



### Trusting and Revering Artists for 35 Years

The saw is buzzing as resident **Anthony Heinz May** works to create another site-inspired sculpture. Happy to be out of the Brooklyn winter, he welcomes spring in shirt sleeves and safety goggles. In the choreography studio, San Francisco choreographer (and mother-to-be) **Jodi Lomask** works with her dancers on a new neuroscience-inspired dance.

Composer **Eric Wubbels** sorts out the mysteries of sound, crafting contemporary pieces that defy convention and excite my ears. Performance artist and writer **Lauren Crux** writes more of her "rambles" and Diane Middlebrook Fellow, poet **Camille Dungy's** muse runs toward the mysteries of the landscape AND her 4-year old. **Annagret Hoch** of Munich paints. **Di Fang** of Queens and Shenzhen, China and San Franciscan **Mirka Morales** are dreaming about fades and camera angles. Philadelphian **Rachel Blau DuPlessis** is birthing a new long poem. And New York playwright **Brian Quirk** has the voices of new characters dancing in his head. Just another day on the mountain.

We happily welcome artists for our 35th year. It feels a little like Christmas - all these artistic packages unwrapping themselves before us. Already what the artists said they planned to do has morphed into dynamic new directions. (The redwoods do that to

people). Founder Carl Djerassi came to visit their first Sunday here and exhorted them to do things they wouldn't normally do - to experiment, explore and take risks. Most are bravely complying.

Djerassi Resident Artists Program. That is who we are - that is what we do. We trust artists. And sincerely hope they trust themselves during their intense, compacted 30 days on the mountain.

The organization is taking some risks too. We are developing new partnerships with organizations such as LEONARDO, The International Society for the Arts, Sciences & Technology and the Town of Woodside Committee for Art & Culture. We will be welcoming both scientists **and** artists in July for a special themed residency SCIENTIFIC DELIRIUM MADNESS. We are launching a new series of workshop/retreats with alumni of the Program as faculty members. "Change or die" is the phrase heard 'round the nonprofit arts world. We, too, bravely comply.

"Gamblers and artists are defined and redeemed by risk," said Dostoyevsky. I am willing to roll the dice with artists by my side any time.

Last week's deadline for 2015 residencies attracted a record 867 applicants. So it looks like we'd better get busy making sure we have the resources to do it all over again. Join us.

Respectfully yours,  
Margot H. Knight, Executive Director

### **Clayton "Skip" Gianocca 1952-2014**

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Skip Gianocca on March 20, 2014. Skip retired from Djerassi only last August after 13 years of maintaining our facilities, befriending our artists and enthusiastically helping them with their projects. Skip was enjoying his post-retirement time with his family while restoring his historic home in Half Moon Bay. His [Facebook](#) page includes tributes and remembrances by former residents, friends and family.



**Skip Gianocca**

### **There is a Season**

The 2014 season - Djerassi's 35th - is underway, as we greet a new group of outstanding artists:

**March 11 - April 9**

**Visual and Media Arts**

**Di Fang**, Guandong Province, China  
**Annegret Hoch**, Munich, Germany  
**Anthony Heinz May**, Brooklyn, NY  
**Mirka Morales**, San Francisco, CA

#### **Music Composition**

**Eric Wubbels**, Oberlin, OH

#### **Choreography**

**Jodi Lomask**, San Francisco

#### **Literature**

**Lauren Crux**, Santa Cruz, CA Playwright/Performer

**Camille Dungy (Diane Middlebrook Fellow)**, Fort Collins, CO Poet

**Rachel DuPlessis**, Philadelphia, PA Poet

**Brian Quirk**, New York, NY Playwright

Read the artists' [biographies here](#).



### *Djerassi News*

#### **Djerassi Alumni Workshop Opportunity**

Your favorite artist residence is looking for alumni to lead workshop/retreats for the 2015 and 2016 seasons. Our workshop in February of this year - **Nova Ren Suma (2012)** with 11 workshop students - was a resounding success, to which we proclaim, "Let's do it again."

*Available to Djerassi alumni only*, we are seeking faculty members for our new fee-based, paid workshops. There are 9 slots available in 2015 and 2016. A committee of artist Trustees will review the proposals to develop a diverse and marketable range of offerings.

For more information go to [www.djerassi.org/alumniopportunities.html](http://www.djerassi.org/alumniopportunities.html). Please note:  
**Proposals are due April 18, 2014!**

#### **New Partners**

The Djerassi Program has partnered with the first-ever Silicon Valley Contemporary Art Fair. Set for **April 11th, 12th and 13th** at the San Jose Convention Center, the fair will include 60 galleries from across the globe. Djerassi alumni can receive complimentary day passes by visiting the [SVCAF ticket page](#).

