

For Immediate Release: April 4, 2011

Contact: Ariel Kazunas

Media & Outreach Coordinator
The Sitka Center for Art & Ecology
PO Box 65, Otis OR 97368
arielkazunas@sitkacenter.org
541.994.5485



Sitka Center Announces Ford Family Foundation-supported Residency and Application Deadline

Otis, OR - Writer Isaac Bashevis Singer once told an interviewer, "When I get up in the morning, I always have the desire to sit down to write. And most of the days, I do write something. But," he admitted, "I am all the time interrupted."

Imagine, then, if a writer - or an artist, musician or scientist - could go somewhere to escape distractions, and where disturbances were of the kind Singer calls "useful," because they help an artist "rest" and discover new perspectives or broaden their horizons; disturbances like a hike up a nearby coastal headland or the movement of a passing herd of elk.

Enter the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology. This nonprofit organization offers housing and studio space - free of charge - to artists, writers, musicians, and scientists who are accepted into their Residency Program, so that they may conduct their work in a unique, inspiring, and supportive environment. Residencies may last for up to three and a half months and participants are free to use the time however they feel is best.

And from 2011 to 2012, thanks to a grant from the Ford Family Foundation, the Sitka Center will be able to offer a special residency opportunity to practicing, mid-career, Oregon artists. The grant allows visual artists, who are over the age of thirty, have been actively making art for at least seven years, and are not currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program, to receive a stipend of \$1,000 to \$2,500 if accepted into the Sitka Center Residency Program.

The stipend is designed to help these artists make taking the time for a residency more feasible. Which, as Phyllis Trowbridge, a plein-air painter from Ashland and the first beneficiary of the Ford Family Foundation grant, knows can be difficult. Trowbridge has taught at the Sitka Center for years, but never had time while at its "incredibly nurturing and inspiring" campus to focus on her own work.

The grant made it possible for Trowbridge to stay at the Sitka Center for four weeks., with no obligations to anyone but herself and her artwork. "I feel like I leave with a renewed relationship with myself and with my drawings and paintings," Trowbridge said upon her recent departure, "which is truly Sitka's greatest gift to me."

Applications for the Residency Program, including the special Ford Family Foundation-supported Oregon artists' residency, are currently being accepted and interested artists are encouraged to apply prior to the April 22, 2011 deadline.

To learn more about the Sitka Center, its Residency Programs, and its mission to support people who make art and enjoy exploring their connections to nature, call 541.994.5485 or visit www.sitkacenter.org.

##

Committed to expanding the relationships between art, nature and humanity, the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology is renowned for its workshop and residency programs. Exploration of the coastal environment has remained a key component to The Center's vitality. Located on Cascade Head, with views of the Pacific Ocean, Sitka offers a place where artists come to inspire, create, and ultimately transform themselves. Go to www.sitkacenter.org or call 541.994.5485 to learn more.