

Silvermine

Fulbright Artist-in-Residence

Silvermine

Silvermine Arts Center 1037 Silvermine Road New Canaan, CT 06840

Silvermine Arts Center



Table of Contents

- 3 Introduction
- 5 Benefactors
- 7-17 Ivana Radovanovic - 2019
- 18-27 Elena Kovylyayeva - 2022

On our cover: Scenic waterfall on Guthrie Pond, Silvermine Arts Center

*This page:
Jim Felice
The Three Tenors*

*Photography:
Rebekah Butler*

Introduction

In 2019, Silvermine Arts Center established a new International Fulbright residency program, initiated and funded by artist and philanthropist Janet Hennessey Dilenschneider and her husband Robert Dilenschneider, and managed by the Institute of International Education® (IIE). The IIE supports flagship exchange programs, including Fulbright, “to make the world a more interconnected place.”

The residency fosters creative and professional growth for emerging artists by providing an immersive environment on Silvermine’s campus with access to instructors in a wide range of mediums. These Fulbright scholars and students herald globally and contribute to art’s impact in creating a more connected world.

Silvermine Mission

Silvermine Arts Center, an over century-old organization, cultivates and encourages excellence in art and art education; exhibits and promotes emerging and established artists; and fosters art appreciation and art-making opportunities for the greater community. We provide art experiences that engage individuals of all ages, ethnicities, races, genders and income in creative expression and discovery through making and exhibiting art.

"Silvermine is honored to welcome the IIE Fulbright scholars each year, and to host them on our campus to further their artistic excellence and foster cultural exchange. Being part of the Fulbright Program is consistent with Silvermine's vision

to champion art as the vehicle to create cultural bridges of understanding throughout the world," said Rose-Marie Fox, Board Chair of Silvermine Arts Center. "Our facilities allow the Fulbright Scholar to work in mediums ranging from metal working and foundry, wood-working, and digital graphics to more traditional painting, print-making, sculpture and photography, and we are grateful to Jan Dilenschneider for providing the scholarship," added Ms. Fox.

IIE Mission

IIE’s mission is to help people and organizations leverage the power of international education to thrive in today’s interconnected world.

When the IIE was founded in 1919, it would have been impossible to imagine the world we now inhabit, where international connections are paramount. We believe that when education transcends borders, it opens minds, enabling people to go beyond building connections to solving problems together. Our vision is a peaceful, equitable world enriched by the international exchange of ideas and greater understanding between people and cultures.

View the Fulbright Artist-in-Residence video.





benefactors



(L to R) Ivana Radovanovic, Robert Dilenschneider, Jan Dilenschneider

In our Centennial year, Silvermine honored Jan and Robert Dilenschneider for creating a Silvermine Legacy -

The International Fulbright Residency Program.

Jan painted from childhood. Her art is vibrant, expressionistic and reflects her love of nature. Jan studied art at Ohio State University, The National Academy of Design, North Shore Art League in Illinois, and Silvermine. Jan is a member of the Silvermine Guild and has exhibited her work extensively in the U.S. and Paris, and is owned in numerous prominent collections. She has been honored with many awards for

her charitable work and her art.

Robert is the founder and CEO of The Dilenschneider Group a major public relations firm providing advice to Fortune 500 companies and leaders around the world. Bob is called the "Dean of American Public Relations Executives" and has authored 14 books and lectures before professional organizations and colleges. Bob is frequently called by media for insight and commentary.

Philanthropy and service are at the core of Jan and Bob's lives together. Jan serves on several boards including Connecticut Arts Council and Connecticut Art Foundation. Bob serves on New

York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center; College of Business Administration at Notre Dame and formerly the American Red Cross. Bob joined the Board of the Institute of International Education (IIE, Fulbright Scholarship) in 1989.

Through the IIE, Jan established the "Scholar Rescue Award in the Arts," rescuing artists from countries in turmoil. Now through the IIE, Bob and Jan have founded Silvermine's Fulbright Residency. Together they are positive change makers through philanthropy, service, and art.



Silvermine welcomed the first international Fulbright artist from Centinje, Montenegro.

Silvermine was delighted to announce the inaugural artist-in-residence, Ivana Radovanovic, from Centinje, Montenegro. She earned a PhD at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, and is pursuing post-doctoral research at St. John's University in New York as a Fulbright Scholar. In 2017, Ivana repre-

sented Montenegro at the Venice Biennale.

