

News Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel Announces Katie Musolff as its 2010 Artist-in-Residence

MILWAUKEE (Feb. 15, 2010) – Concluding an extensive search and selection process, Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel has officially named Katie Musolff as its 2010 Artist-in-Residence. Musolff will be given full use of The Pfister's art studio and gallery, a monthly stipend, and the opportunity to work in an open setting for hotel guests and visitors to enjoy. Musolff was chosen to fill this prestigious role over a number of other highly qualified candidates based on several criteria, including her artistic process, her interactive personality and a public vote.

The Artist-in-Residence program, which began last year, features a working art studio and gallery on the Lobby Level of The Pfister Hotel. As the Resident Artist, Musolff will spend significant time creating new art and interacting with visitors and hotel guests. Musolff will replace Reginald Baylor, who held the position for the first year of the program.

"Katie's intense passion for art shines through in her personality and the pieces she creates", said Joe Kurth, General Manager of The Pfister. "She has a highly interactive style, and we feel she will deeply involve hotel guests and members of the community into her process."

"I'm looking forward to all of the new experiences and challenges of this role," said Musolff. "My head is still spinning and filling up with new ideas and possibilities. The folks at The Pfister make up a well-oiled machine, and now I get to dig in, spend a year learning from them and add in my own voice to the whole structure."

Musolff graduated from MIAD in 2004, and currently paints full-time in her Bayview studio. She uses portrait painting as her way of documenting small pockets of the population around her. She inserts herself into places where artists are not usually found both to discover interesting people to capture on canvas and to expose the surrounding community to the act of art making.

"I've painted at the Wilson Commons in South Milwaukee and the St. Ann Center in St. Francis. I'd show up every week and paint a single person for everyone to watch, observe and interact. My goal is to blur the lines between us (artists) and them (non-artists) by taking regular people and elevating them to a subject worthy of being painted. When they're shown in a gallery or museum and seen by art educated people, I want to mix them together so you can't tell who is who."

The Pfister began the search for the 2010 Artist-in-Residence last fall and received applications from around the region. An initial selection committee reviewed the applications and chose six final candidates to exhibit samples of their work at a Gallery Night show in InterContinental Milwaukee's Gallerie M. The Pfister enabled the public to

vote for it's favorite candidate online and via text message both at the Gallerie M exhibition and on The Pfister website.

Last week, a selection committee met to review criteria heavily weighted by the public's popular vote and choose the final artist. The committee consisted of: Dan Keegan, Director of the Milwaukee Art Museum; Kate Wilson, Arts and Community Advocate; Tonya Smith, Corporate Art Specialist at Northwestern Mutual; Melissa Dorn Richards, Director of Cultural and Alumni Relations at Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design; Jon Anne Willow, Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Third Coast Digest*; Cassy Scrima, Area Director of Marketing for Marcus Hotels and Resorts; Tim Smith, General Manager of InterContinental Milwaukee; and Joe Kurth, General Manager of The Pfister. While highly impressed by all the finalists, the committee chose Katie for the position.

Musolff will receive full use of the Pfister's art studio and gallery in April, designed to accommodate both work and display space. Pieces she creates will be displayed in the studio for enjoyment and purchase.

"For decades, The Pfister has hosted its much acclaimed Victorian Art Collection, the largest of its kind in any hotel in the world," said Kurth. "We started the Artist-in-Residence program last year to expand our reputation as a destination hotel for art connoisseurs. We think Katie's art will make a stunning complement to our Victorian collection and that she will further expand the program by offering a glimpse into the world of art as it is being created."

Other finalists included: Bridget Griffith Evans; Mutope J. Johnson; Sara Mulloy; Kristopher Pollard; and Aries Tjhin.

The Pfister's Artist-in-Residence program is a member of the International Alliance of Artists Communities, the service organization for the field of artists' communities and residencies including more than 250 members from across the U.S. and in more than a dozen countries worldwide.

More information on The Pfister and its Artist-In-Residence program can be found at www.ThePfisterHotel.com.

More information on Katie Musolff can be found at <http://www.katiemusolff.com/>

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