



Sci Delirium/Open House Report | Cass Smith | Comings, Goings, Showings



People+Money+Artists = A Quantic Equation

As a society, Americans marginalize artists. We rely on artists to illuminate the world but reject them when we don't like or understand what they show us. We encourage our kindergartners to draw and dance but tell our high schoolers to stop wasting time. We ask artists to perform for free, donate their artwork for causes and play piano at parties. We ask them to fix education, revitalize inner cities and develop the local economy. They are the butt of jokes and the thing we don't want our children to become (unless they get a minor in business, too.) The success of individual artists is often measured by their commercial success, not in the number of lives they touch or lumens of meaning they unearth. Our measurement maps rarely fit their territory.

People who love artists are the most astute people in the world (okay, I'm biased). So, it warms my heart to see Janet Brown, Executive Director of **Grantmakers in the Arts** talk about Support for Individual Artists as a key strategy in her important organization's work. (See their newsletter with her blog [here.](#))

Not surprisingly, support for the institutions that hire, preserve, collect and present artists has dwarfed direct and capacity-building support for working artists. Few institutional donors or ticket-buyers have a direct relationship with a choreographer or playwright. Even fewer directly support the research & development portion of the creative process. Or even know how to.

Artists need maps to navigate the various institutional affiliations and bureaucracies needed to advance their creative lives. Cultural organizations have fundraising staff, infrastructure and boards of directors. Individual artists have themselves, a phone and, if they're lucky, a computer. The business and fundraising side of things are hard to balance with the demands of creation.

Creative Capital, New York Foundation for the Arts and Fractured Atlas, among others, are key providers of financial and administrative support. The Affordable Care Act may turn out to be the largest federal government investment in artists ever. Crowdfunding is off to a promising start for project-based work. As incubators, artist residency programs create space and time for artists.

Let's work together to turn things around. Let's figure out how to value artists. Let's embrace the dreamers and those driven to create. Let's open our eyes and recognize that their work surrounds us daily. Let us celebrate the individual artist as a walking embodiment of the U.S. Constitution's first amendment.

I don't think creativity is fragile, but support for its practitioners is increasingly scarce. It is deeply gratifying to see the *people* behind the foundations and corporate givers of Grantmakers for the Arts jump into the challenge to elevate the status and support of individual artists. As Janet Brown recently commented on her Facebook page, "It all starts with artists."

Respectfully yours,
Margot H. Knight
Executive Director

Session 5.2014

Following our mix of science and art, we're back to our full slate of artists for the fifth of seven sessions.

August 5 - September 3

Visual Arts

[Michael Boonstra](#), Eugene, OR

[Sarah FitzSimons](#), Madison, WI

Choreography

[Iu-Hui Chua](#), Davis, CA

Media Arts

[Paul Payton](#), San Carlos, CA

[Matthew Terrell](#), Atlanta, GA

Music Composition

[Jee Soo Shin](#), Southampton, UK (Korea)

Literature

[Kara Corthron](#), New York, NY Playwright

[Kimi Eisele](#), Tucson, AZ Writer

[Lea Nakonnechny](#), Montreal,
Canada Screenwriter/Filmmaker

[Shuchi Saraswat](#), Rosindale, MA Writer



Session 4.2014 SDM 1.0

Open House

Scientific Delirium Madness 1.0

In case you missed it, a convergence of art, science and nature took place at the Artists' Ranch high in the Santa Cruz Mountains on Sunday, July 27's open house.

Only "Djerassi Magic" can describe what went on 30 days prior to our Open House. Six scientists and six artists joined forces for the first time in the program's 35-year history. The results of that collaboration were on view for the over 240 attendees.

In collaboration with LEONARDO/The International Society for Arts, Sciences and Technology session members produced a variety of artworks and research projects, which they presented to the public for a Leonardo Art Science Evening Rendezvous (LASER) Day! See more about LASER [here](#).

See the thoughts and words of many of the participants on the LEONARDO [blogger](#).

And watch for Scientific Delirium Madness 2.0 in 2015!

Open House Dividends

The other outstanding feature of Open House this year was the presence of **the "Plein Air Paint Out" with The Woodside Plein Air Painting Group**. The artists were stationed along the trails, painting scenes of the Djerassi landscape. In a community partnership with the Arts and Culture Committee of the Town of

Woodside, the finished works were displayed at the Woodside Town Hall's First Friday event on August 1.

And in gratitude for the Plein Air Artists' efforts, the Djerassi Program will announce and donate a portion of the proceeds to the Arts and Culture Committee on September 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the beginning of the meeting of Woodside's Town Council.

More to Come



Dohee Lee to appear at Artful Harvest
photo Pak Han

Our next mountaintop celebration will be Sunday, October 12th. It's **Artful Harvest**, our renowned 'gala' (no formal wear required), as the ranch will be open once again to our friends and supporters. In addition to artists' performances, there will be items by artists, studio tours, trips and other outstanding items for auction. And last but not least, Michelin-starred Village Pub will provide the delicious fare as Napa Valley and Santa Cruz mountains will supply the wine. You can learn more at <http://www.djerassi.org/artfulharvest.html>. And watch this space next issue for more details.

