



March 2016

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Reunions 2016 | While We Were Away | C G & S



Roots to Crown, Alissa Neglia, 2006

A New Season

Like a hibernating bear (although there ARE no bears anymore on Bear Gulch Road), the Program is stretching and waking and HUNGRY for the creative feast to come this year.

El Nino has been mild, so retreat participants in workshops with alumni **Ann Fisher-Wirth (2005)** and **Jane Vandenburg (2010)** enjoyed summer-like conditions. The fog and rain are setting in to welcome a MOST successful alum, **Nova Ren Suma (2012)**, as she facilitates back-to-back sold-out retreats with some very accomplished writers of young adult fiction.

The poppies are blooming, a sure reminder that NOW is the time to apply to come for a residency this time NEXT year. Also on tap in the next few weeks for lovers of the Djerassi magic? We have alumni gatherings in **Portland** on April 12 and **New York City** on May 24th. (See more below.)

Read throughout this packed **ART///SKY** to find information on an upcoming gathering of women ballet choreographers. In addition, our partners at Peninsula Open Space Trust are hosting a day-trip through our trails on March 19th for next-gen landscape photographers (call 650-854-7696 for more information). AND, my first Director's Hike, scheduled for Sunday, March 20th has a few spots left as well. (www.djerassi.org)

We just said goodbye this morning to the international group of composers that comprise Other Minds 21. Their performances will be March 4-6 (THIS weekend) at SF Jazz. Tickets can be found at www.otherminds.org.

What happens on the mountain doesn't stay on the mountain. Partake either here or there or wherever alumni are performing or producing or showing. There is magic to do wherever the Djerassi Program or its artists are.

Happy March. . . now go and feed your soul.

Care & respect,
Margot H. Knight

Application Deadline!

Remember, **applications for 2017** core residencies must be submitted by **March 15, 2016**. See the application link on our home page: www.djerassi.org. Or click [here](#).

Alumni Gatherings

January 29 marked the date of our first-of-the-year Bay Area Alumni Reunion at the home of **Jeanne Finley (1988, winter '05)**, artist and board member. A large gathering of SF (and beyond) Djerassi alums accepted Jeanne's gracious hospitality. In addition to catching up, the appreciative crowd heard **Pamela Z (2010)** (*photo*) perform her musical work.

Make plans to attend **two more reunions** this year: For alumni in the **Portland, Oregon** area (in conjunction with UCross): Tuesday, April 12, at the Elizabeth Leach Gallery, 417 NW 9th Av. **Send your RSVP to Terra@djerassi.org by April 1.**

And meet us in New York City on **May 24th**. Watch our web page, djerassi.org. We'll announce time and place soon.



Pamela Z, left, and Jeanne Finley

While We Were Away ...

Daniel Gwartzman (2005, winter 2013) and his Dance Company presented *The Oracle* January 17 at the Booking Dance Festival at Lincoln Center, NYC....**Laura Konjetzky (2013)** performed her composition with photographs of *Fading Varnish/Verklingender Lack* on January 23 at the Black Box of the Gasteig Theatre in Munich, Germany....**Paufvre Dance - Randee Paufvre (1999, winter '03, '11)** - performed *Strangers Become Flowers* in February at the ODC Commons Studio B in San Francisco....**Glynnis Reed (2009)** had two events in the Philadelphia area: one at the William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, where she received one of three Grand Prizes for her work on exhibit during February 26; the other at the Professional Artist Member Exhibition at the Main Line Art Center in Haverford, PA, in February....**Mark Foehringer (2012)** and his company celebrated *20 Years of Mark Foehringer Dance Project/SF* on January 31 in San Francisco ODC Theatre. See what SFGate.com had to say...January 19 to February 24, **Surabhi Saraf (2012)** exhibited a video at *Limited Access Festival* in Tehran, Iran. She also is attending a residency at Mills College until June 26...and there's more: Surabhi was featured in the January edition of *Harper's Bazaar India*. See a [screenshot](#) here....**Allison Leigh Holt (2014)** has been nominated and has advanced to the final stage of the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship (SARP). The good word will be announced May 31st!! Keep us posted, Allison. We're rooting for you...**John Jasperse (2000)** presented work-in-progress dance of his work *Remains* at the American Dance Institute in NYC. Also featured was work by **Joanna Kotze (2013)**...**Rachel Cantor's (2012)** latest novel *Good on Paper* was published in January to rave reviews: "playful and smart" (Elle), "dazzling" (Bustle), and "a fascinating character study and a captivating story" (Jewish Book Council). Read a [review](#) from *Los Angeles Review of Books*....**Sumakshi Singh (2011)** held a solo exhibition, *In The Garden* (handmade lace), in New Delhi, India in January....**Jeremiah Barber (2015)** held a solo exhibition, *Make Me Change Me*, at Recology in San Francisco, where he was a four-month artist-in-

