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June 29, 2016

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North Dakota Council on the Arts announces Individual Artist Fellowship recipient

The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) has awarded an artist fellowship in the amount of \$3,500. The Individual Artist Fellowship recipient in Literature is Merie Kirby of Grand Forks. Kirby was recommended by a review panel and their selection was approved by the NDCA's Board of Directors.

Merie Kirby writes poetry and creative nonfiction. She is the author of *The Thumbelina Poems* (Red Bird Chapbooks, 2016) and *The Dog Runs On: Poems* (Finishing Line Press, 2014). Her work has been published in several literary journals and in September 2014 she participated in Tupelo Press's 30/30 Project. She also writes texts for composers, both art songs and libretti, including the libretto for composer Christopher Gable's operas *The Ascension of Radegunde* and *The Ladysmith Story*, and for composer James Callahan's opera *Sanctuary*. Merie received her B.A. in literature from the College of Creative Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara and M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Minnesota. She has worked as a bookseller, MARC record cataloger, technical writer, editor, marketing communications manager, English professor, ESL teacher, quilt store manager, and writing coach. She now lives in North Dakota with her husband and daughter and teaches in the Honors Program at the University of North Dakota.

Merie will use this fellowship for three main endeavors: securing time to devote to generating new poems; finding a publisher for her full-length collection; and traveling to do readings in North Dakota. After devoting the past two years to three manuscripts, she is looking forward to dedicating time to the generation of new work.

The Individual Artist Fellowship program recognizes practicing artists residing in North Dakota with a monetary fellowship award. This program is designed to support professional artists with outstanding talent and ability in their efforts to improve their artistic skills and enhance their career opportunities. Fellowships for Traditional Arts, Dance, and Theatre artists will be awarded in 2017.

For more information on NDCA's grant programs please visit <http://www.nd.gov/arts/grants> or call 701-328-7590.

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The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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