SUMMER 2016
STORYTELLERS’ INSTITUTE
Fact & Fiction
May 31 – July 1, 2016
Skidmore College
Saratoga Springs NY
Institute Fellows
a five-week summer institute

The John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative (MDOCS) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in the documentary arts at Skidmore College that supports evidence-based, research-driven creative practice.

"The purpose of a storyteller is not to tell you how to think, but to give you questions to think upon."
—Brandon Sanderson, The Way of Kings

Institute Fellows
practice any documentary art—audio, video, still photography, multimedia, spoken or written word.

We seek creative, collaborative souls who will invest time and energy into bringing their own visions to fruition in a lively summer context, and are committed to sharing their passions in documentary with the next generation of practitioners.

Institute Fellows will
• have an opportunity to present finished work or works in progress as part of the Institute.
• receive an honorarium, transportation stipend, room & board on campus. Office space and access to Skidmore College resources will be provided.
• participate in Institute activities (i.e. master classes, presentations, critiques, etc)

DETAILS:
www.skidmore.edu/mdocs
815 N. Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
THE RESIDENCY

The Storytellers’ Institute is a five-week residency at Skidmore College at which 10 Skidmore College students and faculty (Skidmore Scholars) workshop & develop documentary projects alongside up to four competitively selected documentarians (Institute Fellows).

Institute Fellows will receive an honorarium, 5-weeks’ room and board in apartment-style housing at Skidmore College, and working space. The Director of MDOCS will discuss equipment and facilities needs with accepted Fellows.

All institute participants enjoy an intense, focused period of documentary study and production at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York -- a vibrant upstate community 3 hours from Boston, New York & Montreal, and home many cultural events including Yaddo, SPAC, & New York State Summer Writer’s Institute.

THE 2016 THEME

The theme for Summer 2016 is "fact and fiction." Documentary films, podcasts, exhibitions and other works are evidence-based stories working with facts to render, reveal, and represent truth(s) to inform and, at times, inspire action. Despite relying on real people and events documentaries engage because by interpreting and representing reality. For John Grierson (1926) (considered the father of the term "documentary"), a documentary film is a "creative treatment of actuality." Increasingly hybrid works draw on reenactment, sound & visual effects or “base work” on a true story. Where, then, is a boundary?

All documentary works are, in the end, stories shaped by their authors to sway an audience. The Summer 2016 Storytellers’ Institute invites submissions from documentarians working in the borderlands of fact and fiction, grappling with the question of truth in storytelling, to join us for five weeks of creative work and interrogation.