

REACH PROJECTS

Our first summer of residencies at Reach Projects has been a productive one. We truly appreciate the support and feedback we have received from the community and look forward to building on what we have learned. Our goal is to provide mid-career artists with an opportunity to experience the unique environment and culture of the Blue Hill Peninsula and to engage the community through contemporary art. Our 2019 season brought two collaborative teams to Blue Hill.

Eve Sussman and Simon Lee, internationally recognized artists working across multiple media and disciplines, accepted our invitation to be in residence for the month of July. While in Blue Hill, the pair continued to develop their socially engaging performance work through hours of conversations and interviews with local residents, along with experiments in public spaces and businesses. Toward the end of their month-long stay, Simon and Eve hosted a group of Peninsula residents in their studio to take part in the shaping of their work.

By both going out into the towns of Blue Hill and Brooklin and inviting people we met into the studio, we came up with numerous methods to grow our performance piece. The residency at Reach Projects gave us a great opportunity to experiment with a public theatrical intervention in a small community, taking it far from the usual context of the art world.

-Eve Sussman and Simon Lee

In December, at Art Basel Miami, Eve and Simon will once again perform their piece in an art world context, incorporating ideas developed through their interactions on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

August brought Brian Knep and Natalie Andrew to the Reach Projects Studio. Typically, they work independently with very different practices. Natalie, who was simultaneously an artist-in-residence at Acadia National Park, works with ceramics and living organisms including slime molds. Brian regularly makes large-scale, interactive installations for museums across the country and was the first artist-in-residence at the Harvard Medical School. They used their time at Reach Projects to work together on a new collaboration that will bring together the ceramics and video technology.

By providing us a quiet, beautiful, shared space outside of our daily city routine, the Reach residency gave us the space and time to focus on our upcoming body of work, to be shown at Harvard University. Combining Natalie's translucent porcelain sculptures with Brian's interactive projections, these new collaborative pieces require us to work closely together, experimenting with ways to combine these technologies. Our time at Reach was invaluable, allowing us to work through concepts and try various techniques. Blue Hill and Deer Isle became our extended studio. The walks, the multitude of mosses and lichens, the rhythms of the tides—all became, and continue to be, food for our work.

-Brian Knep and Natalie Andrew

Brian and Natalie gave a talk in their studio and visitors were able to see for themselves not only the way the natural world of the Blue Hill Peninsula had a profound impact on the work they were doing but also the way their independent practices were merging for their first collaborative project.

The 2019 season really came together and we are now in the process of shaping 2020. It is our great hope to expand our program so that we can introduce the artists to more people in the community. To that end, our plan is to host more open studios and offer a series of talks by contemporary curators. We're also in the early stages of planning public programming to share the artists' work with an even broader audience. Be on the lookout for a complete overview of the Summer 2020 season coming in the Spring.