



Exterior of home and studio of Elaine de Kooning. Barbara Lynne Photography photo, courtesy Elaine de Kooning House.



Exterior of the Jonathan Fisher House in winter. Walter Smalling photo, courtesy Jonathan Fisher House.



Home exterior of the Aminah Robinson House with door designed by Robinson. Photo courtesy Columbus Museum of Art.

National Trust for Historic Preservation Program Spotlights Preserved Sites Of Six American Artists

WASHINGTON DC — The National Trust for Historic Preservation announced today the acceptance of six new sites under the prestigious Historic Artists' Homes and Studios (HAHS) program. These new sites represent an inaugural class of Affiliate members, a new membership classification designed to ease entry for preserved artists' sites that do not fit within traditional home museum models, or that are in earlier stages of development as spaces for public engagement. This represents the continuing work of HAHS to expand and diversify representation within its membership.

The HAHS program was first established more than 20 years ago to bring together historical sites associated with American artists and to share solutions for common issues. With this most recent expansion, the growing HAHS coalition will now include a grand total of 61 public organizations across 25 states, each preserving the home and working studio of a significant American artist. The inaugural group of six Affiliate sites is:

Jonathan Fisher House Blue Hill, Maine

The house designed and built by artist, scientist and writer Jonathan Fisher (1768-1847) highlights the mastery achieved by this largely self-taught artist, during the country's Federal era, from the late Eighteenth to mid-Nineteenth Century. Fisher explored these creative pursuits in advance of any well-established artistic tradition in this country. Visitors to the site can witness the range of his creative talents, from furniture to paintings to engravings and beyond.

Elaine de Kooning House East Hampton, N.Y.

The former home and studio of artist Elaine de Kooning (1918-1989), wife of artist Willem de Kooning, which now operates primarily as an artists' residency for a wide selection of some of today's most innovative artists. De Kooning purchased the traditional saltbox, later adding a studio where she would complete her last important works. After her death, the space was occupied by sculptor John Chamberlain, followed by the painter Richmond Burton. Today the site also hosts exhibitions, and programming, with tours available by appointment.



Arts Center at Duck Creek Farm, Studio Barn exterior featuring exhibit of works by Elizabeth Duffy, 2021. Jess Frost photo, courtesy Arts Center at Duck Creek Farm.

LongHouse Reserve East Hampton, N.Y.

This 16-acre integrated environment was created by author, collector and world-renowned textile designer and weaver Jack Lenor Larsen (1927-2020) to inspire living with art in all forms. The gardens at LongHouse have long been open for public enjoyment, featuring more than 60 outdoor sculptural works, and now, following Larsen's passing, stewards of the site are planning for the next chapter, and activation of Larsen's home and extensive collections.

Arts Center at Duck Creek East Hampton, N.Y.

This arts center honors the legacy of abstract expressionist artist, John Little (1907-1984), who moved a Nineteenth Century historic barn to this property in 1948 for use as a studio space and meeting place for fellow artists. Today, the site, which offered its first full season of programming in 2018, continues to evolve as a multidisciplinary arts center, which includes free programming as varied as exhibitions, musical performances and poetry readings.



Exterior view of the LongHouse Reserve with gardens and outdoor sculpture. Courtesy LongHouse Reserve.



Exterior of the New York Studio School where Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney's studio is located. Photo courtesy New York Studio School.

Home of Aminah Robinson Columbus, Ohio

The Columbus Museum of Art recently preserved the former home of artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson (1940-2015), which includes many artist-designed features, such as the front door and the in-situ artworks found in the kitchen. The space now serves primarily as an artists' residency, providing African American artists and writers the opportunity to live and work in Robinson's home studio. Robinson worked in numerous artistic disciplines, and was noted for her many talents and accomplishments in the fiber arts. The renovation of Aminah's home and establishment of the artist residency program were made possible by support

from the Columbus Foundation and The Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney Studio, New York City

The former studio of sculptor, arts patron and museum founder, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875-1942) is a National Historic Landmark located in New York City's lower Manhattan at the New York Studio School, an active arts school, founded in 1964 by artist Mercedes Matter, in collaboration with a group of students and faculty. In 2014, the Whitney studio was designated by the National Trust as part of their National Treasures initiative. Tours of the studio are available by appointment. This site will also have nearby company, with HAHS members, the Judd Foundation at 101 Spring Street and the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation at LaGuardia Place, both also located in New York City.

The six sites bring a new diversity to the HAHS program, elevating the stories of women, artists of color and members of the LGBT+ community to paint a more inclusive and complete picture of our nation's art history. These new additions also serve as counterpoints to traditional preservation models. While all six sites are the preserved homes and studios of American artists, several operate outside of the historic house museum model, serving local community through artist residencies and multidisciplinary art centers, offering a variation on the house museums most commonly found across the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program.

"We are delighted to welcome this first class of Affiliate members into this program and know that they can inspire others by illustrating the myriad ways in which sites can be preserved to artistic legacy, and to demonstrate the ongoing processes of evolution," says Valerie Balint, HAHS director. "We know this new category will provide additional pathways by which all kinds of artist-centered sites can engage with their professional peers and participate in the dynamism of this ever-growing network. And that together, we can continue to celebrate and amplify the vital role all these places play in our nation's cultural landscape."

For more information about the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program, www.artistshomes.org.