

# Annmarie artist-in-residence integrates community into work

Andrea Frazier Aug 14, 2015



Just as in every city, town or region he visits, stone carver Kevin Sudeith's current ongoing project in Southern Maryland presents him with a challenge that is twofold: How will he describe a place, and how will he describe a moment in time? The Minnesota-raised and Brooklyn-based petroglyphs artist is spending the summer in Calvert County as the artist-in-residence at Dowell's Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center. From June through the end of August, he will spend his time infusing hallmarks of the region onto three 4-ton granite boulders as part of Annmarie's summer public art project. "It's really important to me that the boulders stay here," he said. "If you take the boulders and move them to a different place, they'll lose their meaning." Since arriving for the residency June 16, Sudeith researched the area and talked to as many locals as possible to gauge the pulse of the community before determining the subject for each of the boulders: commercial fishery, sport fishery and pleasure craft and imagery based on the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in St. Mary's County. Located near footpaths throughout the garden, each boulder is a work in progress, showcasing carvings like blue crabs, oysters, rockfish, a sailboat and an astronaut. Each artist-in-residence Annmarie Garden hosts lives in a house on the premises, integrates community engagement into his or her artwork and comes from outside the community to create art "that's all about the community," director Stacey Hann-Ruff said. "There is always the theme: How does the community inspire the artist?" she said. As Sudeith labors over the boulders — which will eventually mark the trailheads to footpaths of the developing Children's Discovery Garden — he frequently stops to chat with guests. Annmarie also has an ongoing art project open to all visitors inspired by his work. Picto-Pebbles invites patrons to paint a rock featuring an image that represents their hometowns. Later in the summer, the rocks will be displayed in the garden. "It's about quality of life, nurturing creativity in everyone and [providing] healthy options for families," Hann-Ruff said of Annmarie Garden's mission to engage people in art projects. Sudeith spends about half the year in Brooklyn, and the other half traveling, producing location-specific art on the most immovable canvases possible. He usually camps while completing a project and works on commission. In North Dakota, he focused on farming and oil wells. In Montana, it was cowboys and ranching, while San Francisco elicited ships, sailboats and satellites. "As with all the different subjects, it's a question of talking with people I meet about what's important," Sudeith said. In Calvert, he learned from talking to some boys who were fishing while he swam in the Chesapeake Bay that they had caught croaker. So, he decided to add carvings of the native fish to the boulders. When it's all finished, he'll paint and varnish the creations. A major aspect of Sudeith's work is borne from the fact that his pieces do not travel. Sometimes using homemade cotton paper, he makes prints from his original carvings, providing him with a portable way to share his work. "If I was just making the stone carving, I could tell you about them, but [the prints] give me a way to visually describe to you both the imagery and the scale, and the depth of the carving," he said. Curator of Public Programs at Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center Jaimie Jeffrey made the recommendation that Sudeith be chosen for the residency after he applied, in part because of the both three-dimensional and two-dimensional nature of his art, which is perfect for the community workshops he facilitates there. "I think in this area, the history of this place is pretty important to its residents and I liked his ability to tap into this interest and the personal abilities of people in the area," she said. [afrazier@somdnews.com](#)



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