residence....**Roberto Paci Dalò (1987)** presented a world premiere composition on January 28 at the Locomotiv Club in Bologna, Italy....**Tony Philips (1987, winter 2002)** with wife **Judith Raphael (1987)** had a two-person show through February 27 at the Riverside Art Center in Riverside, Illinois. See more about Tony in *Comings, Goings*, below....**Melissa Burke (2015)** took part in the second installment of the *Bloody Mary reading series* at Alley Cat Books in San Francisco....On February 11, **Xhenet Aliu (2013)** read from her fiction and essays at High Point University's Phoenix Reading Series.... February 22: **Brian Quirk (2014)** read from his play *almost always fayeville* at Jimmy's No. 43 in Manhattan.... In the beginning of 2016 **Barbara Edelstein (1996, '98)** held a solo exhibition, '*Leaf in the Light*,' at the Ruth Bachofner Gallery in Bergamot Station, Santa Monica, CA.

And the award goes to ...

The Joan Mitchell Foundation has announced recipients of its 2015 grants for its Painters & Sculptors Grant Program. Included on the list was Djerassi alum and former trustee **Lava Thomas (2003, winter 2009)**. The monetary award was presented to 25 artists from all over America. The Foundation's Education and Research Center is located in New York City. The organization also maintains an artist-in-residence program in New Orleans, LA. [See more](#) about the Joan Mitchell Foundation.

Therese LaHaie (2006, winter '10) was awarded the LuciteLux 2015 JUST IMAGINE Award for Public Art for her "*Crossing Signal Mosaic*," a new take on street-crossing signals we see every day. The award included a feature in *Architectural Record* magazine. See more at [her website](#).

Nova Ren Suma's (2012) novel, *The Walls Around Us*, has been nominated for the 2016 Edgar Young Adult prize by the Mystery Writers of America. [See it here](#). **But that's not all:** the novel is the winner of the 2015 *Cybils Award for Speculative Fiction* from the Children's and Young Adult Bloggers Literary Awards. [Read more](#).

Kathy Aoki (2006) was awarded the "*Prix-de-print*" in the journal *Art in Print* (Nov-Dec 2015) by Stephen Goddard, Senior Curator and Associate Director of the Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, Kansas. The winning piece *Makeup Myriorama* was also on display in the group show *Commedia* at the International Print Center New York, ending in January.

Iris Andraschek (2012) received the Vienna Art Prize for Public Art (KOR - Kunst im offentlichen Raum Wien). Her award-winning work is permanently installed in public spaces around the city. See more at <http://www.irisandraschek.com/>

Deborah Slater (1992, multiple winters, current trustee) and her *Deborah Slater Dance Theatre* will receive a coveted "Izzie" Award (Isadora Duncan Special Achievement Award). Save the Date: **March 21** - at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum. Click for more details. <http://www.deborahslater.org/>



