

# YEAR OF TIN & CHINA

MILDRED'S  
LANE AND  
THE MILDRED  
COMPLEX (ITY)  
2018







# MILDRED'S LANE: AN INTRODUCTION

Mildred's Lane is a 96-acre site deep in the woods of rural northeastern Pennsylvania on the border of New York State. It is an ongoing collaboration with my fellow artist and friend, Mark Dion, our son Grey Rabbit Puett, along with our like-minded family of friends and colleagues from around the world who convene here seasonally. We are coevolving pedagogical strategies around contemporary topics by practicing a generous and rigorous engagement with every aspect of life.

It is a working-living-researching experiment centered on domesticity. This entire site has become a living museum -- an experience -- a new contemporary art complex(ity). Importantly, it is about people working together. I call myself an Ambassador of Entanglement to pull apart traditional leadership roles to reinforce collaboration in the emergent events and projects that are ongoing at Mildred's Lane.

Those who become involved with the programs embrace every aspect of our collective existence through rethinking new modes of being in the world -- evoking a creative, social, civic, political, and critical entanglement investigating: 1) our relationships with each other through comportment as commons; 2) relations to the environment through awareness and practice; 3) systems of labor and service; 4) forms of dwelling and new understandings of comfort without status; 5) all design apparatuses; and 6) most importantly, practicing inventive domesticating. All systems-thinking, -- composing ethics of comportment -- coevolving our social engagement with every aspect of life -- what we call workstyles. Being IS the practice.

