



NEWS RELEASE
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**Alloy Pittsburgh 2018 Exhibition Explores Art & Industry,
August 25 – September 29, 2018**

Local artists create temporary, site-based installations at the Carrie Blast Furnaces

Homestead, PA (July 30, 2018)— Rivers of Steel presents the third iteration of *Alloy Pittsburgh*, featuring nine artists who will be revealing new artworks, inspired by the history, current condition and possible future of the Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark.

Exhibition programming begins this week:

- Thursday, August 2, the public will have a chance mix and mingle with this year’s artists for a sneak preview of their planned installations during a free *Meet the Artists* reception at the Pittsburgh Glass Center from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.
- The exhibition at the Carrie Blast Furnaces in Swissvale and Rankin, Pa. will open to the public on Saturday, August 25, with an all ages afternoon reception.
- It is scheduled to run through September 29 with closing activities in conjunction with Rivers of Steel’s annual *Festival of Combustion*.
- On September 13, an *Alloy Pittsburgh Retrospective* pairs current artists with alumni artists from 2013 and 2015 exhibitions for an exclusive conversation among the new works with a cocktail reception from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.
- Artist- and curator-led tours will run weekly on Saturdays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

“This is a special year for *Alloy Pittsburgh*, not only because of the exciting partners who have joined us for this year’s program, but also due to the unique range of artistic talent featured in our 2018 cohort,” said Chris McGinnis, Director of Rivers of Steel Arts. “The exhibition will showcase modern dance performances by local artist Sara Caplan unfolding across multiple locations during the opening reception. Glass artist Liz Fortunato will also mount the program’s first installation of cast glass and paper in Cast House #6 at the Carrie Furnaces. Moreover, the diversity of this year’s group includes intimate video projections, delicate small metal works and ambitious sculptural installations ranging in material from white fabric to plywood and cast iron.”

Alloy Pittsburgh was designed as a laboratory where emerging artists from the Pittsburgh region would create temporary, site-based artworks that investigate the creative reuse of a former industrial site. The artists, listed below, began conceiving their works last May during a weeklong residency at Carrie Blast Furnaces, which encouraged them to explore Pittsburgh’s industrial legacy, as well as the region’s post-industrial landscape. They spent time investigating the site, discovering resources in the Rivers of Steel Archives, and gaining context from noted historians, including author and University of Pittsburgh Professor Emeritus Edward K. Muller.

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.

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 Director of Rivers of Steel Arts and *Alloy* co-founder, Chris McGinnis, along with *Alloy* co-founder Sean Derry, with support from the partnering institutions.

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. 243 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, the Carrie Furnaces offer visitors a unique way to experience the legacy of southwestern Pennsylvania's steel industry and cultural heritage.

About the Rivers of Steel Arts

Rivers of Steel Arts celebrates creative inquiry by crafting opportunities to interpret the region's past, reimagine its future, and explore as sense of place. Through exhibitions, festivals, workshops, tours, and happenings, Rivers of Steel Arts helps individuals connect with their communities in meaningful ways.

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 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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