



NEWS RELEASE
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Artists Selected for Alloy Pittsburgh 2018 Exhibition

Residency to begin for artists included in the Alloy Pittsburgh 2018 exhibition at the Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark

Homestead, PA (May 10, 2018)— Rivers of Steel announces that nine regional artists have been selected to participate in *Alloy Pittsburgh 2018*. A biennial exhibition of temporary, site-based artworks, *Alloy Pittsburgh* is an opportunity for local artists to create works inspired by the history, current condition and possible future of the Carrie Blast Furnaces.

The artists, who are listed below, are set to begin a residency with Rivers of Steel. Throughout the week of May 14-18, they'll have a chance to learn more about Carrie Blast Furnaces, Pittsburgh's industrial legacy, and the ways in which Rivers of Steel has also interpreted the region's post-industrial landscape. They'll spend time exploring the site, discovering resources in the Rivers of Steel Archives, and hearing from noted historians, including author and University of Pittsburgh Professor Emeritus Edward K. Muller. The 2018 cohort will also have the opportunity to engage with artists who have previously exhibited with Alloy. Then, throughout the summer, they'll have a chance to revisit the site as they develop their artworks.

Alloy Pittsburgh 2018 artists include:

- Angela Biederman of Greenfield, a sculptor who works with ceramic, clay and mixed-media
- Sara Caplan of Highland Park, a contemporary dance choreographer and performer
- Elizabeth Fortunato of Creighton, East Deer Township, an installation artist working in various mediums
- Michael Hull of Indiana, PA, a metalsmith and designer
- Katie Rearick of Stanton Heights, a sculptor who works with wood, metal, found objects, wood and vinyl
- Curtis Reaves of Duquesne, a photographer and videographer
- Gwen Sadler of Homestead, a sculptor, installation artist and performer
- Sophia Sobers of Oakland, an installation artist, sculptor and videographer
- Sheila Ann Swartz of Indiana, PA, a sculptor and installation artist who works with building materials, everyday objects, cloth and natural materials.

"Alloy Pittsburgh is something truly unique to Pittsburgh where artists have the chance to situate their creative practice squarely within the context of this region's past, present and future," said Chris McGinnis, Director of Rivers of Steel Arts. "For artists and viewers alike, *Alloy* captures that sense of wonder and discovery found in the majestic Carrie Furnaces, sometimes playfully or critically, but always authentically."

Rivers of Steel is proud to partner with four local institutions for *Alloy Pittsburgh 2018*, including Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Kipp Gallery, Pittsburgh Glass Center and Radiant Hall Studios. The exhibition is administered / curated by Rivers of Steel Arts Director and *Alloy* co-founder, Chris McGinnis, along with *Alloy* co-founder Sean Derry, with support from the partnering institutions.

The 2018 installation will mark the third occurrence of the exhibition, which will open with a public reception the afternoon of Saturday, August 25. Additional programming will include a *Meet the Artists* preview at Pittsburgh Glass Center on Thursday, August 2, and an *Alloy Pittsburgh Retrospective* event scheduled during the run of the exhibition. Visitors will also be able to sign up for weekly tours, led by selected artists and curators. The close of the exhibition coincides with Rivers of Steel's annual *Festival of Combustion* on September 29.

Alloy Pittsburgh 2018 is also part of a new initiative spearheaded by Rivers of Steel – the Mon Valley Creative Corridor. The Mon Valley Creative Corridor aims to strengthen the economic and cultural vitality of the Monongahela Valley by fostering the creative economy, collectively working together with creative professionals, enterprises and communities to establish the region as a thriving destination—to live, work and play.

Support for *Alloy Pittsburgh 2018* comes from the Fine Foundation and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

For more information on *Alloy Pittsburgh 2018* or the Mon Valley Creative Corridor, please contact Carly McCoy at 412.464.4020, ext. 43 or by emailing cmccoy@riversofsteel.com.

About the Carrie Blast Furnaces

Declared a National Historic Landmark in 2006, the Carrie Blast Furnaces #6 & #7 are rare examples of pre-WWII iron-making technology. One of five Rivers of Steel attractions that showcase the artistry and innovation of our region's rich heritage, the Carrie Furnaces provide a unique way to experience scale and legacy of southwestern Pennsylvania's steel industry. In addition to industrial history tours, a number of festivals, tours and special programs invite families to experience the site through the lens of the arts.

About Rivers of Steel

Founded on the principles of heritage development, community partnership, and a reverence for the region's natural and shared resources, Rivers of Steel strengthens the economic and cultural fabric of western Pennsylvania by fostering dynamic initiatives and transformative experiences.

Rivers of Steel actively promotes education and heritage tourism through its attractions and tour programs, highlighting western Pennsylvania's assets to regional, national and international audiences. Behind-the-scenes, Rivers of Steel works with a diverse network of community partners to support grassroots initiatives and the new regional economy.

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