

Good Hart Artist Residency to host visual artist in October

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October 1, 2025

For three weeks in October, the Good Hart Artist Residency will become another home for visual artist Ciel Skål. Skål's childhood was marked by frequent moves amidst family struggles, houselessness, and foster care; in her work, Skål reflects on her family's struggle to define "home" – not just as a physical space, but as a cultural and emotional anchor. This transient upbringing, steeped in shifting landscapes, informs her process and her art's thematic core.

In the wake of the unexpected loss of her mother in 2023, Skål turned to art to process her grief. Using mixed media of pen-and-ink, graphite, and watercolor, Skål delves into themes of loss, generational trauma, identity, and context of place, drawing inspiration from her background and art historical research.

The water used in her work to form dramatic drips and puddles, which contrast with breathtaking figure drawings, is sourced from local bodies of water, creating a "terroir" of memory and place within each work.

While in Good Hart, a smooth stone's throw from the water of Lake Michigan, Skål intends to incorporate Lake Michigan's water and personality into a new series of work. "While becoming a keen observer of the local environment, I'll take note of colors and textures, letting them influence this new series," says Skål.

During her residency, Skål will also lead workshops at Little Traverse Land Conservancy's Thorne Swift Nature Reserve for students of Lakeview Academy and Crooked Tree High School.

The public is welcome to meet Ciel Skål and view her work at an Open Studio at the Residency in Good Hart, 910 N. Lamkin Road, on Saturday October 11, at 10AM to 2PM. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free.

The Good Hart Artist Residency hosts artists, writers, and composers at a house and studio located just off the Tunnel of Trees Scenic Byway. Though community engagement is an important component of each resident's 10- to 21-day stay, the goal is to provide artists with the time and space to focus on their craft.