



Big Cypress

National Preserve
Florida

About The Artists 2014-2015

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April McKay- Photography & Ceramics

Fort Lauderdale, Florida
"As an artist-in-residence at Big Cypress National Preserve and its many ecosystems, my work of preservation will resonate at eye level with each grass blade and tree trunk. I will photograph and capture the subtle beauty of the preserve yet photographed by others. My residency at Big Cypress will be from February 1-28, 2015."

Xiomaro- Photography Roslyn Heights, New York

"I wish to 1) create a photographic collection of Big Cypress to emphasize the subtle beauty found in water reflections, soil formations, tree textures and other landscape details and 2) produce an experimental video celebrating the preserve through my experience and that of a park employee."
Xiomaro's residency at Big Cypress will be February 1-28, 2015.

Priscilla Humay- Painting

Highland Park, Illinois
"Our nation's untamed beauty is a source of inspiration. I want to document what I see and feel. Except for these parks, I have never seen a landscape as beautiful as Big Cypress. I have always wished to record its raw beauty. There is a rhythm and emotion to this natural area that I want to share through my art. My intent is to capture the essence of this vast 'place' and emphasize its unique beauty. Vistas embellished by changing skies and existing flora and fauna are my inspiration."

Priscilla's residency at Big Cypress will be September 8-28, 2014.

Rachael McCallan Leonard- Modern Dance, Choreography, Performance, Videography

Port Orange, Florida
"I have had the great fortune to witness and even immerse myself in nature by trudging waist deep through swamp waters and watching a late day sun fall into the prairie at dusk. I would like to create a series of dance vignettes and videographic images that capture this same sense of synergy that I have felt personally when connecting with the Big Cypress ecoworld. Using one male and one female dancer, I plan to create an interactive dancework and film that depicts dancers coming in contact with various aspects of nature in supportive and symbiotic ways. I plan to exhibit dance bodies in tandem with the natural landscape. I envision this piece serving as an artistic rendition of the reversal of negative human impact that parallels the positive role the Preserve has played in remedying the damage. This project promises to be a stunning series of kinesthetic and scenographic moving images that reveal both the diverse beauty and the immersive nature of Big Cypress."

Rachael's residency at Big Cypress will be December 27 through January 3, 2015.

Photography - Micky Girardi

Hilton Head, South Carolina
While I embrace technology by printing archival, giclee style prints, every one of my images are captured using 35mm film. While there are many great photographers shooting digitally, I believe that too much technology - overdigitalization in the process - waters down the craft of capturing an image. I feel there is a certain art to not only capturing light on a negative, but being able to create a final product from the tangible. I choose to shoot in black and white because it provides a unique set of challenges. I must strip down my subject of color and represent it in its true form. Shooting in black and white relies on subject matter and layout rather than color alone and while color evokes emotions quickly on the surface, my photos challenge the viewer to pause and look deeper into the image to see the beauty and mystique within.

Micky's residency at Big Cypress will be January 10-24, 2015.

Xiomaro- Photography

Roslyn Heights, New York
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Alyse Knorr- Poetry

Anchorage, Alaska
"The natural world is my most powerful inspiration as a poet. 'History' and 'wilderness' are two terms held in tension for me in many interesting ways. Nature is always growing and changing, yet in many ways, it is also timeless. I am fascinated by the effect that one's natural environment has on his or her thought process, emotions, and value system. I have lived in rural, suburban, and urban settings, and want to investigate how all of these types of settings can make up a unified 'America,' let alone one unified individual like myself. For this reason, it would be particularly inspiring for me to transplant myself from the arctic tundra of Alaska to the swamp environment of the Big Cypress National Preserve and see how this affects my writing."

Alyse's residency at Big Cypress will be May 31-June 14, 2015.