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SKOWHEGAN SCHOOL OF PAINTING & SCULPTURE
ANNOUNCES 75th ANNIVERSARY PLANS
FEATURING
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, CAMPUS INITIATIVES, NEW BOOK, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

New York, NY – [March 4, 2021] – Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, one of the leading residencies nationally for emerging visual artists, announced today the initiatives surrounding its 75th anniversary, including a $20 million capital campaign, a campus master plan, and a new publication detailing its history, as well as additional events and programming. The anniversary initiatives underscore the organization's enduring commitment to future artists, artmaking and the nearly 5,100 emerging visual artists and faculty Skowhegan has welcomed to its campus over the last 75 years.

Capital Campaign
The 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign is the keystone of Skowhegan’s 75th Anniversary, and represents a commitment to restore, renovate, and supplement its historic campus; to grow its endowment; and to create a major publication on Skowhegan’s history and impact. Originating with support from established artists and patrons, and inspired by the values of the founding artists, this campaign will ensure that Skowhegan safeguards its autonomy and continues to be a catalytic experience for artists and artmaking. To date, Skowhegan has raised 70%—$14 million of its $20 million goal—of which nearly 25% is from alumni-driven initiatives. The campaign is chaired by Eleanor Acquavella Dejoux, Donald Moffett (F ’04) and Paula Volent.

Campus Development
In 2017, Skowhegan approved a Campus Master Plan that was developed by Neil Kittredge, Partner, Beyer Blinder & Belle through extensive study and input from alumni, faculty, staff and board members. The Campus Master Plan represents a holistic, cumulative program that ensures Skowhegan's vested interest in promoting a safe and equitable experience for the artists living and working on the rural Maine campus. Between 2019–2020, Skowhegan completed significant projects including the: Helen Frankenthaler Studio; Frank Moore Studio; Pollock-Krasner Ceramics Studio; Moffett/Gober Sculpture Pavilion; Acquavella Sculpture Shop Expansion; and staff cottages. Currently under construction is a new participant housing facility, named in honor of Dr. David C. Driskell, and the reconstruction of the historic Dining Hall made possible by Ann and Graham Gund. Future projects include: a natural amphitheater; an office renovation & community space; and the Red Farm Catering Kitchen.

New Publication
In early 2022, Skowhegan will publish the first comprehensive publication on the school’s storied history, campus, alumni, and faculty. Co-authored by Faye Hirsch and Ingrid Schaffner, the roughly 300-page book will explore nearly 75 years of existence, and contextualize not just the School’s founding and evolution, but its place against the backdrop of the broader art world and global events in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Community Tributes
Emphasizing the centrality of its alumni and faculty, Skowhegan will also be assembling an archive of video messages submitted by members of the community explaining what Skowhegan means to them. With nearly 75 years of history, the Skowhegan archives meaningfully reflect the many individual experiences that comprise a Skowhegan summer, and that embody the school’s founding principle—by
artists, for artists. Skowhegan will also be collecting photos, videos, slides, or ephemera from faculty and alumni during their Skowhegan summers to help grow its collection into a comprehensive archive.

**Special Events**

In the spirit of Skowhegan camaraderie, the school is planning a series of safe celebratory activities and commemoratives for the 75th Anniversary and collaborating with alumni, faculty, and leadership on intimate artist salons, limited edition works, and ephemeral boxes, with special programs in development for our local community in Maine. An Anniversary Benefit Celebration is scheduled for September 28, 2021 that will be hosted in accordance with public health recommendations at that time. Skowhegan is also planning an outdoor block party in New York City in October 2021. Further details about the 75th Celebrations will be announced in the coming months.

**ABOUT SKOWHEGAN**

Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture is one of the country’s foremost educational experiences for artists. Located on a 350-acre campus in Maine, the nine-week program provides 65 emerging artists and 11 faculty artists with a collaborative and rigorous environment that is shaped by risk-taking, mentorship, and peer-to-peer exchange. Skowhegan’s merit-based admissions process ensures that we accept the most promising and cutting-edge artists of any generation, regardless of financial, or educational backgrounds. Its exceptionally diverse population of artists go on to become leaders in the field, as evidenced by the global presence of the alumni and faculty and their countless exhibitions, teaching positions, and awards, including 24 MacArthur “genius” grants. Founded in 1946 by artists, for artists, Skowhegan provides an atmosphere that is intentionally responsive and adaptive in its programmatic model to encourage participants to occupy a space in contrast to market or academic expectations. For further information on Skowhegan, visit [75.skowheganart.org](http://75.skowheganart.org).

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