Ivana is an innovative sculptor and teacher who explores, in her words, "inner freedom, transcendence, the qualities of emptiness, and the human body." She amplifies her themes through evocative literary references. She transforms "discarded materials that have lost their function"—jute bags, burlap, fishing nets, wool, hay—into monumental and often site-specific sculptures.

Ivana creates living, breathing site-specific installations that connect and commune with the environment. Silvermine was honored to have Ivana's work titled "Invitation" living in the wooded area on the hillside behind the studios. "It will weather and change as the elements wear on it. It will disappear in time, but I like this", commented Ivana.



Ivana's Process





news



NORWALK — Far from rarefied works cloistered behind glass, Ivana Radovanovic's installations are born out of the earth. She has no illusions about their permanence and is not fussy about their preservation.

They are living, breathing installations, in constant contact and communion with the setting in which they are placed. "Even after tomorrow, if it all goes away, that's OK because I've created something," Radovanovic philosophized, standing amid a damp, wooded patch of the Silvermine Art Center's five-acre campus, where she chose to spend the past two weeks as the center's first Fulbright Scholarship artist-in-residence.

Radovanovic, a Montenegrin sculpture and installation artist, had her choice of spaces in

which to work during her time at Silvermine, but it was the secluded wooded area behind a couple of classroom buildings where she felt most inspired.

"They gave me a beautiful studio to use, but they said I could choose any space I wanted. So we walked through the forest and, in the end, I chose to work here," Radovanovic said. Around her, the natural landscape had been subtly manipulated. Burlap sacks covered branches and bramble on the ground. Downed tree limbs were coated in white and red clay — "I use clay like a painter uses paint," she remarked — and ropes, like artificial vines, bound the trunks of trees.

A storm in recent days had felled a tree near her installation and driving rain had scattered a mass of clay, which Radovanovic had

placed between two appendages, onto the forest floor.

"I like this, I want it to stay like this. It will disappear in time, but I like this," Radovanovic said, surveying the ground. "Tomorrow, who knows how it will work, this situation here. Maybe tonight there will be a storm, and all the trees, they will fall down. If something happens, it happens."

Radovanovic was born in Montenegro in 1983 and received her bachelors and masters degrees from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cetinje, where she studied sculpture. In 2016, she received her PhD from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. In 2017, Radovanovich represented Montenegro at the Venice Biennale and, a year later, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for post-doctoral research, which she is



completing at St. John's University, in Queens. Her work — often site-specific sculptures that reference the human body and literary works using discarded materials — has been shown throughout Europe.

The international Fulbright Scholar residency program was established with the support of local artist Jan Dilenschneider, and managed by the International Institute of Education, in order to “foster creative, intellectual and professional growth for emerging or established visual artists,” according to a press release. Twice a year, in June and January, foreign Fulbright grantees and Fulbright Visiting Scholars will have access to Silvermine’s staff and facilities.

“Our facilities allow the Fulbright Scholar to work in mediums ranging from metal working and foundry, woodworking, and digital graphics to more traditional painting, printmaking, sculpture and photography,” said Rose-Marie Fox, board chair of Silvermine Arts Center.

Prior to winning the residency, Radovanovic had never visited Connecticut and was unfamiliar with the site. Early ideas about how she would use the space were

scuttled as brevity of her residency set in.

“I originally was thinking about using another material, but I didn’t have time,” Radovanovic said. “Because it’s only two weeks, you need to be able to react. I wanted to finish something, I wanted a final result.”

She titled the completed installation “Invitation,” partly in reference to the welcome she felt from Silvermine, and presented the work to the community Tuesday night along with a talk about her past work, including the 2014 exhibition “The Hollow Men,” in her native Montenegro, which utilized similar materials.

The installation featured 21, eight-foot, burlap-bound, cocoon-like sculptures hung from a gallery ceiling, then taken outside and burned. It featured a progression of three distinct elements, she said: the hanging gallery display, the objects infernal return to earth and, finally, the collection of ash that remained after the conflagration.

While materially similar, the Silvermine installation differed, she said, in that she was afforded the ability to work in the space in which she’d be exhibiting, rather than working in a studio and transporting the work. The setting presented both challenges (the weather was volatile for parts of her stay) and exciting new creative possibilities.

