

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Arrowmont Resident Artists Hold Annual Exhibition

Artists nationwide apply annually for Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts' Artist-in-Residence program, a coveted opportunity of creative discovery for emerging artists. On Saturday, May 3, 2008, from 6:30 – 9:00 pm, Arrowmont's five current resident artists will hold a reception for their annual exhibition that highlights work created during the 11-month residency. The exhibition will be open from April 18 – May 17.

Residents selected for 2007-08 include metalsmith Alicia Boswell, surface design and fiber artist Kim Eichler-Messmer, ceramist Alex Kraft, woodworker Ted Lott, and printmaker Sarah Wiseman.

Arrowmont's Artist-in-Residence program is designed to provide pre-professional, self-directed artists time and space to develop a major body of work in a creative community environment of students and visiting faculty. "This residency has given me a chance to focus on developing the ideas behind my work while also improving my skill base and learning new techniques in fibers," said resident artist Kim Eichler-Messmer. "For me, Arrowmont has provided the time and space to make things that aren't necessarily safe, that I might not have made otherwise."

Each resident is provided their own studio space in the Resident Studios Complex, which is a short walking distance from their living quarters on campus. Residents supply their own equipment, but are otherwise afforded a private and spacious studio to work in for 11 months.

"Being an artist-in-residence at Arrowmont has afforded me great opportunities," says resident ceramist Alex Kraft. "I have been able to experiment with new ideas and materials, as well as hone an existing body of work."

The AIR program is in its 17th year and continues to grow and evolve. "The success of Arrowmont's Artist-in-Residence Program is a reflection of the talent, energy and attitudes of the residents during their year on campus," said Bill Griffith, Assistant Director and Residency Program Director. "The annual residency exhibition is a testament to the quality of applicants the program continues to attract and to the personal growth of each artist."

In addition to creating work in their individual studios, residents are required to work for Arrowmont 10 hours a week in various capacities including gallery installations, community outreach programs, faculty assistance, etc.

"I have taken this opportunity to challenge myself and explore ideas that previously were discounted," said resident Sarah Wiseman. "The work has morphed into a more personal and universal exploration of subject matter. The time to explore these ideas and challenge my previous ways of making has been very valuable and a life altering experience."

Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. For more information regarding Arrowmont's Artist-in-Residence program, visit <http://www.arrowmont.org/residency.html> to learn more about the current residents, as well as the program.

Arrowmont is dedicated to its mission of "enriching lives through art."