



ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY: A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded in 1831 by members of the newly-organized Massachusetts Horticultural Society, was the first large-scale designed landscape in North America open to the public. Designed with the purpose of consoling the bereaved in a landscape of natural beauty, the Cemetery represented a turning point in nineteenth-century attitudes about death, burial, and commemoration. The Cemetery's concept was imitated widely throughout the United States, inspiring the subsequent rural cemetery movement and later the establishment of public parks and picturesque suburbs designed by the early generations of American landscape architects.

Today, Mount Auburn is a unique outdoor museum of nineteenth and twentieth-century sculpture and architecture. Located on 175 acres of land, it is an arboretum with more than 5,000 trees and more than 20,000 plants overall, representing 115 different botanical families and comprising more than 2,000 different taxa. In July 2012, Mount Auburn achieved Level III accreditation as an arboretum through ArbNet, an international organization promoting the work of arboreta. Among the first arboreta in New England to receive this level of accreditation, and the first cemetery nationwide, Mount Auburn was acknowledged for its extraordinary plant collections.

Open to the public every day of the year free of charge, Mount Auburn's grounds offer a place for reflection and for observation of nature. Annually, more than 200,000 visitors from around the world come to study our national heritage by visiting the graves of noted Americans and exploring the rich history and imagery behind the monuments and sculpture.

It has been recognized since Mount Auburn's early decades that the Cemetery's aesthetic richness, educational value, and historic significance are derived in large part from the remarkable tapestry formed by its diverse collection of monuments and burial markers. In the nineteenth century, the Cemetery as well as individual lot owners commissioned a great array of public artwork: monuments, structures, and buildings. Visitors therefore experienced the site as an outdoor museum and pleasure ground as well as a place of burial. Today, Mount Auburn continues its dual mission of active cemetery and cultural landscape by inspiring all who visit and commemorating the dead in a landscape of exceptional beauty.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

Each year the Friends of Mount Auburn presents more than 100 lectures, guided tours, and performances on thematic topics highlighting notable individuals, preservation and historical collections, cemetery, horticulture and wildlife; and presents hands-on workshops for children and adults. In the past five years more site-specific and experiential programs have been presented such as the Underground Railway Theater's production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, *A Glimpse Beyond*, the celebration of life and death told through art, music, dance, and poetry on the Cemetery grounds; and participatory programs on mindful walking and citizen science.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mount Auburn is the first historic cemetery to establish an artist residency program. In 2019, as we plan for our fourth cycle, the artist-in-residence will be selected through a juried invitational process. The



two-year “low residency” program supports the creation of new work by contemporary artists inspired by an in-depth experience at Mount Auburn Cemetery. Artists are challenged to create works for visitors that convey a fresh and innovative perspective of Mount Auburn drawn from direct experience. The artist-in-residence is additionally expected to present and participate in public programming throughout the residency period.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

The residency carries a stipend for one artist (or artistic team) to create a project about Mount Auburn and share it with the public. This project can take many forms; examples include a temporary art installation, an “exhibit” for Mount Auburn’s mobile app, musical performances of original compositions, original theater, a publication, or a body of work exhibited at a local museum or gallery. In addition to this project, artists must contribute to public programming and events for our visitors. Examples of public programming could include “pop-up” music events, classes or a workshop series, lunchtime and/or evening lectures, or a presentation of a work in progress. Artists are expected to participate in press interviews and media opportunities, including stories for Mount Auburn’s e-newsletter and members’ magazine *Sweet Auburn*. Artists-in-residence are encouraged to develop and propose additional innovative projects, collaborations, and performances that have fundraising potential, and work with Mount Auburn’s fundraising staff to secure additional outside funding and grants to support these activities.

TIMELINE

January – September 2019: Identify and meet with selected artists

November 15, 2019: Concept submission deadline

December 2019: Artist selection

January 2019: Residency begins, artist works with staff and collections

April – November 2019: selected public programming and publications

2020: Selected public programming and final project

If you are interested in becoming a resident artist at Mount Auburn or for more information about our program please contact Jenny Gilbert, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 617-607-1970 or jgilbert@mountauburn.org.