / Sara Smith / Dannielle Tegeder / Christine Wang / Kate Wellspring / Marisa Williamson / David Wood / Caroline Woolard / Amy Yoes /
and others to be announced this spring!

JUNE 1 THROUGH JUNE 14

WORKSTYLING THE WILD

Laura Silverman, Jeffrey Jenkins, Juliet Dunn, Kristyna and Marek Milde, Donna Cleary. There is a dark and secret garden at Mildred's Lane. We let it go after several years of competing with varmints who kept destroying our hard work -- we just gave in. We are rethinking how to coexist, allowing for a vibrant community of flora and fauna shared and useful to all. Previous Wilding fellows rejuvenated the soil, priming the garden for a new beginning. Hear wisdom from master gardeners, botanists, landscapers, herbalists as we take field trips to fantastical gardens in the region.

The Mildred's Lane Library holds a large body of field guides for plant, moss, mushroom, tree identification, and will aid foraging explorations with local naturalists in these weeds and woods. More, let's get down and dirty with daily events as we rebuild a garden of medicinal rhizomes, roots, flowers, and herbs; digging-rearranging-designing-building-planting-swimming -- come wilding with us.

JUNE 15 THROUGH JUNE 21

BIBLIOPHANTICS

Featuring the Deep Water Literary Fest. Nina Burleigh, John Haskell, and other special guest author appearances to be announced. An intensive Reading Retreat. An enchanting week with the Mildred's Lane Library, with volumes to consume, quietly -- aloud -- socially- privately. The library is diverse in non-fiction; participate in broadening the contents with field trips to local second-hand bookstores, collecting to fatten the contents. Silent periods of reading grow into evening socials, library games, and authors' performances of readings rousing fireflies and peepers singing along in the background at the height of summer solstice. The week concludes with the Deep Water Literary Fest, featuring One Grand Books and The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, hosting dozens of authors and a series of readings of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein in the nearby hamlet of Narrowsburg.

JUNE 15 THROUGH JULY 5

SILVER - IRON - LIGHT

Noah Doely, Susanna Crum, Rudy Salgado. Set in the landscape with an extravaganza of 19th and 20th-century equipment, we will facilitate a series of plein-air tintype, cyanotype, and anthotype processes using a variety of materials including hand-coated plates, paper, fabric, and plant-based pigments. You may bring your own equipment or learn to use ours. These alchemical processes combine science and wonder; collaboration and experimentation will be part of events and activities throughout the session. We will begin with the design and setup of a photography studio for processing and developing in the field. Participants will work in the landscape, composing site-sensitive 'portraits' of Mildred's Lane. This session will culminate in a collective, curated image archive exhibition at The Mildred Complex(ity) Project Space.

JULY 6 THROUGH JULY 19

FOREST - BODY - CHAIR

Gina Siepel, Sara Smith, and Kate Wellspring. A tree becomes a chair and enters our lives as an intimate partner. The relational dynamics between the forest, the human body, and

the wooden chair provide an entry point for exploring the mutuality of nature and culture. In the domestic environment, chairs are utilitarian objects, places of rest for the body, and social facilitators. Chairs, as we know them, can also be poorly designed for the human body, causing a variety of physical problems. Multi-modal investigations of vernacular American furniture design will form the basis for experimenting together with these potentials and challenges through the framework of sustainability.

Explore the forests of Mildred's Lane with a field naturalist, practice and study somatics and ergonomics with movement facilitators, and source wood directly from the site for greenwood chair construction with a woodworker. We'll conduct research to develop unique, experimental chair forms that actively consider sustainability in the forest, in the body, and in the domestic sphere. No previous experience with movement or woodworking is required. We will end the session with an exhibition/installation/event open to the public.

JULY 20 THROUGH AUGUST 2

TREEHOUSE

Charlie Adams, Scott Constable, Oliver Davidson. In 2001, Lightning Treehouse was a design/build project by Constable with a group of young fellows swarming in collaboration. A blizzard ended that story. Last year, Adams and Davidson, two Mildred' Lane resident-artists-in-complexity and master woodworkers from England, started a dialog around a new treehouse project. This team unites to rethink a new tree-dwelling at Mildred's Lane; Constable notes, "... we've already begun the collaboration, we've already begun building, just by asking, What is a treehouse?"