Cass Calder Smith at Village Pub

Wednesday **August 20**, at the **Village Pub**, Woodside, please join the architect of the award-winning Diane Middlebrook Studios, **Cass Calder Smith** of **CCS ARCHITECTURE** as we celebrate the release of the firm's new book: *Eat, Live, Work*. The firm's first-of-its-kind monograph showcases over 40 projects completed over the past 20 years.

The Middlebrook Studios have provided inspirational live/work space for over 60 poets, playwrights, prose writers and media artists since their addition to the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in 2012. Also available will be *18 Days in June* by prominent Djerassi resident **Robert Buelteman**.

The free event takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. The Village Pub is at 2967 Woodside Rd., in Woodside. **Reservations are required:** RSVP to mwerner@ccs-architecture.com

AIR Mail: Artists-in-Residence Krems

The Djerassi Program is currently seeking applications from ALUMNI of the Djerassi Program in the disciplines of visual arts and media arts as part of an exchange with **AIR Artist-in-Residence Krems** program in **Krems, Austria**.

The selected artist will receive a two-and-one-half month residency in **April/May/mid-June 2015** and a stipend of 1,000 euros per month, paid in cash. Artists must cover the cost of their airfare to Vienna. Transportation from and to the airport is offered by the AIR Artist-in-Residence Krems staff.

The deadline to apply is **Thursday, August 21, 2014**. Artists will be notified of selection by **September 15, 2014**. The applicants will be reviewed by AIR Artist-in-Residence Krems and they will make the final selection.

The application fee is \$20. See more and start your application at <http://www.djerassi.org/2015-air-krems.html> and/or <https://djerassi.slideroom.com>.

Please note that current Trustees of the Djerassi Program are not eligible to apply.



Not Here, Seyed Alavi, 1990

Djerassi news

Christy Funsch (2006, 2012) will be in residence at Yaddo this October. (More in *Comings*, below). **Xia Gao (2010)** is now in Budapest attending an artist residency there. While in Budapest, she made a presentation at Kazi30 Gallery on July 18th. See *Comings, Goings & Showings* for more on both artists and other Djerassi alumni activities.

Dipika Guha (2012) is on a roster of women playwrights cited by "The Kilroys," a group seeking greater recognition of women writers in the eyes of theatre producers and artistic directors. Noting that few plays in production today are written by

women, the list is designed to provide notice to producers that "Kilroy Was Here," an irreverent bit of World War II graffiti. The Kilroys have produced several lists of notable plays written by women as outstanding candidates for production. See The New York Times [story](#) and see [The List](#).

From Sam Taylor (2012): In his own words, "I am very happy to announce that my second collection of poems has just been published in the Pitt Poetry Series and is now available for purchase, barter, investment, or alternative currency stockpiling. *Nude Descending an Empire* develops the lyrical voice of a citizen-poet engaged with politics, history, and the urgency of our contemporary moment, especially its ecological urgency. I may as well just say it: The book already loves you; it hopes that you will love it back."

Zachary James Watkins (2012) is spreading his wings under the big ART///SKY. Please take a look at his website <http://zacharyjameswatkins.com> to keep up with this talented and prolific musician.

Culturebot Maximum Performance, an e-zine, reviewed **Julie Mayo's (2013)** recent performance of *There, there* (performed by Mayo with Katie Dean, Stacy Grossfield and Jillian Sweeney). The 'Bot' said Mayo's choreography "is a dance with a past, present, and future happening at the same time." Read more [here](#).

Ciel Bergman (2008) has supplied the dust cover and content art for a new book, *Acequias & Gates: Miscellaneous Koans and Miscellaneous Writings on Koans*, by her friend Joan Sutherland, Roshi.

Andréa J. Onstad (2000) reports, "My play *Deer Haunting: A Far Side Cartoon* is being published in *The Best American Short Plays 2012-2013*, Applause Books, due out this month."

Read a review of **Ryan T. Smith and Wendy Rein (2011)** (aka RAWDance's) performance of "Turing's Apple" [here](#). (More about RAWDance in *Comings*, below).

Jessica Dunne (1997, winter 2010) has provided illustrations for *The Woods Were Never Quiet* a book by Monique Wentzel. The work is published by The Book Club of California. See more about Jessica in *Comings*, below.

Lisa Locascio (2014) fresh from her stay at the Ranch, wrote a story for TinHouse.com which accepts stories of "1000 words or fewer." As Lisa said, "To my great surprise, the piece went semi-viral." The story is called *Hunt*. She began it on the ranch earlier this summer. See it [here](#).

