

Good Hart Artist Residency welcomes cohort of five artists for June residency

*By Harbor Light News Staff
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This June, the Good Hart Artist Residency (GHAR) welcomes five artists. The cohort consists of visual artist Charlie Reynolds of Dexter, Michigan; composer Rachel Epperly of Ada, Michigan and Seoul, South Korea; writer Somto Ihezue of College Park, Maryland; and writers Amna Chaudhry and Sadia Khatri of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Charlie Reynolds is the selected artist for GHAR's Elevating Diverse Voices curated residency. A disabled veteran, Reynolds works in fiber arts and installations. While in Residency, he intends to create a "Secret Beach," a portable version of the experience of being on a beach.

"Beaches and swimming used to be a big part of my life when I was younger and able-bodied. Since being in a wheelchair, I've found myself excluded from my favorite activities," Reynolds said. "I want to place my feet in the sand every morning...then record how the interaction makes me feel. It's important that it's authentic Michigan sand, allowing me to experience the same thing other Michiganders experience when they visit that beach."

Reynolds will present a talk entitled "Making Without Objects: Disability, Process, and Reimagining Art" at Crooked Tree Art Center in Petoskey on June 11, 2026 at 10AM as part of their Coffee@ Ten series.



Somto Ihezue



Rachel Epperly
(Courtesy photos)

Amna Chaudhry and Sadia Khatri were accepted to GHAR's "Lakeshore Writer Friends" program, which is open to a pair of writers who have experience sharing work together. They met in Karachi, Pakistan, in 2009, while in high school. In 2015 they collaborated on an activist blog called Girls at Dhabas, which encouraged women to gather at roadside tea stalls called dhabas. Chaudhry will use her time at Council Tree Cottages to work on a novel about working-class women opening a beauty parlor. Khatri will continue work on a memoir about her relationship to Karachi.

Somto Ihezue's writing exists at the intersection of boyhood, land, and disruption in Igbo communities. (The Igbo people are an ethnic group originating primarily from what is now Nigeria.)

"I intend to approach my time at Good Hart as a conversation," Ihezue said. "I am interested in learning how to listen... At Good Hart, I hope to let the landscape complicate, while challenging my thinking and writing process."

Rachel Epperly is a composer performer, improviser, and performance artist active in the US and South Korea. During her time at the residency, she will be creating an album titled Learning To See, a collection of songs themed around learning to feel, or "see" our deepest feelings and selves.

Typically, the Good Hart Artist Residency hosts a single artist, writer, or composer for 14-21 days. Artists are housed in a private residence with a detached studio, and provided with a \$500.00 stipend, a kitchen stocked with basic foods, a few home-cooked meals from local hosts, and a quiet setting along the shores of Lake Michigan to focus and create. The June cohort is made available by the generosity of community partners who have donated their guest spaces, creating a unique opportunity for community and collaboration.

The public is invited to attend an Open Studio event at the Good Hart Artist Residency studio space at 910 N. Lamkin Rd. in Good Hart on Saturday, June 20, from 4 to 7PM to meet all five residents and share in their work.