



THE MACDOWELL COLONY TURNS 100  
YEARLONG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF ARTISTIC CREATION TO SOCIETY

*Milton Avery, James Baldwin, Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Lukas Foss, Spalding Gray,  
Alice Walker, Wendy Wasserstein, and Thornton Wilder are among scores of  
MacDowell artists who have created iconic works*

*For Immediate Release — Peterborough, NH — November, 2006 . . .* The MacDowell Colony, the nation's first and leading artist residency program, turns 100 in 2007. MacDowell marks its Centennial with a yearlong, nationwide celebration of creativity in honor of the more than 6,000 artists who have worked at the Colony to date. The celebration includes a major publication, a new film, a film series, and performances, exhibitions, and special events.

Together, the Centennial events will provide a compelling picture of the importance of artistic creation to a successful society. **Robert MacNeil**, noted broadcast journalist, writer, and chairman of The MacDowell Colony, says, "Colony founders Edward and Marian MacDowell, true visionaries, were the first to recognize that creative artists need uninterrupted time and space in which to pursue their work, and that artists working in different disciplines have much to offer one another. In marking the Colony's Centennial anniversary, we also recognize and reaffirm that creativity and the arts are part of the very essence of America, and rank high among our national values."

In its first century, MacDowell has awarded Fellowships to an array of exceptionally talented composers, writers, visual artists, architects, interdisciplinary artists, filmmakers, and playwrights. These have included, among many others, such artists as author Michael Chabon, who worked on his Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* during his time at the Colony; Alice Sebold, whose best-selling novel *The Lovely Bones* arose out of a MacDowell Fellowship; Thornton Wilder, whose landmark play *Our Town* is set in a small New England town based on Peterborough, New Hampshire, home to the Colony; playwright Doug Wright, composer Scott Frankel, and librettist Michael Korie,

who collaborated on *Grey Gardens* while at the Colony; and food writer and *Gourmet* magazine editor-in-chief Ruth Reichl, whose MacDowell Fellowships enabled her to work on all three of her best-selling memoirs. The many awards given to Fellows include the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Rome Prize, and the National Medal of Arts, as well as Guggenheim, Fulbright, and MacArthur Fellowships.

Mr. MacNeil adds, “The freedom to create is a freedom worth celebrating, not only for MacDowell’s landmark anniversary, but also in terms of our distinctive American culture. For what values better express a society’s vitality than the freedom of its people to create?”

### Highlights of Centennial Celebration

Further details regarding Centennial events will be announced as they are confirmed.

- **Publication:** *A Place for the Arts: The MacDowell Colony, 1907–2007* — A Centennial publication, edited by MacDowell President and architectural historian and critic Carter Wiseman, combining essays and photographs to provide a colorful and insightful account of the Colony’s first century. The 14 essays are by writers including Mr. MacNeil, *Gourmet* magazine editor Ruth Reichl, Carnegie Corporation President and former MacDowell Chairman Vartan Gregorian, and the late playwright Wendy Wasserstein. The 140 photographs are both specially commissioned and archival. *January, 2007*
- **Centennial Film:** *MacDowell Seasons* — The Colony experience is explored through a film created by four diverse, award-winning MacDowell Colony Fellows and produced by Mike Sullivan of PBS’s *Frontline*. *April, 2007*
- **MacDowell-MoMA film series** — A nationally traveling film series, headlined by *MacDowell Seasons*, premieres at The Museum of Modern Art, New York. *April, 2007*
- **Library of Congress exhibition** — MacDowell history comes alive when the Library of Congress displays the Colony’s archives for the first time. This special exhibition, part of the Library’s ongoing *American Treasures* installation, features first editions, scores, and manuscripts, as well as documents from Edward and Marian MacDowell. *February, 2007*
- **“MacDowell Marathon” at Symphony Space** — This four-part festival showcases MacDowell works from the classic to the contemporary. The marathon includes a special Selected Shorts reading, music, and more, culminating in a preview of an interdisciplinary collaboration among MacDowell Fellows. *September 26–29, 2007*
- **The 2007 Nancy Hanks Lecture at the Kennedy Center** — MacDowell Chairman and journalist Robert MacNeil delivers the annual address on arts and culture to this distinguished assembly of cultural leaders and public officials. *March 12, 2007*
- **Colony Fellows Central Park Reunion Event** — Colony Fellows and their families convene for a grand picnic in New York’s Central Park. *September 29, 2007*

- **New Hampshire events** — Centennial highlights in New Hampshire include a very special Medal Day 2007 with a commissioned and interactive work of art by 2006 MacArthur Fellow and MacDowell Colonist Anna Schuleit; and Peterborough Projects, a series of artworks commissioned from MacDowell artists for the local community. A range of other New Hampshire events is also planned. *January-December, 2007*
- **Cultural Partners performances** — Throughout 2007, prestigious arts presenters across the country and across disciplines recognize and pay tribute to MacDowell through their artistic programming. *January-December, 2007*

In addition to these events, the work of more than 6,000 artists will appear nationally as MacDowell Fellows help celebrate the Centennial in 2007. Information on these and other special events will be updated at [www.macdowellcolony.org/centennial](http://www.macdowellcolony.org/centennial) and announced as the dates near.

### The MacDowell Colony

Every year, approximately 250 talented artists are awarded Fellowships to spend up to two months at MacDowell, which is located on 450 woodland acres in Peterborough, New Hampshire. To date, MacDowell Fellows have come from 49 states and 50 nations. Each Fellow is provided with a private, fully equipped studio appropriate to his or her discipline, along with meals and accommodations. In 1997, The MacDowell Colony was awarded the National Medal of Arts “for nurturing and inspiring many of this century’s finest artists.” It is the only artist residency program to have received this prominent honor.

The MacDowell Colony has served as the model for artist residency programs throughout the United States and internationally. Since its founding 100 years ago, such communities have become the nation’s largest source of support for individual artists.

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