

Isle Royale

Artist-in-Residence Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Isle Royale National Park



Jennifer Williams, Artist-in-Residence 1998, *Northern Lights*, Oil, 19" x 55"

Isle Royale's Artist-in-Residence program provides professional artists, working in all mediums, the opportunity to become part of a long-established tradition of artists in our national parks.

Art in Parks

Artists have had a long-standing influence on the formation, expansion, and direction of America's national parks. By painting landscapes of the American West, artists publicized many of the natural wonders of a land little known to the eastern populace. These artists helped to stimulate the establishment of many of our parks and to foster a continuing appreciation of them.

Today's artists continue to document the landscapes of our national parks with contemporary approaches and techniques, drawing upon the site's scenic, natural, and cultural elements for inspiration. These artists translate the park's purpose, as a place of pleasure and preservation, into artwork that bring people new insights, enjoyment, and understanding.

The Isle Royale Artist-in-Residence Program

Each summer, this program provides three to four artists a two to three week immersion in Isle Royale's wilderness environment. This immersion provides time for the artist to connect to the many moods that only a north woods wilderness can provide.

How do I Get to the Park?

Complimentary transportation to the park is provided on the National Park Service vessel *Ranger III*, a 165-foot ship operating out of Houghton, Michigan.

Where Do I Stay?

The park offers the use of the rustic Dassler Cabin at a scheduled time from mid-June through early September. This cabin is on Scoville Point in Tobin Harbor, about two miles by boat or trail from the park's major entrance point, Rock Harbor. The park also offers a canoe for the artist to use.

Isle Royale is a remote wilderness and all visitors must be well prepared. The artist should be self-sufficient, in good health, and expect cool temperatures, solitude, and simple facilities.

Program Sponsors

Sponsors for this program include Isle Royale National Park, the [Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association](#), and the [Copper Country Community Arts Council](#).

Program Requirements

During the residency, the artist will be enrolled in the National Park Service's Volunteer-in-Parks program and will be asked to share their experience with the public by demonstration, talk, or other means. The presentation will depend on the artist's medium, interests, and experience, and will consume a few hours of their stay. The artist is required, within a year, to donate a piece of work inspired by the island. The donated piece will offer the public an opportunity to experience our national heritage through the artist's unique interpretation of Isle Royale.



The *Ranger III* provides complimentary transportation.

How Do I Apply?

The Application Deadline

Each year, the application period is open January 2 through February 16. To be considered, all application materials must be received through the online submission process by 11:59 pm EST on the closing date.

The Application Process

We consider all forms of art except those that manipulate or disturb the park's environment.

Online Application

Fill out and submit the [Isle Royale Artist-in-Residence Online Application](#), which asks for: Contact Information, Medium Information, Preferred 2 – 3 week residency period, and Acknowledgement of Program Requirements.

Required Documents

Email the following required documents to: isro_website@nps.gov. Combine these first 4 requirements into one organized Word or PDF document. 1) Your Resume (4 pages max). 2) Summary of Creative works (2 pages max). Examples include: exhibits, galleries, performances, and publications. 3) Statement of Purpose (2 pages max). 4) Public Program Concept (1 page max).



Barbara Yoshida, Artist-in-Residence 1999, *Eagle Skeleton on Wet Rocks*, Photograph, 10.25" x 12.5"

Samples of Recent Work

Visual Artists: Provide no more than 6 high quality images in JPG format. Label each image file with your name and its title. Email images to: isro_website@nps.gov. All image files must fit within 1 email, so be considerate of file size. Images should focus only on the actual artwork; extraneous backgrounds, mats, or frames should not be included.

Writers: Provide no more than 6 short works or 1 long work in Word or PDF format. Label each file with your name and title. Email to: isro_website@nps.gov. Creative Nonfiction for this program does not include travelogues, journalistic features, interviews, or job-related documents such as memos or legal briefs. Examples include: 6 Short Poems or other short writing samples of artistic merit (1 page each), 1 Short Story, Essay, or Manuscript Excerpt (10 pages max).

Composers, Musicians, Performing Artists, Video, Film: Provide no more than 6 short selections (about 6 minutes total) or 1 long selection (about 10 minutes total). Upload your submission to YouTube or share an existing YouTube link (or other appropriate website link that can play the submission). Uploads may be public or private (YouTube allows private uploads that are only visible to those with whom you share the link). Email link to isro_website@nps.gov along with your other submission materials.

Selection Process

Notification

All applicants will be notified no later than May 1 whether they were selected for the upcoming summer residency.

The Jury

A jury composed of a park representative and professionals from various disciplines will select the finalists. The selection is based on artistic integrity, a statement of purpose, ability to reside in a wilderness environment, willingness to donate a finished piece of work inspired on the island, and ability to relate to and interpret the park.

Selections are made without regard to race, religion, marital status, sex, age, or national origin.

Failure to Submit Required Materials

Please refer to the application procedure when preparing your application. The sole submission of a resume is insufficient. Proper scoring of each application can only take place if all required information is submitted. Applicants who fail to submit all requirements will be ineligible for selection.

For More Information

Call: (906) 482-0984

Email: isro_parkinfo@nps.gov

Go online:

<https://www.nps.gov/isro/getinvolved/artist-in-residence.htm>



For artist housing, the park provides a rustic cabin, the Dassler Cabin, in Tobin Harbor on the northeast end of Isle Royale, two miles from Rock Harbor.