



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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154 SAN ANGELO DRIVE AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521 P. 434.946.7236

### FOR INFORMATION

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts  
154 San Angelo Drive  
Amherst, Virginia 24521  
434-946-7236  
vcca@vcca.com  
www.vcca.com

- Mara Gibson awarded VCCA Fellowship
- One of 25 Fellows in residence at a time
- VCCA one of world's most prestigious artist communities

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### **Mara Gibson Awarded Fellowship by the VCCA**

(Amherst, VA) – of Shawnee, KS, has been awarded a fellowship by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA). The VCCA is located near Sweet Briar College in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in rural Virginia. will be among approximately 25 Fellows focusing on their own creative projects at this working retreat for visual artists, writers and composers.

A typical residency ranges from two weeks to two months. Each artist is provided with a comfortable private bedroom, a private studio and three prepared meals a day. Beyond the breakfast hour and the dinner hour, there are no schedules or obligations. This distraction-free atmosphere, as well as the energy that results from having some 25 visual artists, writers, and composers gathered in one place, enables artists to be highly productive.

Serving more than 350 artists a year (more than 4,000 since its inception), the VCCA is one of the nation's largest year-round artists' communities. VCCA Fellows have received worldwide attention through publications, exhibitions, compositions, performances, and major awards and accolades, including MacArthur grants, Pulitzer Prizes, Guggenheim fellowships, National Endowment for the Arts awards, Rome Prizes, Pollock-Krasner grants, National Book Awards, Broadway and Off-Broadway productions, and Academy Award nominations. VCCA has been a wellspring of music, literature and the visual arts in the United States, providing residencies for artists from all disciplines during the most important and the least supported phase of their work: the creative phase. This is done by giving visual artists, writers, composers, performance artists, filmmakers, collaborating artists and those whose work crosses disciplines the crucial elements every artist needs—time and space to do their work.

A nonprofit organization founded in 1971, the VCCA is supported in large part by grants and private donations.

More information is available online at [www.vcca.com](http://www.vcca.com) or by calling 434-946-7236.