



What inspires you?

For 35 years we have been one of the foremost global inspiration factories. Our resident artists cite the silence, the landscape, the towering redwoods, the ability to hear themselves think, and the freedom accorded them to follow their muses undisturbed. Our 26 alumni winter residents enjoyed a too-dry, albeit beautiful few weeks. Participants in the first-ever Djerassi Writers Workshop & Retreat (with more on the way!) with renown author and alum Nova Ren Suma experienced the same Djerassi magic.

We are in the inspiration business - and the product reviews we receive energize us to do it more and do it better. The 81 artists joining us in 2014 from 14 countries (do YOU know where Burkina Faso is?) and 16 states have no idea. Yet. We are just one of those places you can't "get" until you come. Thirty-four miles from San Francisco yet in a galaxy far, far away.

We are constantly assessing what artists need. And how we can best share why it matters to them and the cultural landscape around the world. Yes, sometimes it is just the quiet. But sometimes it means a new wood saw, fluffy towels, a branch-free trail or gluten-free food. That's where you, gentle readers, come in. Alumni rose to the John & Sue Diekman alumni challenge, tripling the number of alumni who gave financial voice to a place dear to their hearts. We will be working to attract the casual hiker (reservations available February 26 at a minute after midnight), to attend an expanded Open House (imagine plein air painters on the trail in July) or Artful Harvest.

One of our past slogans urged people to Get Closer to the Heart of What We Do. That invitation still stands. As we launch a new and inspirational year, join us. Artists and the worlds they illuminate deserve no less than our full attention and respect.

Care & respect,
Margot H. Knight
executive director

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

It's that time again. Write or tell a friend: the Djerassi Resident Artists Program is seeking applications for residencies in **2015**. The deadline is **March 15, 2014!** Interested artists should apply through the regular application process which is fully online at www.djerassi.org. Questions? Email judy@djerassi.org.

Also in 2015 (June 30 - July 29) we will host *Scientific Delirium Madness 2.0*, a collaborative initiative with Leonardo/The International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology (ISAST). The 'Madness' seeks to join creative artists whose work is informed by sciences such as biology, physics, mathematics, geology, chemistry, agriculture or environmental science, with scientists who find inspiration and expression in the arts.

Artists apply through the application portal while *scientists* interested in this session should email the Executive Director, Margot H. Knight: margot@djerassi.org



2014 Sculpture Tours Announced

NEW! Online Reservations Only.

Reservations will no longer be taken via telephone.

Hooray! No more busy signals! No more waiting on hold! Advance reservations are required for all tours.

Reservations begin at **12:01am** on Wednesday

February 26. To make reservations [click here](#) or go to djerassi.org.

Director's Tours (\$50 per person), are led by executive director Margot H. Knight; Two-Mile Tours (free of charge), are led by program staff and volunteers. A limited number of Private Tours are available by special arrangement. Note: Director's Tour C on Thursday, **June 19 is a special sunset hike** (\$60 per person).

Two-Mile Tours (free) depart 10 a.m., please arrive at 9:45am.

1. Sunday, April 6
2. Thursday, April 10

3. Monday, April 14
4. Sunday, April 27
5. Sunday, May 4
6. Thursday, May 15
7. Monday, May 19
8. Sunday, June 1
9. Sunday, June 8
10. Friday, June 20
11. Monday, June 30
12. Sunday, July 13

Director's Tours (\$50) depart 10 a.m., please arrive at 9:45am.

- A. Sunday, March 9
- B. Sunday, April 13
- C. Thursday, June 19 (special **Sunset Tour** departs 5 p.m. \$60)
- D. Sunday, June 22
- E. Sunday, June 29
- F. Saturday, September 6

Other Minds 19

Other Minds seeks to bring modern musical composition to the public through live performances and its website, www.otherminds.org. Under its executive and artistic director, Charles Amirkhanian (and former Djerassi executive director), this year's "OM" festival is in its 19th year. The concerts will be held at the new SFJAZZ Center, 201 Franklin St., on February 28th and March 1st. The programs will feature an all-Northern California lineup. In the week leading up to the concerts, OM artists meet at the Djerassi ranch to prepare for their concerts. Tickets are available via the website.

Djerassi News

Founder's Autobiography

Dr. Carl Djerassi's autobiographical *The Pill, Pygmy Chimps, and Degas' Horse* is now available as an eBook edition. Visit the publisher's [website](#) to see downloading options, or go to Amazon (Kindle), Apple (iBooks), Barnes & Noble (Nook), or Kobo.



Eat Live Work

CCS Architecture has created *Eat Live Work*, featuring the work of Djerassi board member and Middlebrook Studios architect **Cass Calder Smith**. The beautifully detailed book follows the firm's production of restaurant designs, residences and offices. The book showcases the Middlebrook Studios and other newly created landmarks in the Bay Area, East Coast and around the country. The book is available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. See

more about CCS Architecture on their [website](#).

