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Welcome to **The Art[ful] Experience**, an artletter resource from Kestrel Fields Studio & Art Residency for artists, creators, art appreciators, and people who like to be creative no matter their profession or ability.

This month:

- What exactly is an art residency?
- "I'm not ready for an art residency" & other things we tell ourselves
- Carrie Moradi & Kate Dardine: Two Kestrel Fields artists-in-residence
- The Fort Collins Studio Tour--October 26-27, 2024

What Is An Art Residency, Anyway?

by Heather Matthews



Outside the art world, we at Kestrel Fields Studio get asked this question a lot. At a networking event I recently attended with other business owners (not in the art business) in Fort Collins, most people I spoke to were just mesmerized by the idea. Bewildering to me was that it was a brand new concept to many of them.

Funnily enough, *even artists* are a little fuzzy on the details!

So what exactly is an art residency, and why should you (or your creative friend) do one?

The most basic definition of an artist residency is: time & space away from regular life to devote yourself to your craft.

There are SO MANY residencies--in Colorado, in the USA, even the world.

Want to paint by yourself on an island off the coast of Florida for a month? Totally possible. Want to engage with other artists in the Rocky Mountains during the coldest time of year for 10 weeks? Yes. Want to earn your keep by picking organic strawberries in the morning so you can throw pottery in the afternoon? Yep, that's out there too.

Every residency is different, as different as the people who run them!

Here are some things all residencies have in common:



- Unplugging from your regular life to focus on your art work or creative practice
- You make stuff
- Exploring new ideas
- Learning about yourself
- Moving old ideas forward, or retiring them for good
- Resting
- Thinking
- Practicing new techniques
- Playing with new supplies or materials
- Developing goals and dreams
- Sometimes, opportunities for collaboration

In a work culture in which an artist's choice of career is often judged, trivialized, or called into question, a residency confirms that what artists do is important.

Interestingly, when you do a residency, we've noticed a distinct pattern about those who previously didn't take you seriously: *they* tend to shift their attitudes and *their* language about your work:

"Ooooooh, I want you to meet my friend! They are *an artist* who just got back from a *residency*!" (Lol.)

You are ready for an art residency.



"I'm not ready for a residency,"

- and other things we tell ourselves -

We know all too well the excuses artists make for not doing what they are called to do--we have heard (and said) them! See if any of these other statements sound familiar:

"I don't have the time."

"Residencies are for Artists. I am not that."

"I don't have the money."

"I wouldn't be able to get away from work."

"I would do a artist *retreat*, maybe."

"I wouldn't be able to be away from my family."



It's not that there aren't real things and people keeping us from achieving our goals... adulting is real! But there are ***definitely*** solutions to every one of these obstacles, including simply finding the *right* residency.

Our October Artists-in-Residence were so much fun to host! Although they live in northern Colorado, they each came for 3 full days/nights to Kestrel Fields Studio to... do residencies! They have blogged or Instagrammed all about their experiences, and they will be featured at Kestrel Fields Studio during the Fort Collins Studio Tour, October 26-27. (See below for more information.)



Carrie: Mixed Media w/ Digital

Carrie is a mixed-media abstract artist and designer whose works have grown out of her accumulated time living and working in the American Southwest, the Midwest, and now Fort Collins. Over time, her collage practice has matured into playful, sophisticated compositions which blend colors and use cut and torn paper to create textural, organic forms. She is a featured artist with Minted and her designs and artwork have been available through Affordable Art Fair NYC, West Elm, Pottery Barn Kids, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Target, and Mpix. See her website [here](#), or follow her on IG: @carriemoradi



Kate: Acrylic Mark-Making

Kate is a Wellington-based painter who enthusiastically and intuitively applies colorful brush strokes and scribbles to the surface of un-toned canvases. Ensuing patterns are dense and tangled, geometric, or light and lacy. Then begins a subtractive process to find hidden forms within the tangle, uncensored from the subconscious mind, carried by dreams, visions, memories and emotions, creating final works of abstracted realism. See her website [here](#), or follow her on IG: @totemkate



FORT COLLINS

ARTIST

STUDIO TOUR

AND SALE

Kestrel Fields Studio & Art Residency is one of 66 studios open to the public next weekend!
Please join us!

Plus, NW Fort Collins is an artist mecca! There are 12 artists with open studios within one square mile of us!

Saturday, October 26, 10am-5pm

Sunday, October 27, 12-5pm

The Carriage House
2434 W Vine Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado

Parking: There are three spaces in the driveway in front of the main house and plenty of street parking.

Please note: the studio is not wheelchair accessible; you'll climb 17 (indoor) stairs to access it.

[Visit Kestrel Fields Studio Website Here](#)

Always love talking with you about the creative life!
Take care,
Heather
xo





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