

The MacDowell Colony

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MACDOWELL AWARDS CHARLOTTE SHEEDY FELLOWSHIP TO CATHLEEN BAILEY

The MacDowell Colony announces inaugural recipient of fellowship named in honor of literary agent who champions trail-blazing writers.

NEW YORK, April 26, 2016 – Writer Cathleen Richardson Bailey has been named the first recipient of the Charlotte Sheedy Fellowship at The MacDowell Colony.

Bailey is a poet, writer, curator, and visual artist. She received an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Southern Maine at Stonecoast, and her stories and poems have appeared in *Shooting Star Literary Review*, *A & U Magazine*, *Cake Train*, *Sage Woman*, *Word Play Sound*, *Linden Avenue Literary Journal*, and *Border Crossing*, among others. She is the author of two poetry collections, *Spit Rock/Cracked Cave* and *Wild Howling Woman*. Her beaded and textile art pieces have shown at the Renwick Gallery of American Art in Washington, D.C., among others.



The Charlotte Sheedy Fellowship was established in 2015 to support one writer each year whose work represents populations across racial and cultural boundaries. Named in honor of literary agent Charlotte Sheedy, whose 40-year career has championed groundbreaking writers across a wide range of perspectives, the fellowship reinforces

MacDowell's commitment to inclusivity in support of those who would become great contributors to the literary canon such as James Baldwin, Pauli Murray, Eileen Chang, Makoto Oda, Alice Walker, and Audre Lorde.

During her time at MacDowell in the summer of 2015, Bailey worked on a fictionalized memoir, an eclectic hybrid that includes original songs, prose, poetry, interviews, clinical notes, excerpts from historical documents and letters. The project focuses on historically obscured American voices.

"Artist residencies are not indulgences," Bailey said of her time at MacDowell. "This time, space, quiet and structure are necessary components of creativity. I am writing more confidently than ever. This experience is a gift. I shall carry with me always, the liberation of submitting my days, time, and space to my work."

Bailey is a 2011 grant recipient of The Pittsburgh Foundation's Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh award; a 2009 recipient of The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts' Master/Apprentice Fellowship in Traditional Quilting; a 2004 recipient of a Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts Residency; and a 2003 recipient of The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts' Fellowship in Literature.

All accepted applicants will be awarded residencies covering all residency costs, and are eligible for financial aid for travel and other expenses while away. Writers who apply for any of MacDowell's three annual application deadlines and fit the fellowship criteria are considered for the Charlotte Sheedy Fellowship. All artists are encouraged to apply for the next deadline on September 15, 2016 at www.macdowellcolony.org/apply.html or by writing admissions@macdowellcolony.org.

Cathleen Bailey photo by Joanne Eldredge Morrissey

Composer Edward MacDowell and pianist Marian MacDowell, his wife, founded The MacDowell Colony in 1907 to nurture the arts by offering creative individuals of the highest talent an inspiring environment in which to produce enduring works of the imagination. Each year, MacDowell welcomes more than 275 architects, composers, filmmakers, interdisciplinary artists, theatre artists, visual artists, and writers from across the United States and around the globe. More than 7,000 artists have received Fellowships to work at MacDowell. These artists include **Milton Avery, James Baldwin, Heide Fasnacht, Osvaldo Golijov, Qin Feng, Glenn Ligon, and Wendy Wasserstein**. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon is the chairman of MacDowell's board of directors.

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