

**THE FINE ARTS WORK CENTER REMEMBERS
POET, ESSAYIST, AND FELLOW APRIL FREELY**



PROVINCETOWN, MA July 9, 2021 – It is with tremendous grief and sadness that the Fine Arts Work Center remembers our friend, colleague, and Fellow April Freely. April was selected as a Writing Fellow in 2014-2015 and then returned to the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown as a second-year Fellow in 2017-2018.

April exemplified the best of the Fine Arts Work Center. April was an intensely brilliant poet and artist whose loss will reverberate across the field. She was a fierce arts leader and champion of emerging voices in her role as Executive Director of the Fire Island Artist Residency program. April demonstrated enormous generosity of spirit and contributed in innumerable ways to the Work Center Community, as both a Fellow and a committed member of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

She was a beloved artist, friend, and colleague.

April graduated from Brown University, the University of Iowa, where she received an MFA in nonfiction, and New York University, where she received an MFA in poetry. Her work has appeared in American Poetry Review, Seneca Review, Ninth Letter, and Gulf Coast. A Cleveland native, she received fellowships and awards from the Ohio Arts Council, the Rona Jaffe Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and the George Kaiser Family Foundation. She taught writing at Bard

College and New York University. In Fall, 2020, she was appointed Executive Director of Fire Island Artist Residency.

“April was a young, vibrant, and intensely brilliant artist who grew as a poet at the Fine Arts Work Center. Last year, she graduated from NYU’s Creative Writing Program. She was my student and I believed in her poetry. I can assuredly tell you death robbed us of a truly authentic voice and dynamic poet whose success was around the corner. Her thesis “We Will Take Any Mother” explored women’s health, science, language, and structures of power, which makes her passing all the more devastating. She was a gentle soul, a beautiful person and light who touched many lives during her young life.”

— Major Jackson, Trustee, The Fine Arts Work Center
Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair
in the Humanities, Vanderbilt University

The Fine Arts Work Center grieves together with April’s family and our colleagues and artists at the [Fire Island Artist Residency](#). We will announce details regarding a community celebration in memory of April shortly.

You can read April’s work and learn more about her here: [website](#), [YouTube](#), [interview](#), [poem](#).

The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown is a nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging the growth and development of emerging visual artists and writers and to restoring the year-round vitality of the historic art community of Provincetown. The Work Center is internationally known for its acclaimed 7-month residency program granting fellowships to 20 emerging writers and artists, as well as its open enrollment Summer Workshop Program, an online writing program 24PearlStreet, and an extensive series of year-round cultural and virtual events, and exhibitions. The Work Center values diversity and inclusion and seeks to build and maintain a community and culture that celebrates and values diverse backgrounds, identities and perspectives. FAWC.ORG

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The Fine Arts Work Center is an equal opportunity provider and employer.