**J. Morgan Puett**

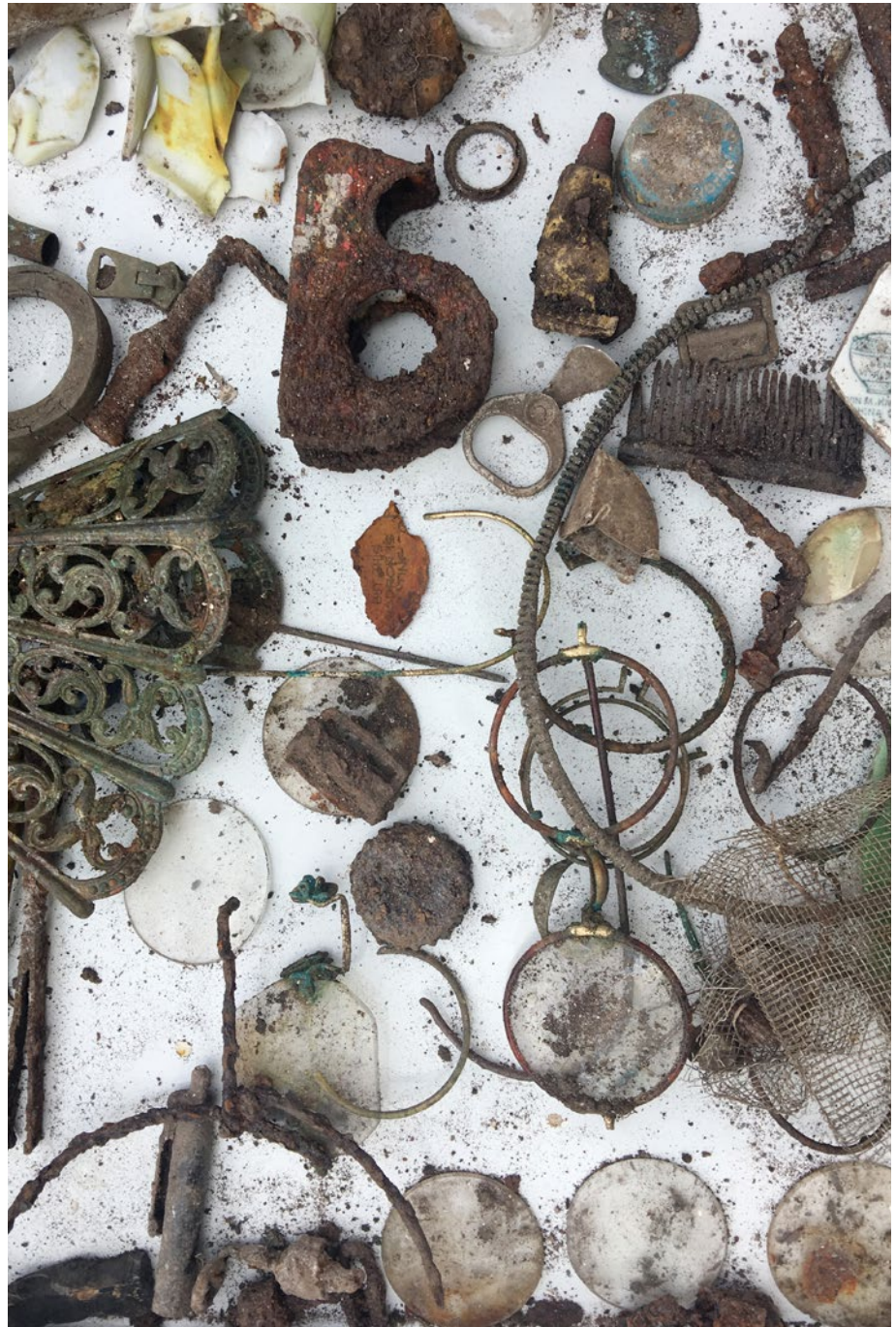
Ambassador of Entanglement



# A CURRICULUM FOR NEW AND EMERGENT PRACTICES

What is different about Mildred's Lane is that it is a home; reassembling the connections between working, living, and researching through specific concepts and projects sensitive to a site. This unusual artist project invites you to participate in the shared experience and production of research-driven projects within an actual, transdisciplinary and collaborative work environment.

Apparent obstacles in traditional fine arts classrooms have been counterproductive to developing environments where the practitioner, the student, and the institution can collapse roles in an attempt to coevolve a curriculum for new and emergent practices. Thus, the Mildred's Lane Project exists in the everyday with a revolutionary-rigorous-rethinking, (the 3 Rs) of the contemporary art complex. These rare and valuable conditions of exchange, collaboration, and generosity are shared experiences that have transformative and lifelong effects on how we think of ourselves as creative practitioners functioning in the social and civic sphere. At the core of this new curriculum are two principles: 1) that research and project-based learning are best pursued in the context of an actual site with a community; and 2) education should be principally involved in the development of new modes of living -- what we call workstyles. Work is our life; therefore, we weave our lifestyle through it; taking our practices out of the studio and applying our conceptual tools to every aspect of life; with creative, mindful, adaptive reuse of everything we have at hand to sustain our needs - being local.





# THE MILDRED COMPLEX(ITY)

Moving beyond our friends and institutional partnerships, Mildred's Lane has come out of the woods and onto Main Street USA in the Upper Delaware River Valley community. It is closely situated to Mildred's Lane, across the Delaware River in nearby Narrowsburg, NY, only one hundred miles northwest of New York City.

After a long series of think tanks on the future of exchange in contemporary art, Mildred's Lane established this off-site storefront-studio-project space for broader community discourse and social experimentation, inventing what we call The Mildred Complex(ity).

The aims of the town projects are to explore the dynamics of a community involved in the production of exchange and collaboration. It is through these projects that we experiment with new ways to integrate within our communities; interconnecting disciplines that have been over-coded by exclusionary systems in recent histories of capitalism in art.

Town projects with fellows, contributing practitioners of Mildred's Lane, and Resident-Artists-In-Complex(ity) manifest in installations, performances, workshops, lectures, debates, town meetings, and, subsequently, more civic involvement. These community collaborations always activate within a particular geography to building renewable sociality charged with local environmental activism.





