



Resident artists will be back in the picture at Staten Island's Snug Harbor

By [Michael J. Fressola](#) on February 04, 2012 at 12:41 AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- An artist residency absent from the agenda of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden for six years now will be reinstated this spring.

Called the Snug Harbor Artists Residency Program (SHARP), the re-booted program will begin providing workspace and living quarters to emerging artists in April.

“We are thrilled,” said Lynn Kelly, president and CEO of the Harbor. “SHARP will bring new energy to the campus and we are certain that our historic structures and stunning grounds will be an inspiration to artists.”

Residencies for artists had been a nearly 20-year tradition on the 83-acre grounds until 2006, when the previous administration discontinued the program.

At the time, it had been a well-publicized and popular feature of the Harbor’s Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art. Previous alumni, like Canadian sculptor Evan Penny, who spent several months at the Harbor in 1991, went on to enjoy international success.

A more recent alumna, Kyoko Sera, is included currently in a show at Japan Society.

SHARP is open to residents of New York state. A downloadable application is available at www.snug-harbor.org/access. The deadline for applications is Feb. 29.

Kelly and Patrick Grenier, director of visual arts at the Harbor, believe the program will offer benefits to both parties — participating artists and the cultural center itself.

“I am super-psyched at the prospect of activating the cottages again,” Kelly said. Artist-led talks, panel discussions, and exhibition-related activities will bring new visitors to the site, she added.

Resident artists will inhabit one of the cottages on the grounds. These late 19th-century houses were used by resident staff during the complex’s long history (1831-1976) as a retirement home for seafarers.

Residencies, intended for two artists per rotation, will last eight weeks. During this time, awardees will be encouraged to produce new art and show work in exhibition areas on the grounds.

SHARP participants will be introduced to visiting curators, dealers and other artists in an effort to help them to navigate the challenges of a career in contemporary art. Participants will receive stipends of \$1,000 and a rent-free stay on the grounds.

SHARP is being underwritten in part by a \$60,000 two-year grant from the Edward and Sally Van Lier Fellowship of the New York Community Trust, city Department of Cultural Affairs and Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation.



Cottage on the campus of Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden that will accommodate artists.