THE RAGDALE FOUNDATION

Ragdale is a non-profit artists’ community located on architect Howard Van Doren Shaw’s country estate in Lake Forest, 30 miles north of Chicago. In 1976, Shaw’s granddaughter, Alice Judson Hayes, transformed her family’s summer home into an artists’ retreat to provide time and space for artists to create important new work.

More than 150 residencies and fellowships are now offered annually to creative professionals of all types, making Ragdale one of the largest interdisciplinary artists’ communities in the country. Ragdale offers a retreat setting where at any given time, 13 artists-in-residence experience uninterrupted time for dedicated work, a supportive environment, dynamic artist exchanges, 50 acres of idyllic prairie, and a family-style dinner each evening.

For further information, visit the website at ragdale.org, call 847.234.1063 or email: info@ragdale.org.
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Ragdale is pleased to host its first annual High School Visual Arts Intensive, "Art Investigations: Site, Space and Place," a free week-long creative arts program for motivated and promising students from the Greater Chicago area. Ragdale, the artists’ residency in Lake Forest hosts more than 150 professional authors and artists each year.

In this immersive 5-day course, student artists are invited to explore the concepts of site, space, and place through guided and independent experimental investigations in art. Taking the Ragdale campus as well as the adjacent woods and native prairie as inspiration, students will create new works of art in a wide variety of media.

Ragdale's Visual Arts Intensive includes skills workshops, demonstrations, and conversations with guest artists and culminates in a showcase of the participants’ work for families and friends on Friday, July 24.

RACHEL HARPER

Rachel Harper is an artist and educator in Chicago. She teaches at The School of Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago where she is a Doctoral Candidate. She advises on arts education programs at Depaul University and the Arts Incubator of the University of Chicago. A current nominee for the 2015 Illinois Art Education Association’s Art Museum Educator of the Year, Rachel is the lead artist for the Teacher Institute at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Rachel earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Arts in Art Education from the School of Art Institute of Chicago and her work in painting, sculpture, installation, performance, sound, theatre, and music is exhibited and performed nationally.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Regional art educators are invited to identify sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the current year’s classes who demonstrate strong potential in the visual arts and an interest in exploring their creative energy through participation in a program that will challenge their thinking while providing small group instruction and individual feedback.

Motivated students with artwork in any medium should be encouraged to submit an application with two image samples (e.g. jpeg) of existing work and references to Ragdale by the May 1st, 2015 deadline.

PROGRAM FEES

This program is funded by the Butler Family Foundation and the Ragdale Foundation. Participants who are accepted will not pay any fees.

LOGISTICS

Students commute to Ragdale, located at 1260 North Green Bay Road in Lake Forest and are expected to be in attendance daily from 10 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, July 20-24. The Ragdale campus will be open to the students during the week. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Students can apply to Ragdale for ticket reimbursement for train fare on the Metra Union Pacific North line. Arrangements can be made for pick up and drop off at the Lake Forest station.