KUDOS

Many of our alumni have recently received prestigious awards:

NEA Literature Awards

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded its latest Creative Writing Grants to 38 writers including recent Djerassi alums **Peter Gadol (2013)** and **Kelle Groom (2012)**. The prestigious Fellowships in Prose (fiction or creative writing) are awarded to allow the recipients to set aside "time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement." See more at [NEA's website](#).

Eureka Fellowship Awards

Alums **Surabi Saraf (2012)** and **Ramekon O'Arwisters (2003)** have received Eureka Fellowship Awards, which are unrestricted grants from the Fleishhacker Foundation. Artists are nominated by a local nonprofit arts organization. Ms. Saraf said, "I'm grateful and humbled to be in the company of such wonderful artists. The program selects 12 artists for every three-year cycle (thus four fellows per year) and this year there were 118 nominations."

Gerbode Foundation and Hewlett Foundation

With their grants, **Pamela Z (2010)** will create a new five-movement work inspired by the history, architecture, engineering and cultural impact of bridges for the SF Electronic Music Festival in 2015. And **Amy X Neuberg (1988, 2010-11 winter)** will work with the SF Chamber Orchestra on its first electronic work. The composition for voice, live looping, electronics and chamber orchestra is inspired by the composer's experience with hunger in America.

Kenneth Rainin Foundation

Deborah Slater (1992) received a major grant to finish PRIVATE LIFE, the piece she worked on during her residency in winter 2011-12.

Amy Lowell Traveling Scholarship

Poet **Sam Taylor (2012)** writes, "I am incredibly humbled, honored, and still shocked that I have been awarded the *Amy Lowell Traveling Scholarship* for next year, which will support me to travel the world for a year and write." Looks like Sam won't be in Kansas anymore. He is also seeking contacts around the world for what should be a priceless opportunity for artistic growth.



More News

Lindsey Derry (2013) will be busy this spring. In New York in March, she will represent the work of Sidra Bell with solo *Discordance* at the choreographic festival [REVERBdance](#). In April, she will perform locally at ODC Theater in San Francisco with recently joined [Hope Mohr Dance](#), celebrating their seventh home season. Keep up with Lindsey at her [website](#).

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is closed for renovations, but related arts activities continue. Now on the SFMOMA Open Space post, are photos and accounts of many of the late **Dennis Leon's (1983)** site-based sculptures in the Bay Area. The web page includes outdoor pieces in the collection developed during his time in Woodside. While on site, Mr. Leon produced *Boulders and Tree Trunk* (1984). For more, click [here](#).

Patricia Leighton (1983) is featured in the Korean design magazine *International Magazine of Space Design (BOB)*, January 2014. See vivid pictures of her work [here](#).

Comings, Goings & Showings

Djerassi alumni are building a significant portfolio of work - almost more than your humble newsletter correspondent can keep up with! To follow events involving our alumni and friends, be sure to check the [D.R.A.P. Alumni](#) Facebook page.

ART///SKY seeks to list our alumni artists' events. Please email your upcoming exhibitions and/or performances (as far in advance as possible) along with your session year to nick@djerassi.org.



Through Feb. 28 **Lena von Lapschina (2011)** a presentation of *Propaganda* Vienna, Austria.

Through March 15 **von Lapschina's** *Copie non Conforme* also in

Vienna. See more at <http://lapschina.com>.

March 1-29 **Walter Robinson (1998)** visual arts, *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco.

March 5 **Rachel Cantor (2012)** will read from *A Highly Unlikely Scenario, or a Neetsa Pizza Employee's Guide to Saving the World*. Rachel's book has received fine reviews, including in the [Sunday NY Times Book Review](#) (for more, see rachelcantor.com). A Great Good Place for Books, along with Melville House author Jeremy Bushnell, 7 p.m., LaSalle Av., Oakland.

March 8 **Rachel Cantor** book reading at [Writers with Drinks](#), 7 p.m San Francisco.

March 7 & 8 **Christy Funsch (2012)** and Peiling Kao *A Performance in Response to the Work of Abby Leigh*, Meridian Gallery, 535 Powell St., San Francisco.

March 9 **Joya Cory (1983)** *Full Spectrum Improvisation* improv, energy and imagination, Western Sky Studio, Berkeley. See [more Joya](#).

Through March 15 **Eva Bovenzi (1991)** visual art curated by Ruth Santee, [Transmission Gallery](#), 770 W. Grand Avenue, Oakland.

Through March 22 **Pireeni Sundaralingam (2014)** part of this year's **Scientific Delirium Madness**. *Hidden Cities: Experiments & Explorations* architecture, art and science. SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco.

ART///SKY February 2014

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