Three Hills, David Nash, 2006

Djerassi news

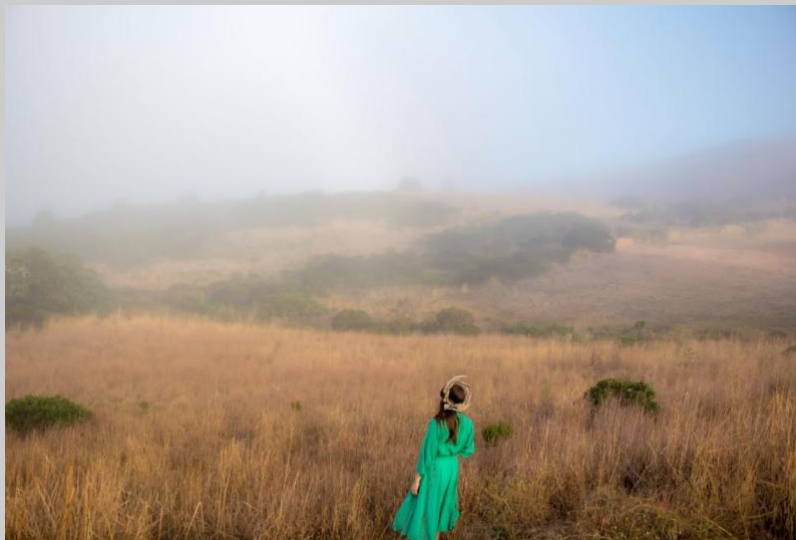
Kathryn Roszak (1993) will present the inaugural *Women's Ballet Choreographers Workshop* at the Artists' Ranch seeking to answer the question most asked by those in the Dance world: "Where are all the women choreographers?" *Kathryn Roszak's Danse Lumiere* will host the one-day seminar on **May 15**. The seminar follows the residency preview last September, 2015. See Kathryn's website for all the important details. <http://www.dlkdance.com/wbcr.html>

Nikki Zielinski (2015) based in Cleveland, Ohio, is focused on ways that "violence, both overt and institutional, shapes perception of one's community and environment as well as interaction with others." She has been nominated by The Program to be in residence at the Island Institute in Sitka, Alaska.

This just in from *Theatremania* website: **George Brant's (2010) Marie and Rosetta** will make its world premiere at Atlantic Theater Company in New York City this fall. We will keep you posted.

Barbara Stimoli (2015) has begun production on a new work "*Aftermath*." Barbara writes, "Using our Djerassi 'gift of time,' we [with dancer Titta] conceived a project about identity with workshops for teenagers, video installations and performance." Catch Barbara's latest dance videos from Italy. <https://vimeo.com/user3745227>

Read about **Ben Bracken** and **Ashley Bellouin (2013)** and some of their latest projects. The article, *My Favorite Martian: Ben Bracken*, on the *Cycling74.com* [computer music resource] website features a [photo of Ben and Ashley](#) at work in the Old Barn.



Mare Hieronimus (2015)

Ayad Akhtar (2015) is everywhere. See his interview by KUOW, public radio in Seattle, [here](#). Ayad is also featured in *Esquire* magazine. Read *What I've Learned: Ayad Akhtar* [here](#).

See a video on 2015's **Scientific Delirium Madness** on Vimeo. Click to

see LEONARDO's outstanding production, and promise yourself that this July you'll come to Djerassi for Open House which features this year's SDM 3.0!

<https://vimeo.com/150704249>

More reviews are in on **Jose Valente's (2012) "The Birds are Broken."** Portuguese music critic Rui Eduardo Paes writes, "Here it is a remarkable work from a musician that is being distinguished among us and that deserves the widest recognition." Jose has added some videos to his portfolio. See them on his website:

www.josevalente.com.

See it on YouTube: One of our participants last year, **Ariane Felix**, has documented her experience in **Nova Ren Suma's** writing workshop. The videos are an informative look at what is available in our workshops and how the experience can affect the outlook and aspirations of the participants. In several parts, begin with:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM4E2xKeFzA>

Melissa Burch's latest book, *My Journey Through War and Peace* was released March 1. She will tour with her new work on her own "*Heroine's Journey Road Trip & Quest*" throughout the country. See more details on her webpage: <http://melissa-burch.com/>

Boris Fishman's (2013) second book *Don't Let My Baby Do Rodeo* is coming in March from HarperCollins. It's about a family that "adopts a boy from Montana who turns out to be wild." See <http://borisfishman.com/events/> for dates and times of book signings and readings.