This just in from **Nick Hadikwa Mwaluko (2011)**: "*XXYX Africa: More Invisible* won the Christopher Hewitt Award in Creative Nonfiction and will be published in the national AIDS magazine A&U's August Summer Reading issue. In addition, *Waafrica*, the play I worked on while a Djerassi resident, was published by UN/Cut Voices Press, premiered in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and has been translated into German for a production in Berlin, Germany. *Waafrica* was also part of the American Conservatory Theater reading with San Francisco's *Magic Theater*." See [more](#).

Norman W. Long (2014) is beginning a crowdfunding project. According to Norman, "*Myth/Science Dubcology* is a tribute to Sun Ra on his 100th anniversary of his birth and follows my practice of gardening, collecting and creating as a way to connect people to history, space, ecology and community through sound." See *Comings*, below, and [this](#).

Comings, Goings & Showings

ART//SKY wants you! Alumni, send us your arts events. Please email your upcoming exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible) to nick@djerassi.org.

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



44th & Quintara, 2014, Jessica Dunne

Through August 22 **Timothy Nolan (2006, winter 2012)** *Conversations*, curated by Sharon Loudon, visual arts, Morgan Lehman Gallery, 535 West 22nd St., New York, NY.

Through August 31 **Cheryl E. Leonard (2004, winter 2010)** *Of Land and Sea: Natural Object Instruments*, an exhibition of musical instruments made with natural materials including wood, shells, bone, bark, seaweed, stones, sand and salt. The Center for New Music, 55 Taylor Street, San Francisco. More info at <http://centerfornewmusic.com/gallery/>.

Through August 31 **Beili Liu (2006)** *Chine*, installations, Art Musuem of Southeast Texas, 500 Main St., Beaumont, TX.

Through August 31 **Marietta Hoferer (2002)** *The Appearance of Clarity: Works in Black and White*, visual arts, Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, Vermont.

Through August 31 **Norman W. Long (2014)** *Electro-Acoustic Dubcology III* at ESS, Experimental Sound Studio, Fern Room, Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive, Chicago, IL.

September 4 **Dawn Logsdon (2012)**, editor, *Big Joy, the Adventures of James Broughton*, a film about the filmmaker and poet. Directed by Steven Silha. [Roxie Theatre](#), San Francisco.

September 10 See more 'Big Joy' at Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive.

September 5 - 6 **RAWdance: Ryan Smith and Wendy Rein (2011, winter 2013)** present repertory favorites from the last 10 years. See them at the [Yerba Buena Gardens Festival](#). 7pm Friday and 1pm Saturday at The Esplanade at Yerba Buena Gardens, 733 Mission St., San Francisco.

Through September 6 **Naomie Kremer (1999)**, *Desire Lines*, visual art. Modernism Gallery, 685 Market St., San Francisco.

Through September 6 **Xia Gao (2010)** *Library Thoughts 4*, Hegyvidek Gallery, Budapest, Hungary ... Through September 7 *Art We Use*, The Dairy Barn Arts Center, Athens, OH ... Through October 4 *Small Expressions 2014*, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA. Visit her website www.msu.edu/~gaox

September 10 **Conrad Cummings (1985)** *Two Premieres and a Reunion, a special evening of music by Conrad Cummings*. Includes lyrics by **Vikram Seth (1987)**. The National Opera Center, 330 Seventh Av, New York, NY.

September 12 to 14 **Christy Funsch (2006, 2012)** and the Funsch Dance Experience: *This is the Girl (premiere)*. A full-length work with accompaniment by the Grrrl Brigade Taiko drummers, guitarist Dory Ellis and many others. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St., San Francisco.

September 13, 14 and 19 to 21 **Mark Foehringer (2012)** and the Mark Foehringer Dance Project, World Premiere of *Dances of the Sacred and Profane* in a collaboration that began at the Djerassi Artists Residence with media artist and MacArthur fellow **Camille Utterback (2012)**. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco.

Through Sept 14 **Jessica Dunne (1997, winter 2010)** two works in *Big Keith: Golden State Grandeur*, landscapes. St. Mary's College Museum of Art, Moraga, CA.

September 18 to 21 **Jodi Lomask (2014)** and **Capacitor**, *Synaptic Motion*, performance. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco.

September 26 to 28 & October 3 to 5 **Lenora Lee (2012)** *Lenora Lee Dance 7th Anniversary Season* - two weekends of multimedia performances of new and repertoire work that weave together dance, martial arts, video projection, text and music. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street (at Mission), San Francisco.

Through Oct 12 **Susan Robb (2012)** *What is wild? Where is wild? Are you wild?* Grand Central Art Center, California State University, Fullerton, CA.

Through November 11 **Mauro Staccioli (1987, 89, 90, 99)** sculpture in Parc du Domaine Seneffe, Chateau Seneffe, Belgium.

ART///SKY August 2014

A publication of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Nick Walsh, arts guy, ART///SKY editor.
Banner art: *Hear*, Aristotle Georgiades, 2013. Photos by N. Walsh or as noted.

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