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**Subject:** Open now! Djerassi news. **MARCH 2015**

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**ART /// SKY**

*Torii, Bruce Johnson, 1983.*



What's New?

## **SPRING!**

We're BACK. Spring is springing up here on the mountain. As the rain brings green grass, the collegiality provided by Djerassi alumni workshop/retreats has jump-started the creativity of dozens of writers. Acclaimed authors **Jane Vandenburg (2010, winter 2013)** and **Heidi Durrow (2005, 2013)** started the year coaching participants through the complexities of writing their novels. Before

the first group of resident artists arrive in April, noted writer **Ann Fisher-Wirth (1996)** will be guiding artists in the process of memoir and nature writing. And San Francisco media artist **Ian Winters (2013)** will host a group to explore sound and media installations. The creative spirit is busting out all over.

Preserving the redwood forests and coastal grasslands is a critical part of our mission as well. I am pleased to say that, once again, ALL of our public hikes are "sold-out," and a few spots remain for my Director's Hikes. I want to thank our stalwart crew of trail docents for their work. Creating time for our Bay area neighbors to experience this magical place is critical to our vitality. And helps keep our reputation as one of the top artist residency programs in the world.

Next week (the deadline is March 15), we expect close to 900 applications from artists who need uninterrupted time to do their work. With the help of experts in the fields of poetry, prose, playwriting, visual arts, media arts, choreography and music composition, we will select 72 of the finest and most promising artists in the world. While most are NOT household names, their work advances the worldwide cultural landscape in remarkable ways.

Happy, creative Spring.

Care & respect,  
Margot H. Knight  
Executive Director

### **Call for Applications**

Deadline **March 15, 2015** for sessions in **2016**.

The Djerassi Program offers residencies, at no cost, to artists in the disciplines of visual arts, media arts, music composition, choreography, and literature. Artists selected by peer panels are offered room, board, and studio space for one of the 6 month-long sessions during the season, which runs from mid-April through mid-November.

### **APPLY:**

[www.djerassi.org](http://www.djerassi.org)

or through the online portal  
[www.djerassi.slideroom.com/](http://www.djerassi.slideroom.com/)

**2016 Core Season Residencies** Visual Arts, Media Arts, Music Composition, Choreography, and Literature

**2016 The Ford Family Foundation Fellowship for Oregon Artists** Visual Arts, Media Arts

**2016 Scientific Delirium Madness (July 6 - August 3, 2016)**

This unique project is a collaborative initiative of Leonardo/The International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology (ISAST) and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. One half of the participants will be scientists involved in significant art-related research and/or be practicing a form of art and/or have original ideas on how to integrate aspects of art and science. The rest will be creative artists whose work is informed or grounded by biology, physics, mathematics, geology, chemistry, agriculture or environmental science.

**Website:** [www.djerassi.org](http://www.djerassi.org)

**Email:** [drap@djerassi.org](mailto:drap@djerassi.org)

**Sculpture Tours - Only a Few Left**

Our Sculpture Tours continue to be popular events. The 2015 schedule is set and the window is narrowly open for your sign-ups. A few Director's Hikes spots remain open, so make your reservations now! Nothing beats a beautiful trek in the Santa Cruz mountains highlighted by an exhilarating array of striking sculptures and stirring vistas. Go to [www.djerassi.org](http://www.djerassi.org).

**While We Were Gone**

Among other events, the Ranch hosted members of The Shakespeare Theatre Association, a national group of theatrical associations. The group included 60 people, including 49 practicum registrants, 5 speakers, 4 staff and 2 volunteers.

And last, but not least, the kitchen and dining room in the artists' house have been updated to enhance our facility and to eliminate even the hint that there is such a thing as a 'starving artist.'

**Keeping up**

**Minal Hajratwala (2014)** has co-founded a poetry press to bring contemporary poetic voices from India to the world. Their crowdfunding campaign, held during December, met 101 percent of its startup goal! The (Great) Indian Poetry Collective can be found at [www.greatindianpoetrycollective.org](http://www.greatindianpoetrycollective.org). Get connected to exceptional global poetry from India to the world.