“Sometimes I didn’t know how it was going to work — it’s a living thing, so you figure it out,” Radovanovic said.

The organic nature of the project intrigued Radovanovic, even when

the weather altered plans for the project she had laid in her mind. She spoke almost eagerly about the ways in which the Silvermine exhibition would change in the days, weeks and months after she’s left. Eventually, the burlap, the ropes and the clay would be overtaken by the surrounding woods. The approach is less sudden than that of her 2014 exhibition, but the effect is roughly the same: she’s created a piece of art that defies stagnation.

“It’s new, not repeating, because repeating is retrograde,” Radovanovic said. “We need progress.”

Justin Papp
Freelance reporter
June 20, 2019 | The Hour



Silvermine

Contact: Gwen North Reiss
pr@silvermineart.org
1037 Silvermine Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
www.silvermineart.org

Silvermine establishes Fulbright residency and announces first artist in residence

Residency funded by artist and philanthropist Jan Dilenschneider through the International Institute of Education in support of the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program



"The Quiet Affinity for Fleetness," large-scale sculptures by Ivana Radovanovich, 2.7-3 m, burlap, straw, rope, wool, fishing net and soil, 2011-2018

NEW CANAAN, CT, May 24, 2019—Silvermine Arts Center has established a new Fulbright residency program, initiated and funded by artist and philanthropist Janet Hennessey Dilenschneider and Robert Dilenschneider, and managed by the International Institute of Education (IIE). The IIE supports flagship exchange programs, including Fulbright, "to make the world a more interconnected place."

Silvermine is delighted to announce the inaugural artist in residence, Ivana Radovanovich, from Centinje, Montenegro. She earned a PhD at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, and is pursuing post-doctoral research at St. John's University in New York as a Fulbright Scholar. In 2017, she represented Montenegro at the Venice Biennale. Radovanovich is an innovative sculptor and teacher who explores, in her words, "inner freedom, transience, the qualities of emptiness, and the human body."

She amplifies her themes through evocative literary references. She transforms "discarded materials that have lost their function"—jute bags, burlap, fishing nets, wool, hay—into monumental and often site-specific sculptures. Radovanovich will spend the first two weeks of June on the Silvermine campus.

The residency was created to foster creative, intellectual and professional growth for emerging or established visual artists who will have access to Silvermine faculty as well as a private workspace and generous studio time. The artist in residence will focus on a single discipline or an interdisciplinary project.

Artist Jan Dilenschneider, whose support made the residency possible, has exhibited her paintings in the U.S. and in Paris. She was educated at Ohio State University, The National Academy of Design in New York, the North Shore Art League in Illinois, and the Silvermine Arts Center. Philanthropic work is an essential part of her life. She serves on the board of several non-profit organizations, including the Connecticut Arts Council, Connecticut Art Foundation, and Family Centers, Inc. in Greenwich, CT. She has been honored with many awards for her charitable work and her art. Through IIE, Ms. Dilenschneider also sponsors the "Scholar Rescue Award in the Arts," and with that support, IIE placed scholars from Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh in leading U.S. universities.

"Silvermine is honored to welcome Ivana Radovanovich, and we look forward to hosting IIE scholars on our campus to further their artistic excellence and foster cultural exchange. Being part of the Fulbright Program is consistent with Silvermine's vision to champion art as the vehicle to create cultural bridges of understanding throughout the world," said Rose-Marie Fox, Board Chair of Silvermine Arts Center. "Our facilities allow the Fulbright Scholar to work in mediums ranging from metal working and foundry, woodworking, and digital graphics to more traditional painting, printmaking, sculpture and photography, and we are grateful to Jan Dilenschneider for providing the scholarship," added Ms. Fox.

The Silvermine Fulbright residency will run for two weeks in January and June and is open to current foreign Fulbright grantees and Fulbright Visiting Scholars. Artists will have the opportunity to work with a Silvermine faculty member as a mentor. In addition, Roger Mudre, Gallery Director, and Robin Jaffee Frank (PhD, History of Art, Yale University), Director of Strategy, will be available for conversations about the artist's project. Gallery opportunities at Silvermine may include an artist talk about the current project during the residency and future participation in a group or solo exhibition in the Silvermine Galleries.

