

Aldo & Leonardo: Canyons of the Ancients Artists in Residence



[Ben McCarthy](#) received a BFA from the School of Art Institute of Chicago, focusing on ceramic sculpture, as well as ecology and ancient culture. His work is inspired by ancient sculptural architecture and artifacts, in addition to the process of learning to understand the cultural use of such sites and objects. He appreciates the sacredness of places that connect us with our ancestors, whether it is through petroglyphs, hieroglyphs, rock formations, burial grounds, temples, or terra cotta amphorae. Emulating the bold rhythm of geological formations and cave drawings, he makes sculptures that connect to the historical timeline of human creation. Some forms manifest as simple, playful melodies, while others geometrically emerge architectural

constructions. I envision my artwork at peace amongst lush plant life.

[Esther Rogers](#) is a cellist, collaborator, composer, and teacher. She graduated with honors from the Hartt School at the University of Hartford. Her honors thesis was a collaborative performance about creative process and her research with dancers, actors, writers, and artists set her on a journey of exploration in integrated arts. After graduating, Esther studied classical chamber music in San Francisco and collaborative leadership practices in London. She directs her own original performances including a multi-disciplinary play for the Rochester Fringe Festival; teaches cello and improvisation; and freelances as a cellist. As a classically trained cellist, she is passionate about experimental and contemporary music, the music of Bach and traditional chamber music. Esther performs with Cordancia chamber orchestra and enjoys improvising with musicians and artists from different backgrounds and genres.



[Leslie Sobel](#) received her BFA from the University of Michigan School of Art in 1983. After working in computer graphics and doing Master's degree work in Interdisciplinary Technology at Eastern Michigan University, she went back to being a full-time artist in 1999. Leslie's love for the outdoors shapes her work as an artist as she finds emotion and meaning in nature. Her process is studio intensive but starts outdoors with experience, photography and drawing providing the visual and emotive references that

come back into the studio to be realized in mixed media artwork. She is active in her community as a member of the Arts Alliance board and former chair of the Milan Art Center. She co-founded the art alchemists, an artists' collective revolving around the use of digital tools in art-making. Leslie is married and has three young adult children. She has lived in southeast Michigan for more than 30 years.