

Arts-Living

Fairfax Dorn receives Marian MacDowell Arts Advocacy Award



Fairfax Dorn —COURTESY PHOTO

Published: 10/30/2023 3:38:13 PM
Modified: 10/30/2023 3:36:44 PM

Fairfax Dorn, co-founder and artistic director of Ballroom Marfa, recently received the fourth annual Marian MacDowell Arts Advocacy Award, created to honor those who uniquely support artists and advance the arts in society.

The award was presented at MacDowell's national benefit in New York City by New York-based artist Adam Pendleton, an American conceptual artist known for his multidisciplinary practice.

"I am especially elated to be receiving the Marian MacDowell Award because it is named for a woman who many in our field consider a role model," stated Dorn. "Her guiding principles inspired so many of us to create space and support for artists. Marian MacDowell keenly understood the needs to nourish the evolutionary path of artists, and at Ballroom Marfa we strive to support the work of artists of all backgrounds by offering that sacred space to create while surrounded by boundless nature."

Ballroom Marfa, located in of Marfa, Texas, is a non-collecting contemporary art museum, performance space and arts residency program established in 2003. With support from individuals and foundations, Ballroom Marfa commissions new site-specific and site-inspired projects and gives artists and musicians the opportunity to engage with the natural landscape of Big Bend National Park.

"Fairfax Dorn and her organization are perfectly aligned with MacDowell's mission to nurture the arts and artists," stated MacDowell Executive Director ChiwonisoKaitano. "Both organizations hold the artist front and center, at the core of what we do, what we believe and what we think about on a daily basis. Ballroom Marfa may only be two decades in the making, but its profound impact on artists' careers in that short time makes it an exemplar of the mission to hold the arts, artists, and the creative process above all other considerations."

The Marian MacDowell Arts Advocacy Award honors arts patrons and supporters whose vision aligns with MacDowell founder Marian MacDowell's legacy and her championship of artists. Past recipients have included Ava DuVernay's media collective ARRAY, Mahogany L. Browne and Urban Word and Susan Unterberg and her organization Anonymous Was A Woman.

MacDowell, which has provided more than 16,000 residencies in Peterborough to artists working in all disciplines at no cost to the artists, was established by Marian MacDowell in 1907, according to husband and composer Edward MacDowell's wishes. When Edward died in 1908, Marian worked to make sure artists working in all disciplines and "regardless of social station" would find the time and space to do their best work.