Raising the stakes, this project enforces new research on what we now know about trees. Fellows will collaborate in all ways to think about dwelling in the twenty-first century, adding to and creating a new archive through documentation, writing, drawing, filming, recording, reading, and building. While respecting respectfully listening to the needs of the forest and the importance of how not to abuse branches, trunk, roots, or soil, this is an extraordinary opportunity to heighten environmental sensitivity, apply new skills, and identify the non-human neighbors in this community.

AUGUST 3 THROUGH AUGUST 9

MARX FOR CATS APPLIED

Caroline Woolard, Leigh Claire La Berge, Christine Wang, Marisa Williamson. In this session, we will swim, dine, and deliberate about keywords in capitalism, animal studies, and contemporary art. Critical theorist, La Berge, will lead the reading discussions. Artists Wang, Williamson, and Woolard will run seminars and workshops on site-specific projects, performance, irony, and topics that emerge from a collective interest in real-time. We will answer this question: What does Karl Marx, a 19th-century German philosopher, have in common with Ralph Chaplin, an American labor organizer for the International Workers of the World and with Polish revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg? One answer presents itself immediately: both critique the inequalities that capitalism unleashes. In this session, we offer a different response. Marxists are cat theorists. Marx himself hailed from a land of cats, and his family lineage bears the feline mark. A variety of destination guest artists will be announced.

AUGUST 10 THROUGH 16

ORDER OF THE THIRD BIRD: ATTENTION LAB

Anna Riley and Justin Ginsberg + Distinguished Associates. Indiscreet friends of the Order of the Third Bird continue their investigations into experimental protocols of Practical Aesthetics and various tactics for Sustained Attention. The Attention Lab is part guerrilla seminar and part meditative/kinetic practicum. A discipline of the senses is pursued; the conditions of attention are investigated. Beginning with available traditions and protocols of the so-called "Birds," our aim will be to develop and test new durational practices of attention. Special guests will visit throughout the week and weekend, including Sal Randolph, D. Graham Burnett and Leonard Nalencz.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

The Summer Sessions are intense engagements with guests, including contributing artists, sending institutional faculty lecturing, and exchanging daily throughout the season. Some days are softer, while other days are intense with project work. Weekends are designed around hosting guests and are full of activities. Providing the following protocols, any person may visit during the year. However, fellows go through an application process to participate in the intensive summer sessions. There is a calendar of events posted on the website and to those on our mailing list.

Become a Sending Institution.

Institutional partnerships that support and benefit students and faculty participating as fellows during summer sessions. Each institution forms an internal application process or selects and awards a fellowship to an outstanding student or faculty.

Form Adjunct Partnerships.

Contractual relationships between the institution and Mildred's Lane. Faculty and students collaborate on projects and have unlimited access to the site throughout the year or semester. Negotiable.

Be a Destination Guest.

Individuals, classes, departments, faculty, professionals, independents, or other attending for tours, short stays, or self-organized retreats year-round. Need not apply, costs are negotiable according to seasonal availability. Request an invitation, send an introductory letter of interest.

Come as an Independent Fellow.

All ages come from all over the world. Simply follow our application process to a session of your choice.

Mildred Fellows.

Those returning seasonally, working on artists' projects and staff, guiding others in the art of WORKSTYLES. Fellows who

express interest are invited back based on their involvement in workstyles -- no application, and at no cost.

Apply for Resident-Artists-in-Complexity (R.A.I.C.)

Fellows living and working at Mildred's Lane year-round. These Fellows are selected or referred by a mentoring project artist of Mildred's Lane; or are Mildred Fellows who requesting longer engagements. Small stipends are available for R.A.I.C. and come along with some duties, such as assisting in Mildred's Lane operations.

Come for a Day Visit.

By appointment requesting an invitation at the website, and by receiving our announcements about the Town Fridays and Social Saturdays throughout the summer. Saturdays are when we have tours and engage with a set program. However, we also take in destination guests on weekdays by requesting an invitation and making an appointment.

Be a part of Community Involvement.

The Mildred Complex(ity) and A Guide to the Field hosting Artist's Projects, Town Fridays, Social Saturdays, Exhibitions, Workshops, Events, and more.

Attend Town Fridays.

Events and exhibitions hosted by The Mildred Complex(ity) Project Space/Gallery, and other town locations. A Seasonal series of local creatives presenting ideas in conversation. Resident Artists in Complex(ity) show installations, performances, workshops, lectures, debates, town meetings and, subsequently, more civic involvement.

Request an invitation to Social Saturdays.

Mildred's Lane, the site, is open to the invited public throughout the summer. Request an invitation to visit and tour the ongoing landscape projects and installations, artist lectures, and experience artful digestion choreography in the landscape.

