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## **FOUR AWARD-WINNING PAINTERS SELECTED FOR FIRST JANUARY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM AT GOLDMOOR INN IN GALENA, ILLINOIS**

***Four artists to capture winter beauty in original works, and teach Saturday classes prior to public receptions every Saturday in January***

**GALENA, IL – December 1, 2016** –When the winds howl and the snow flies and the trees are stripped of their leaves, guests find a special kind of beauty at Goldmoor Inn, 9001 W. Sand Hill Road in Galena, Illinois. This January, the art-loving owners of the 18-suite luxury B&B introduce their first Artist in Residence program, inviting four gifted painters to claim residence for one week each. During the first-ever program, guests are invited to immerse themselves in creativity with classes offered each weekend. Guests and restaurant patrons are then invited to a complimentary artist's reception on Saturday evenings. Those who register for classes and add overnight stays earn a twenty percent reduction in room rate at the luxury destination situated high above the Mississippi River, complete with individually-decorated suites, cottages and log cabins and a gourmet restaurant.

Four accomplished artists were selected from an impressive list of applicants and they will travel from four cities and three states to focus their creative energy on capturing the new landscapes and scenes surrounding the 21-acre estate. Each will work in her chosen medium either indoors or outdoors weather permitting, while greeting guests throughout the day. Every Saturday, the featured artists will teach a private class for 8-10 participants, exploring a spectrum of methods -- from watercolor to plein air painting with oils to pastels. Classes are appropriate for all skill levels. Each artist's residency concludes with a complimentary Champagne Reception where she will display works created that week.

“Surrounded by woods and lawns visited by wildlife, overlooking the Mississippi River Valley below, we believe ours is a perfect destination for anyone who can appreciate natural beauty. The opportunity to offer artists of this caliber the opportunity to capture their own impressions will, we hope, provide a visible celebration of the winter season,” says Birgit Radin, co-owner with her husband Sloba.

### **Make it a weekend and save!**

During the Artist in Residence program, those who register for at least one art class and stay two nights receive a 20 percent reduction in the overnight accommodations price. This offer may not be combined with others. For reservations, call 815-777-3925. Visit [www.goldmoor.com/packages-events](http://www.goldmoor.com/packages-events) for class descriptions, fees and materials required. Classes are limited in size to ensure an exceptional experience. All seats must be reserved and purchase is non-refundable.

### ***About The Goldmoor Inn***

*The Goldmoor Inn is a romantic bed and breakfast situated high above the Mississippi River Valley in picturesque Galena, Illinois. The 21-acre beautifully-landscaped property features 18 suites in the grand castle-like inn, two log cabins and three cottages. Luxury suites includes a king bed, cozy fireplace, two-person whirlpool tub, an in-room kitchenette with dining table, and a private balcony or patio. Guests enjoy gourmet breakfast served in the restaurant or in-room. The Goldmoor Inn's restaurant offers world-class cuisine complemented by an excellent wine cellar and is open to the public. Visit [www.goldmoor.com](http://www.goldmoor.com). Follow @GoldmoorInn on Instagram or Twitter and on Facebook at Goldmoor Inn & Dining.*

## Brief Biographies and Class Details

### Week One: In residence January 2-8; Class January 7

Carol Luc from Chicago, Illinois will be the first Artist in Residence, arriving Monday, January 2nd. Having won multiple awards, participated in several artist's residencies, and been spotlighted in several solo exhibitions, she is an exceptional talent to launch the month-long creative escapes. Her work is exhibited locally and nationally and can be found in public collections such as the Ruttenberg Collection, Harper College, Illinois Institute of Art—Chicago, and the Dellora Norris Cultural Center. Luc earned an MFA from Northern Illinois University, and an MA from Wayne State University in Detroit and she asks class participants to consider this an opportunity to start a new year practicing a new skill.

Luc's class scheduled Saturday, January 7 from 2-4 p.m. is entitled *Watercolor techniques to achieve atmospheric perspective*.