For more information, visit: <https://www.iie.org/Programs/Fulbright-Silvermine-Residency/About>.



*The Hollow Men
(T.S. Eliot, 1925.)*

*The work consists of three separate yet related processes:
the sculpture, the act of burning and the object in ash.
Video documents of the burning of sculptures made in burlap and straw,
dimensions: 290cm*



*No Country for Young Men
Installation, consisted of 100 amphoras, designed
precisely for the library Convitto Palmieri in Lecce
became a "language" by which I address to the
community, underlining a necessity of a dialogue
between heritage, tradition and identity through
true action of breaking and destroying potteries
served to preserve everything what soil gave us.*



Silvermine had the pleasure of welcoming its second Fulbright Artist-in-Residence since the programs' inauguration in 2019 - Elena Kovylyeva, from Leipzig, Germany.

Elena joined us directly from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) Baltimore, Maryland where she is studying in the LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting. Prior to coming to the United States, Elena completed studies in Painting and Graphic Arts at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig Germany as well as Film Studies and Comparative Literature at the Free University of Berlin Abitur, Theodor-FlieBner-Gymnasium in DÜsseldorf. An emerging artist, Elena has

exhibited in Germany and the United States and has been the recipient of several awards, including the Denkzeit Scholarship at Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen in 2020, the Fulbright Merit Scholarship to Maryland Institute College of Art, Hoffberger Fellowship, LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting in 2021 and most recently the Fulbright Silvermine Residency in 2022.

During her month long residency, the staff and instructors carefully curated an itinerary for Elena to include a wide range of invaluable experiences, while also providing her with the opportunity to deeply engage and explore her artistic practice, process and

future aspirations. Elena was provided a private workspace, access to the extensive facilities at Silvermine, and weekly mentorship by a professional artist and educator. In addition, a guided tour of NYC museums and galleries was planned and she completed her stay by presenting an artist talk and hands-on workshop for our Guild Members and Teaching Artists.

In her studio, Elena was able to delve into her unique painting practice, creating layered surfaces of paint, prints, mixed media and plaster that are eroded and wiped away to reveal transformation and the passage of time. She also had the opportunity to expand



(L to R) Michelle Loh, Board Member, Elana Kovylyayeva, Jan Dilenschneider

upon her education and enhance her overall body of work by exploring mediums that she had no prior experience in, including Metal Sculpture and Ceramic Arts. She enjoyed private lessons with two instructors who introduced her to these mediums and she was able to integrate them each into her practice, helping to achieve a goal of appointing her artwork an object-like status. She stated, "I had never worked with metal or ceramic before. Both of these new materials helped me make the transition to a more sculptural approach in my work...I thought of the works I was making... as collaborations, and I am going to continue to incorporate [this] in my practice after that experience".

During weekly mentorship meetings, instructor and board member Dmitri Wright, discussed the progress of her artwork, her vision and her anticipated future as an artist. Elena described the meetings as extremely

valuable allowing her to have honest conversation and work "through doubts and confusions that I had about my role as an artist". Of Elena, Dmitri eloquently states, "Elena was able to communicate productively in abstract mixed media. She established a myriad of thought-provoking things. This gifted artist creates open works that allow viewers to go into a nonrepresentational world of sensations comprised of formulating dots, lines, shapes, forms and textures. All of which move in a sculptural choreography. Here archetypal symbols, moving gestural mark making, and intimate personal expressions are alive as a contemporary fine art experience."

In addition to immersing herself in her art practice, Elena had the opportunity to experience the best of art and culture that our region has to offer, a guided tour of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in NYC and the A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn. Led by Michelle

Loh, accomplished visual arts gallery director, consultant, curator and Silvermine board member, Michelle's unique and knowledgeable perspective of the art scene allowed Elena "to see Manhattan from a completely different side than before". The experience was the highlight of the residency, "especially the studio visits in the A.I.R. studios. It was great to see an art show with young experimental artists, and to hear them talk about their journey and their projects."

In her final week of residency, Elena held a 2-day workshop in which she demonstrated her core techniques, conducted an artist talk and shared with the group her experiences and experimental processes during her residency. This was a formative experience, allowing her to connect with artists and see a new value in her personal expression and present pathway as a professional artist.