The day pass gives you access to any single day of the event. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Also, to apply to participate in next year's Fair, see the online application on SVCAF's [website](#).

Find out why "Silicon Valley is the only place on Earth not trying to figure out how to become

Silicon Valley." - *Robert Metcalfe*, 3Com founder.



## *In other news*

### **Golden**

**Sara Shelton Mann (1995, winter 2011)** was awarded the Goldie 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award by the San Francisco Bay Guardian. The Goldie awards, now in their 25th year, are Guardian Outstanding Local Discoveries, and they recognize both new discoveries and veteran performers who have been producing "exciting intelligent and provocative work." [Read more](#) about Sara.

### **Play on**

On February 23, sculptor **Brian Goggin (1997, 2006)** introduced a new work entitled *Caruso's Dream*. Located at 55 9th St. in San Francisco, the installation consists of 'floating pianos' hovering above the sidewalk. The steel and glass shapes flash their light panels in time with Caruso's music. The work pays homage to the fact that Enrico Caruso slept in San Francisco's Palace Hotel on the night before the earthquake in 1906. A short film is available, produced in collaboration with two artists Brian met at Djerassi, **Veronika Krausas (2006)** and **Mark Nassar (2006)**. Mr. Nassar portrays Caruso in [the clip](#).



### **Support the Arts**

The San Francisco Arts Education Project (**SFArtsEd**), one of the most prominent programs for the support of arts education for elementary and secondary schoolchildren in the country, is having an auction and benefit at the **Catharine Clark Gallery** Thursday, April 3. You can help an organization that has helped over 200,000 kids since 1968.

### **View Art as it Happens**

The Art and History Museums of Maitland, Florida - one of our national art partners - is presenting a seven-day live stream of visual artist Jake Fernandez. The viewing begins at 12 midnight Sunday, March 23. Mr. Fernandez's performance, entitled "*Seven Days and 16 Hours in Parchman Farm*" takes place in a small (9' x 14') enclosed sensory-deprivation room with neither windows nor clocks. Armed with only a sketchbook, pencils and some food rations, the 24/7 adventure will stream for 184 hours. As things progress, the program may not be suitable for all audiences. See it beginning 12 a.m. [here](#).

## Comings, Goings & Showings

Contact us to spread the word about our exceptional alumni! ART///SKY seeks to list our alumni artists' events. Please email your upcoming exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible) along with your session year to

[nick@djerassi.org](mailto:nick@djerassi.org)

To follow events involving our alumni and friends, be sure to check the D.R.A.P. Alumni [Facebook](#) page.

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

April 5 **Nina Wise (1990, 2006)**, *What Just Happened*, improvisational theater. Nina will be appearing with one of the pioneers of performance art, Anna Halprin (age 93). Open Secret, 923 C St., San Rafael, CA.

April 9 - 21 **Ron Fondaw (1984)** *Workshop in Cobb and Adobe sculpture*, University of North Carolina-Asheville campus, Asheville NC.

April 10 - 13 **Lindsey Renee Derry (2013)** appears with Hope Mohr Dance Company at the ODC Theater, San Francisco, in addition:

April 19 **Ms. Derry's** recently created work *More* will premiere in a performance by STRANDEDartists at the Sierra 2 Center's 24th St. Theater, Sacramento CA. See even [more](#).

March 23 - April 27 **Timothy Nolan (2006, winter 2012)** *The Soft and Sweet Eclipse*, CB1 Gallery, Los Angeles CA.

April 24 **Helene Aylon (1999)** Reading from her memoir, *Whatever Is Contained Must Be Released: My Jewish Orthodox Girlhood, My Life as a Feminist Artist*, Mishkan Shalom Synagogue, 4101 Freeland Av., Philadelphia PA.

April 24 **Nina Wise** *What Just Happened*, solo improvisational theater. Spectrum NYC, New York.



Daniel Gwartzman (2005, winter 2012)

Beginning March 21 **Kage Glantz (1985, 1990, winter 2014) Anita**, documentary about Anita Hill, co-written with film's producer Frieda Mock. For opening dates and locations around the country, see [schedule](#).

### **ART///SKY** March 2014

A publication of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Nick Walsh, editor. Banner art: *Orpheus Coyote and Friends*, William King, 1999, photo N. Walsh. Ms. Knight photo: William Coupon.

Other photos: *Skip Gianocca*, T. Kawashima; *Hillside*, D. Tosh;  
*Landscape*, D. Kataoka; *SMIP sign*, L. Lough.

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