Cost: \$125 per person including all supplies, snacks, wine and cheese

Description: The workshop is for those with some drawing ability, and will employ use of one color to create a simple winter landscape while exploring several watercolor techniques in the process. All skill levels encouraged to attend.

### Week Two: In residence January 9-15; Class January 14

Caroline Goldsmith arrives from her home in Monticello, Illinois. This full-time painter and award-winning artist excels at en plein air painting in oils and she has held six solo shows. Goldsmith seeks to express the beauty and awe she experiences with her amplified sensitivity to color. She travels with her paints to bring more inspiration into her work, and paints everyday outdoors or in her home studio when winter temperatures drop. Currently showing out of the Prairie Fire Gallery in Monticello, she develops larger works, usually in acrylics or oils, based on the work she has captured outdoors in warmer weather both in the USA and in Australia. This Australia native studied Fine Arts at the Australia Art Institute of Darlinghurst, Sydney.

Goldsmith's class scheduled Saturday, January 14 from 1 – 4 p.m. is entitled *Fundamentals of Plein Air Painting in Oils*.

Cost: \$115 per person including snacks, wine and cheese. Participants provide all supplies.

Description: Goldsmith will offer an overview to plein air painting in oils, and will teach on how to translate the view to a finished painting. The class will set up to paint and take advantage of the views outdoors from the heated Gazebo overlooking the Mississippi River. Individual instruction will be given as time permits. Some basic experience with painting in oils is needed for this class. Class size is limited to 8 participants.

### Week Three: In residence January 16-22; Class January 21

Plein air artist and oil painter Catherine Whitehead travels to Galena on January 16 from her home in Glen Gardner, New Jersey for the week-long painting retreat. This award-winning artist typically paints outdoors, alla prima or wet-on-wet, and completes her work in one sitting. She says painting in nature gives her the ability to truly experience with all her senses the beauty she strives to recreate. "My work is all about the energy! I want the viewer to feel what I felt while painting it," she says. With numerous awards and exhibitions to her credit, Catherine says this residency will provide a great opportunity to shake off the winter blues by celebrating the chilly days painting and interacting with others. The artist plans to step outside to soak up the sun while painting the beautiful Mississippi River.

Whitehead's *Master Class en plein air* class is scheduled Saturday, January 21 from 1:30 – 4 p.m.

Cost: \$115 per person, including snacks, wine and cheese. Participants provide all supplies.

Description: Catherine Whitehead encourages all levels of painters to attend the class focused on the art of plein air painting. Outdoor set ups may occur so participants are encouraged to dress appropriately. If there is inclement weather, the artist will bring the class into the window-filled Gazebo.

Special Addition: Arrive early this weekend and experience culinary art paired with visual artistry. A Friday cooking class at lunchtime will be led by Goldmoor Inn's creative executive chef, Ryan Mead, featuring recipes inspired by Whitehead's artistry.

Chef Mead's Artful Dining Cooking Class is scheduled Friday, January 20 from 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.  
Reservations required.  
Cost: \$59 includes lunch with wine.

Week Four: January 23-29; Class January 28

Nina Menduni-Kelson, a renowned sculptor and painter from St. Joseph, Michigan, concludes the Artist in Residence program, arriving on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Menduni-Kelson started her journey as an artist in the woods where she discovered both her love of nature and of creating. This beginning led her to art school to study painting and eventually to her passion of stone carving. With this residency, she returns to her first love, landscape drawing and painting. Menduni-Kelson holds a BFA in painting from the University of Cincinnati and has studied abroad in Cortona, Italy. She has had a steady stream of solo and group shows throughout the United States and abroad. Her work is collected around the globe and found in large scale commissions for hospitals, golf courses and corporate settings.

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, her class entitled *Sunsets in Pastels* is scheduled from 3:30-5:30 p.m. to capture the evening light during sunset (reception at 6 p.m.).

Cost: \$125 includes all supplies, snacks and wine and cheese

Description: The class will take advantage of the early evening light and capture one of the most impressive and natural amenities at Goldmoor Inn: sunset! With the colors and vision of the sunset over the Mississippi River, Menduni-Kelson will guide class participants through a pastels class and move right into the reception open to all guests.

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