Overall Elena's experience as a Fulbright Artist-in-Residence was a great success. Her time on our campus, surrounded by nature, provided the artist a "peaceful atmosphere" that was inspiring and restful. Of her experience, Elena states, "My goal was to explore new materials and techniques. The (Metal Sculpture and Ceramic Handbuilding) workshops were incredibly inspiring and helped me achieve my goals to a degree that went beyond what I had expected. I was able to try out new approaches that I have successfully integrated into my art practice. The one-on-one conversations with (my mentor) helped me incorporate new ideas with my conceptual background, and helped me get a clearer idea of my professional path as a freelance artist."





Silvermine

Contact: Gwen North Reiss
pr@silvermineart.org
1037 Silvermine Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
www.silvermineart.org

Silvermine Welcomes Second Fulbright Scholar Artist-In-Residence

Residency funded by artist and philanthropist Jan Dilenschneider through the International Institute of Education in support of the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program



Untitled, 2022 Gauze, paper, plaster, ink, acrylic and oil, 82,5x130cm by Elena Kovylyaeva

NEW CANAAN, CT, July 1, 2022 —Silvermine Arts Center welcomed Elena Kovylyaeva, from Leipzig, Germany as its second Fulbright Scholar Artist-in-Residence since the program began in 2019. The residency program, initiated and funded by artist and philanthropist Janet Hennessey Dilenschneider and Robert Dilenschneider, is administered by the International Institute of Education (IIE). The IIE supports flagship exchange programs, including Fulbright, “to make the world a more interconnected place.”

Kovylyaeva joined us from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) Baltimore, Maryland where she is studying in the LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting. Prior to coming to the United States, she completed studies in Painting and Graphic Arts at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig Germany as well as Film Studies and Comparative Literature at the Free University of Berlin Abitur, Theodor-Fliedner-Gymnasium in Düsseldorf.

An emerging artist, Kovylyaeva has exhibited in Germany and the United States and has been the recipient of several awards, including the Denkzeit Scholarship at Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen in 2020, the Fulbright Merit Scholarship to Maryland Institute College of Art, Hoffberger Fellowship, LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting in 2021. Of her work she says, “I don't think of making images. I create surfaces from layers. In a slow process of repeated adding and washing down, scraping off and wiping away the painting is growing, and then eroding - it becomes an object-like recording of disintegration and transformation. I welcome cracks, holes and wrinkles in the material. They are openings or portals, an invitation to unknown territories. Subtle shapes gradually emerge from the accidental, but stay indiscernible in their becoming. The threshold to the recognizable is never crossed.” Kovylyaeva spent four weeks in June on the Silvermine campus.

The residency was created to foster creative, intellectual and professional growth for emerging or established visual artists who will have access to Silvermine instructors as well as a private workspace and generous studio time.

Artist Jan Dilenschneider, whose support made the residency possible, has exhibited her paintings in the U.S. and in Paris. She was educated at Ohio State University, The National Academy of Design in New York, the North Shore Art League in Illinois, and the Silvermine Arts Center. Philanthropic work is an essential part of her life. She serves on the board of several non-profit organizations, including the Connecticut Arts Council, Connecticut Art Foundation, and Family Centers, Inc. in Greenwich, CT. She has been honored with many awards for her charitable work and her art. Through IIE, Ms. Dilenschneider also sponsors the “Scholar Rescue Award in the Arts,” and with that support, IIE placed scholars from Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh in leading U.S. universities.

#

Silvermine Arts Center is one of the oldest artist communities in the United States. Its 5-acre campus in New Canaan, Connecticut, consists of a nationally renowned artist guild, an award-winning school of art offering classes for all ages, an arts and fine crafts shop, and a gallery offering over twenty contemporary and historic exhibitions annually. Silvermine is a non-profit 501c3 organization that also offers an Outreach Education Program, Art Partners, and hosts lectures, film screenings, and special events. Silvermine Galleries are open six days a week from 12 to 5pm and by appointment Friday. For more information, call (203) 966-9700 ext. 20 or visit the website: www.silvermineart.org.



*Untitled (Cracks), 2021
ink, acrylic, oil and plaster on paper, 21x14,8cm*



*Untitled, 2022
Paper, gauze, plaster, acrylic and oil, 74x59cm*