## SESSIONS 2018

# YEAR OF TIN & CHINA

2018 is a notable year for us. We are celebrating the tenth season of sessions and the twentieth anniversary of the project site we call Mildred's Lane. We invite you to share experience and knowledge during the Summer Sessions 2018!

The Mildred's Lane project is an experiment in reassembling the terms of our everyday lives through a social commitment that begins at home - the nexus of the natural sciences, cultural practices, regional and international community building.

Mildred's Lane hosts a multitude of creative practitioners collaboratively working, living, and researching in a landscape. These investigations include the adaptive reuse of vernacular 19th-century outbuildings, landscape interventions, follies, architectural projects, lectures, workshops, environmental activism, foraging and creative domesticating.

The Mildred House is a farmhouse that dating 1830-40; yet it features a 1790s hearth. Mildred Miller was a woman farmer living there in the twentieth century. For decades she dwelt alone, isolated on the property. We named the site in memory of her remarkable agrarian life. But we have since discovered deeper histories of the original family that acquired this property in the mid-1700s, the Lillie family. We are continuing our archaeological investigations throughout the year around 18th-century settlers in this the region.

At Mildred's Lane, we nurture, enhance and collaborate with this landscape. At the intersections of the organized historical periods and disciplines living side-by-side are the emergent and boundless poetics of playful 'houseness;' a transhistorical vessel. Mildred's Lane as a think tank, residency program, and making/doing workshops explore archaeological methodologies with tools to understand more deeply the physical site. Artist and other cultural producers with a core concern for history, contemporary art, archaeology, and the natural sciences are brought to bear in this curiosity landscape of vernacular structures, wildlife and events.

The Mildred's Lane TransHistorical Society and Museum is a land trust becoming for the preservation of contemporary/historical site living with the past, present and future; thus, coevolving a complex(ity) that concerns our very being -- creatively, environmentally, socially and politically.

Some of the creative practitioners involved in the 2018 sessions are:

David Brooks / D. Graham Burnett / Donna Cleary / Jorge Colombo / Francis Cape/ Mark Dion / Daria Dorosh / Jeff Dolven / Juliet Dunn / Caroline Earley / Joanna Ebenstein / Brian Gillis / Hope Ginsburg / Pablo Helguera / Jeffrey Jenkins / Cameron Klavsen / Athena Kokoronis / Isobel R. Lister / Kristyna and Marek Milde / One Grand Books / Claire Pentecost / Liza Phillips / Rebecca Purcell / J. Morgan Puett / James Prosek / Sal Randolph / Gina Siepel / Shelley Spector / Amy Lou Stein / Cesar Valdes / Kate Walker / Robert Williams / Caroline Woolard / Amy Yoes / and others to be announced very soon

Updates and details of all sessions will be posted at [www.mildredslane.com](http://www.mildredslane.com).



## SESSION DATES

### WILDING, WASTING, WORKSTYLING

June 18 - 24 / 1-week session, \$1000

Donna Clearly, Daria Dorosh, Athena Kokoronis, Kristyna and Marek Milde, J. Morgan Puett, Shelley, Spector, Amy Low Stein and others

Wildcrafting is a term conscientiously defining food as naturally medicinal and sustainable. Fellows engage in detailed studies of the dynamic landscape at Mildred's Lane, practicing foraging routines with focus on transforming food/waste systems and critically processing plants throughout the seasons. Local naturalists, gardeners, botanists, and other contributing artists will workshop around topics including apiculture, collecting, pressing, tincturing, planting, identification, soil biology -- wilding; becoming an emergent collective working on all projects concerning the botanical environment at Mildred's Lane.

### THE GEOPHAGIC WATER CLOSET

June 25 - July 1 / 1-week session, \$1000

Caroline Earley, Brain Gillis, and Kate Walker

An investigation into the bathroom through cultural, psychological, and gendered perspectives. What if the toilette functioned simultaneously as bodily space as well as an archive of a site's identity? We will focus on building tiles that ornamentally transform the bathroom, creating a methodology for mining the site. Wall surfaces and fixtures, both functional, provide a visual map of significant features recording Mildred's Lane philosophy and life. New, permanent installation for the Main House water closet of Mildred's Lane.