Sara Shelton Mann (1995, '02, '11, multiple winters) has received a *2016 Foundation for Contemporary Art Individual Artist Award for Dance*. The Foundation, based in New York, distributes grants to artists based on contributions from other artists. Says Sara, "It is a great honor, and I feel very blessed." From March 24 to 28, Sara will conduct a workshop at the Ranch, entitled "*Inside/Outside*," creating a "toolbox for performance through writing, improvisation and energetic awareness."

On the poetry bestseller list: **Robin Beth Schaer's (2012) *Shipbreaking*** (Anhinga Press). SPD - Small Press Distribution - maintains a list of publications that they promote "to connect readers with writers through independently published literature" as they follow the works' progress through the contemporary literature scene. See the complete list [here](#).

Still famous. Trustee chair **Cass Calder Smith's** Diane Middlebrook Studios continue to be spotlighted. *fastcodesign.com's* Diana Budd has authored [this story](#).

New on *Wikipedia*. Read about the newly featured artist **Ciel Bergman (2008)**:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ciel_Bergman

Read a review of **Beldan Sezen's (2015)** book, *Snapshots of a Girl* on the Panels.net website. See it [here](#).

C G & S

Comings, Goings & Showings

Let us know about *your* comings and goings. Email ART///SKY with your upcoming art events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible). Send to nick@djerassi.org.

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

Mar 3 to 6 LigoranoReese (1994, '98, 2002) and Stacey Steers (2014) *Art on Paper* - multimedia including video and paper, during Armory Week, presented by Catharine Clark Gallery NYC, 313 W 14th St., Chelsea, New York City.

Mar 5 to Apr 16 A.M. Rousseau (1988) paintings, Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Av., #G2, Santa Monica, CA.

Thru Mar 7 Lava Thomas (2003, winter '09) *Introspective*, self-portraits by 600 artists. SPRING/BREAK Art Show running concurrently with Armory Arts Week, Moynihan Station, 421 Eighth Avenue (34th Street), New York, NY.

Mar 10 to Apr 14 Rachel Cantor (2012) various book-tour

appearances from New York to Philadelphia to Providence and back. Click on www.rachelcantor.com website for details.

Mar 11 to Mar 13 **Mare Hieronimus (2015)** *AUGUR*, a 'wild project' of her collaborative PROJECT ORACLE - a migrating dance performance, 195 E. 3rd St., New York City.



Fogfall

Thru Mar 12 **Dipika Guha (2012)** *Mechanics of Love*, world premiere, [Crowded Fire Theatre](#), The Thick House, 1695 18th St., San Francisco.

Mar 14 to Apr 15 **Leslie Hirst (2002)** *Objectively Speaking*, links between visual and verbal, Cedar Crest College, Center for Visual Research, Allentown, PA.

Thru Mar 25 **Jessica Dunne (1997, 6 winters)** painting and prints, exhibition under the auspices of Institute for Art and Healing. Commonweal Gallery, 451 Mesa Av., Bolinas, CA.

Thru Apr 24 **Sharyn O'Mara (2005)** *HUSH*, group show, Philadelphia Art Alliance, 251 S. 18th St., Philadelphia, PA.

Apr 1 to 30 **Allison Leigh Holt (2014)** *The Glass System* - glass, video, light and more, North Dakota Museum of Art, 261 Centennial Dr., Grand Forks, ND.

Apr 1, 9 & 15 **Joshua Beamish (2010)** *Draft Works in the Clore: Reimagining Giselle*, work-in-progress with Royal Ballet, Clore Studio Upstairs, London, England. See [more](#).

Apr 2 & 3 **Donna Sternberg (2014)** and Dancers (DS&D) present *49 Days: Women Who Count*, Arena 1 Gallery, Santa Monica Airport, Santa Monica, CA.

May 19 **Kenji Liu (2013)**. Poetry, presented the Inlandia Institute's Inaugural Hillary Gravendyk Prize. Reading at the *Inlandia Conversations at the Culver*, Barbara and Art Culver Center for the Arts, University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA.

Thru Jun 5 **Tony Philips (1987, winter '02)** Surrealism: The Conjured Life, group show, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.

Mar 11 to Aug 14 **Jeremy Mende (2015)** *Guantanamo Bay Museum of Art and History*, featured in Take This Hammer: Art + Media Activism in the Bay Area, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

ART//SKY March 2016

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