

For Immediate Release

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ASSOCIATED ARTISTS OF PITTSBURGH and BUNKER PROJECTS present

## ***AAP x Bunker Projects Announce Inaugural Arts Writing Residency***

PITTSBURGH, PA – From December 28 to January 11, Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) and Bunker Projects are partnering for an inaugural arts-writing residency. For the program's first iteration, AAP and Bunker have selected Tina Dillman. Dillman is an artist, arts writer, curator, and non-profit founder and developer from Buffalo, New York.

"I'm honored to have been nominated as the first curator in residence with this new initiative," says Dillman. "I'm looking forward to working with both organizations, their artists and audience members, and I can't wait to visit Pittsburgh again and further explore the city and arts community."

The AAP x Bunker Arts Writing Residency will consist of three main components: studio visits, panel event, and dedicated writing time. Dillman will undertake at least six studio visits with AAP artists that submitted recent works and their artist statement to Dillman earlier, and a portion of this visit will be a discussion of the artist statement and how that relates to the work.

"Arts writing and writing about arts are such a crucial component of the larger arts ecosystem in Pittsburgh," says Madeline Gent, Executive Director at Associated Artists of Pittsburgh. "When Jessie came to me with this opportunity on the schedule and the idea of dedicating it to writing about arts, it was an easy yes— we should do that. We should be doing more of this."

During her residency, Dillman will also participate in a forum with Gent and Rommelt on the state of the arts and arts writing in the rustbelt region. Held on January 5th at 2:00pm, the panel is free and open to the public. Dillman will also host open office hours at spaces throughout the community.

"I'm really excited to be working with Tina Dillman and Madeline Gent at AAP on our first Arts Writing Residency. I think we all have a fresh take and real desire to see the field open up and include new perspectives," says Jessie Rommelt, Executive Director at Bunker Projects. "Now is the perfect time for organizations to collaborate with art writers and support their work."

The arts writing forum will be held on January 5, 2019 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Bunker Projects. Bunker Projects is located at 5106 Penn Avenue in Bloomfield. For more information

about Bunker Projects, please visit <http://www.bunkerprojects.org>. For more information about Associated Artists of Pittsburgh please call 412.361.1370. email [aap@aapgh.org](mailto:aap@aapgh.org), or visit <http://aapgh.org>.

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### **About Associated Artists of Pittsburgh**

The Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) is the oldest continuous-exhibiting artist member organization in the country. At over 550 members, AAP enhances the region's cultural vitality and promotes visual arts excellence by showcasing artists' work through contemporary exhibitions, providing community-based education programs, and facilitating a broad dialogue to engage artists with one another and the community. Members of the organization must be eighteen or older and maintain a residence or studio within 150-mile radius of Pittsburgh.

### **About Bunker Projects**

Bunker Projects is an artist-run non-profit residency and experimental gallery that serves as a platform for emerging artists to develop their practice and create new works for exhibition. By providing an immersive live/work space alongside intimate cultural programming, we foster a spirit of innovative support, connecting artists with Pittsburgh's active and growing arts community. Bunker Projects is a contemporary art space that values the process of making art and exhibiting work to the public. We specialize in installation and multidisciplinary work by independent artists. Our primary exhibitions are solo shows by artists-in-residence who live and work on site making a new body of work for free public exhibitions. Every first Friday of the month we premiere a new show for Unblurred Gallery Crawl.

### **About Tina Dillman**

Tina Dillman is an artist, curator and educator that relocated to Buffalo, NY in 2014 after graduating with her master's of fine arts from the San Francisco Art Institute. While in Buffalo (2014-18) she founded a socially engaged artist residency program called Project Grant, and the Cass Project, an art and cultural initiative that supported emerging local and regional artists, worked at Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Arts Center, was an arts writer for local publications, taught at the University at Buffalo, and was actively engaged as an advocate for the arts on a local, state, and federal level. She has been awarded multiple residencies around the world (Mexico, Scotland, Berlin), exhibited and performed on both coasts, and has been a visiting artist/curator at several universities including Alfred University (NY), Syracuse University (NY) and Visual Studies Workshop (Rochester). She is currently en route to return back to the Bay Area in 2019.