### MILDRED/LILLIE ARCHAEOLOGY

July 2 - July 15 / 2-week session, \$2000

Mark Dion, Jeffrey Jenkins, J. Morgan Puett, Rebecca Purcell, Amy Yoes, and other Mildred's Lane all-stars to be announced

This ongoing preservation project is revealing hidden histories of a historical landscape including an eighteenth century/

nineteenth-century homestead we now call, The Mildred's Lane Transhistorical Society and Museum. Several iterations of excavations uncovered histories resulting in discreet interventions. Threaded through the session, we'll be looking at 'things,' their imbued value. What is an artifact? What is garbage? Topics will touch transhistoricity, collecting, taxonomies, site-sensitive installation - thingness. Importantly, Lillie Archaeology becomes another installation produced by fellows on site and at The Mildred Complex(ity) Project Space. Join the dig and become a life member!

### ALCHEMIST'S SHACK V: THE RURAL UNCANNY, HIGH STRANGENESS, PANICS AND THE HUMMADRUZZ

July 16 - August 5 / 3-week session, \$3000

Robert Williams, and others to be announced

In the UK, there has been an upsurge of interest in what has become known as The Spectral Turn, the British Folk Horror revival, the weird and the eerie. Recent academic work has begun to map these related cultural forms and the newfound interest in the strange, the uncanny and the folkloric. Alchemist's Shack V -- Williams revisits The Rural Uncanny exploring high strangeness at Mildred's Lane and searches for the Great God Pan. Through art making, building, reading, discussion, and excursions, we examine the tropes of the rural uncanny within the land drawing from popular cultural sources; the completion phase of this great work.

### ATTENTION LAB: ORDER OF THE THIRD BIRD

August 6 - 12 / 1-week session, \$1000

D. Graham Burnett, Jeff Dolven, Jac Mullen, Leonard Nalenz, Sal Randolph, David Richardson, and many others

In a one-week session, indiscreet associates of The Order of the Third Bird will continue their investigations into experimental protocols of Practical Aesthesis and methods of Sustained Attention. The Attention Lab is part guerrilla seminar and part meditative and kinetic practicum. A discipline of the senses is pursued. Beginning with available traditions and protocols of the Order, the group's aim will be to develop and test new experimental practices of attention.



# INSTITUTIONAL INVOLVEMENTS

Mildred's Lane operates as an emergent event, affording us the ability to collaborate with you to create a workshop or event specific to your group's needs and desires. Individuals, classes, and institutions often visit for an overnight stay, weekend, or for a full week during the year as available.

This is an ideal site for institutions to hold retreats, workshops, conferences, or think tanks -- using the site, and the creative practitioners that move through it, as a pedagogical tool. It is a tranquil meadow, far from distractions, deep in the woods, with a unique cultural atmosphere to catalyze creative discussion and making. We are equipped to rustically lodge 25-35 people at once, with outbuildings for discussions and meetings as well as presentation spaces, and with a studio and project space in the nearby town of Narrowsburg, NY. In addition to this bewildering site's amenities, we provide artful meals with the freshest seasonal, local, organic produce.

We are seeking adjunct relationships wherein Mildred's Lane and The Mildred Complex(ity) may host your students and faculty for intensive engagements.

How can I develop an institutional partnership or philanthropically support a fellowship?

We think of this program as an award for your most exceptional student(s) or faculty. You or your departmental faculty may nominate or select each fellow. In either case, we are happy to help you select who might be right for this unorthodox project. Your selections should be made by May 1st.

A sending institution structures scholarship funds in various ways to support fellowships for one or more persons in the sessions.

An individual philanthropist may donate tuition to support a fellow that is unable to afford the cost. In this case



you may name the scholarship and even correspond with the fellow you support.