Visit and book a stay through Airbnb.

Listings throughout the year according to seasonal conditions and availability.

How do I apply as an Independent Fellow to attend Summer Sessions or for extended stays?

Welcome. Submit an essay or letter of interest explaining a heartfelt desire to be involved with Mildred's Lane; send a letter of recommendation from a colleague or mentor; and send a resume or other form of introduction, like a website.

Please note that we take a small group of people each week during the summer months, and those spaces go fast, so we advise being in touch with us as soon as possible. Request the desired dates to participate; one week, ten days, two, three weeks, or more. We provide discounts for more extended stays. Contact us soon.

Is it 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 becomes the studio. It is a rustic site where we apply our studio skills to every aspect of life. We cooperate in a critical engagement with relations to the environment and each other through a collective system of labor, called WORKSTYLES. We all maintain and steward the site projects. It requires collective involvement, learning to work, and live together -- better.

Mildred's Lane seeks rigorous, transdisciplinary individuals able to function within a small group of other select, highly skilled creatives. We provide vital skills in functioning within a given community through the art of WORKSTYLES. 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 to benefit to the group? Is the individual willing to work with others collectively? Is the individual self-motivated? Curious? Ready for change -- to be a part of the change? We are excited to work together!





How do Institutional Partnerships work?

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) and faculty. Institutional Departments and 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. Select a fellow by an internal application or use our application process. These are options for involvement:

> A Sending Institution structures scholarship funds in various ways to support fellowships for one or more persons in the sessions.

> A Sending Institution may contract Mildred's Lane as an adjunct arrangement, including the use of the entire site and facilities, a program of instruction, lectures, workshops, events, or other, devised by the participants.

> A Sending Institution may come as destination guests for short stays participating in the current program or collaborating with Mildred's Lane.

How do students apply?

Get in touch with the institutional department chairs and professors to potentially become a sending institution. Otherwise, as an independent, just follow this procedure below.

We review independent applications year-round. Please apply as early as January. Applicants should send pdf files to mildredslane@gmail.com.

- 1) an essay or letter of interest explaining the reasons for wanting to come to Mildred's Lane,
- 2) a letter of recommendation from colleague or mentor,
- 3) a résumé,
- 4) a portfolio or website (visual, writings, or other;) ten images of current work (pdf format.)

How much does this cost?

Costs For Fellows, Sending Institutions, Student, and Individual Applicants To Summer Sessions:

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

Longer stays negotiable.

Cost by the day. Drop-in for the weekday during summer sessions at Mildred's Lane. A day visit includes meals and events, \$100/day.

Town Fridays. Free and open to the public. A calendar of events is announced weekly at the website. Please join the mailing list, www.mildredslane.com.

Social Saturdays. Destination Guests may come for day visits on Saturdays and asked to make a suggested sliding scale contribution or donation. A calendar of events is announced weekly on our website. Please join the mailing list, www.mildredslane.com.

Student \$25/person
Full price \$35/person
Generosity \$50-\$100/person
Tours \$25/person
 additionally by request and weather permitting.
Overnight stays . . \$175/room or cabin as available.

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's projects, maintenance, and repairs. We accept donations year-round. We are seeking adventurous individuals and institutional partnerships to collaborate with us, to get involved in programming, maintenance, and production of artist projects. Please support this new cultural site becoming.

How do I support a Fellowship.

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

Other things to know.

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. Please let them stay at home -- not in your car.

We require a 50% non-refundable, placeholder deposit toward the length of stay upon acceptance and the full balance upon arrival to Mildred's Lane.

This is a no-service-site. Leave No Trace. Otherwise, cleaning service fees start at \$50. All fellows and visitors are stewards of the site and artfully maintain it.

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.

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

Columbus State University Department of Art, GA /
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, MS / FLORA Ars+Natura, Bogotá,
Colombia, South America / Cumbria University, Institute
of Art, Carlisle, UK / University of Northern Iowa /

2020 MILDRED FELLOWS

Mildred Fellows are people deeply involved overtime at Mildred's Lane. Graduating fellows show interest in further involvement at the site become colleagues collaborating and guiding others through future programs 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

Land Stewards: Charlie Adams and Oliver Davidson

Rolling positions and WORKSTYLES of Mildred Fellows
to be announced:

Digestion Choreographers

Officer of Complex(ity)

Ministry of Comfort

Fugitive in Archives

The Bibliophant

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