As a Sending Institution or as an individual supporting a fellowship. There are limited openings, so a non-refundable deposit is due upon selection, and the remaining balance is due before the arrival of the fellow.

We are already proudly working in partnership with several institutions, which have included:

Arizona State University  
School of Art  
Phoenix, AZ  
Cumbria University  
Institute of Art  
Carlisle, UK  
Columbia University  
Graduate School of  
Fine Art  
New York, NY  
University of Hartford,  
The Hartford Art School  
West Hartford, CT  
The School of the Art  
Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, IL  
The School of the  
Museum of Fine Arts  
Boston, MA  
Maryland Institute  
College of Art  
Baltimore, MD  
School of Visual Arts,  
New York, NY  
SUNY New Paltz Department  
of Fine Art  
New Paltz, NY  
Columbus College of Art  
and Design  
Columbus, OH

Portland State University  
Department of Art  
Portland, OR  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN  
Virginia Commonwealth  
University School  
of the Arts  
Richmond, VA  
University of Florida  
Department of Art & Art  
History  
Gainesville, FL  
University of Virginia  
Department of Art  
Charlottesville, VA  
Washington University  
Sam Fox School of Art  
St. Louis, MS  
FLORA Ars+Natura  
Bogotá, Colombia,  
South America  
FNA Argentina,  
South America







# BEING THERE

## What does the tuition cover?

General tuition includes lodging in a 96-acre art installation and landscape site. We feed you three homemade fresh organic, creative, artful meals a day from local farmers and guest chefs. There are daily activities including intensive workshops, lectures, and seminars by dynamic contributing guests, thinkers and creative producers that outnumber fellows by three to one. We work together -- in collaboration -- on artist site works. Together we conceptualize and produce socials that engage town interactions and local government. We are artists, interconnected, international characters from all disciplines that help guide you, guide each other, in creating new sustainable habits for the future through philosophical, experience-based teachings of workstyles. Importantly, you will make lifelong friends and attachments, especially to Mildred's Lane. Finally, you receive a special Certificate of Plenipotentiary, for a one-of-a-kind knowledge-based experience. All, undeniably unheard of, for a not-for-profit cost of:

Tuition for a one-week session ..... \$1000/fellow  
 Tuition for a two-week session ..... \$2000/fellow  
 Tuition for a three-week session ... \$3000/fellow

## How do I apply as an individual?

Whether or not you are affiliated with an institution, applying is an easy and straightforward process for independents of all ages. We ask that you follow a simple procedure that includes: 1) an essay or letter of intent explaining your reasons for wanting to come to Mildred's Lane, 2) a letter of recommendation from a mentor, 3) your résumé, and 4) a portfolio of twelve images of your current work (digital format only: jpegs or pdfs).

All applications should come as early as January and no later than May 1. Please note that we take a small group of people for each session and those spaces go fast, so we advise you



to be in touch with us as soon as possible. We can help guide you, we try to help you raise funds and we want to get to know you as you enter this process and program.

## What is the application process?

Sending institutions may want to make this an internal process by selecting a fellow they feel is right for this highly unique, socially engaged program.

We review independent applications year-round. Please get your application in as early as January. Places go quickly. Send us the following:

- > An essay or letter of interest explaining your reasons for wanting to come to Mildred's Lane
- > A letter of recommendation from a mentor
- > Your résumé or list of work
- > A portfolio of your current work in the form of jpgs, pdfs or Vimeo links.
- > 12 digital images (each image no bigger than 3MB,) or
- > Video or performance documentation, or
- > Writings, or other
- > \$25.00 application fee by check or pay online

Note: We require a 50% non-refundable deposit of tuition upon acceptance. The full balance should be paid before arrival to Mildred's Lane.

Sending digital files is easiest for us. Applicants should send digital files of jpegs and or pdf form to [mildredslane@gmail.com](mailto:mildredslane@gmail.com).

Please call us with any questions at 570.729.0129.

## How can I simply visit without going through a whole session?

Join our mailing list on the "Contact" page of our website to receive weekly announcements during the sessions. There are invitations for artful events including tours of Mildred's Lane Projects and daily lectures by international visiting artists.

Request an invitation for overnight stays at Mildred's Lane year-round. Invitations and confirmations are based on

availability and weather permitting. We are also listed on AirBnB. (During summer sessions, spaces may be limited.)

## Town Fridays

Resident Artists-in-Complex(ity) program exhibitions, performances, workshops, lectures, debates, town meetings, and subsequently more civic involvement. These activities are for and with our community, building renewable sociality charged with local environmental activism. Free and open to the public.

## Social Saturdays

We invite visitors for site tours on Saturdays throughout the summer. There is always a special evening event we call Social Saturdays. We collect sliding scale contributions according to your income -- be generous, be responsible. We rely on your support. This anniversary year we are fundraising to protect Mildred's Lane projects and landscape. Please request an invitation through the website or at The Mildred Complex(ity) project space in Narrowsburg.

## Retreats, independent, class, institutional, or group visits

An afternoon site tour: \$25/person.

A Saturday picnic/lecture/site tour: \$50/person.

Social Saturday\_ An artful event and evening lecture: sliding scale.

A full weekday of involvement, including meals: \$100/person.

A rustic overnight stay: \$175 depending on availability of rooms and outbuildings.

Camping with your own gear: \$50/person.

## Propositions

Mildred's Lane is open to private retreats, institutional visits, class projects, invitations, adjunct relationships and propositions.

Note: We require all visitors to sign our "Hold Harmless Agreement" and/or request a copy of the respective institutional liability waiver or other school-sanctioned off-campus activities waiver.



# 2018 MILDRED FELLOWS (STAFF)

Mildred Fellows are people deeply involved at Mildred's Lane. Many colleagues from around the globe are collaborating and guiding others through the program and daily workstyles.

Resident-Artists-in-Complex(ity) are visiting artists on extended stays, many of whom are graduated fellows of Mildred's Lane that show interest in furthering their work and collaboration on site.

Each year we shuffle roles and create new functions to expand our notion of how to work through the management of this bewildering landscape and our interactions with it. Some characters and titles include J. Morgan Puett, Ambassador of Entanglement; Mark Dion, Cabinet Minister Peregrinator; Amy Yoes, Fire Master; Natalie Wilkin, Fugitive Ambassador of Transhistorical Agency; Jorge Colombo, Recorder of Retinal Memories; Isobel Rose Lister, Fugitive Virtual Officer; and others to be announced for Sessions 2018.

Thanks to remarkable contributions from: Roderick Angle, Paul Bartow, Big Island Bees, Zoe Beloff and Eric Muzzy, Jorge Colombo, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, Cheryl Edwards, Moyra Davey, Lisa DeFrance, Dillon de Give, Barbara DeVries, Mark Dion, Joanna Ebenstein, Harrell Fletcher, Hope Ginsburg, Thyrza Goodeve, Alastair Gordon, Pablo Helguera, Brian Holmes, Mary Jane Jacob, Jeffrey Jenkins, Richard Klein, Petra Lange-Berndt, Gavin Kroeber, Andrea Lekberg, Leigh Claire Le Berge, Fabienne Leclerc, Russell Lewis, Sharon and Amos Lombard-Miller, Claire Pentecost, Barry Puett, Garnett Puett, J. Morgan Puett, Grey Rabbit Puett, Judith Powers, Rebecca Purcell, Joel Ronning, Salt & Cedar, Hilmar Shafer, Jason Simon, Gina Siepel, Allison Smith, Rosie and Norm Starr, Mark Thomann, Nato Thompson, Rebecca Uchill, Natalie Wilkin, Robert Williams, Bryan McGovern Wilson, Caroline Woolard, and Amy Yoes, just to mention a few.





# CONTACT

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[WWW.MILDREDSLANE.COM](http://WWW.MILDREDSLANE.COM)

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