Counterpoint Press has published *Young Ovid: An Unfinished Posthumous Biography*, by the late **Diane Middlebrook**. The book has received some welcome attention - including a pre-publishing review in *The New Yorker*, and among readers via Amazon. See *The New Yorker* [preview](#), and a [review](#) in a recent issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

**Lava Thomas (2003, winter 2009)**, past Program trustee was profiled by *SFGate online*. Read [more](#).



*Txiti Hitkuk*, Anthony Heinz May, 2014

**Anthony Heinz May (2014)** has applied some of his inspiration from his time at Djerassi (see photo). It's a site-specific sculpture installation in the Bowery area of Manhattan at First Street Green Park, made in connection with LMCC Process Space and NYC Parks. The piece: *Txiti Hitkuk* (Unami/Delaware Language for "Few Trees") will be on display through March.

**Nova Ren Suma's (2012)** latest novel, *The Walls Around Us*, has received praise from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) in the website's **Best Books of the Month - Teen & Young Adult** category. The ever-popular Nova will return to Djerassi in June to conduct her third writers' workshop for enthusiastic aspirants in this genre.

**Cheryl Tan (2012)** invites your entry into a poetry contest about her native Singapore. As posted on our alumni Facebook site, **D.R.A.P. Alumni**: Enter a "poetry contest (with cash prizes!) for writers living in the U.S. who are not Singaporean. (Your poem has to be about Singapore.) Feel free to enter and/or pass this along and [spread the word](#). Deadline is June 1, 2015. (With apologies:) Zhu ni haoyun!

January 25th, **Lindsey Renee Derry (2013)** was the Honoree of **BayAreaDanceWatch's** Best Female Soloist-2014 award. The annual award show, LiveBlessay and celebration of San Francisco Bay Area Dance orchestrated by [BayAreaDanceWatch](http://BayAreaDanceWatch) (BADw), is now in its third year and growing.

On March 23rd, **Ms. Derry** will be honored at the 29th Annual Isadora Duncan Dance Awards Ceremony as a nominee for Individual Performance for her performance in [POR·TRAIT·TURE](#), her evening length solo show.

In mid-January **Norman W. Long (2014)** sound artist/designer/composer presented performances in Chicago that included musical accompaniment from an artist 700 miles away in Tulsa, Oklahoma! You can see more about Norman and his work [here](#)

Take a look at a newly published poem by **Robin Beth Schaer (2012)** presented by *Guernica Magazine*. She wrote the poem during her stay at Djerassi, and you might notice it is full of redwoods and even contains an image inspired by one of the sculptures in the forest. <https://www.guernicamag.com/poetry/messenger/>

During last summer's Scientific Delirium Madness, we at the Ranch were treated to some excerpts from **Dr. Charlotte Jacobs' (2014)** forthcoming book *Jonas Salk, a life*. This brilliant biography of Jonas Salk, the polio vaccine pioneer is scheduled to be published in May. See a [review here](#). The book is available for preorder from most large bookstores and online channels.

**Karen Tam (2011)** had a solo exhibition at Galerie Hugues Charbonneau, Montréal, Quebec, Canada. Read [more](#).

**Ingrid Rojas Contreras (2013)** and future alum **Jeremiah Barber (2015)** held their two-person show, *Lo Real Maravilloso/The Marvelous Real*, at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, in San Francisco's Mission District. Read [more](#).

Taking the 'Bookmobile' on the road, **Dawn Logsdon (2012)** is taking her film *Free For All: Inside the Public Library* on the road to a variety of libraries around the country, including Los Angeles Public Library, New York Public Library, Seattle Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Kansas City Public Library, Memphis Public Library, and many more. Check your local library for a possible visit. In the meantime, see more here: <http://www.free4allfilms.org/>

**Boris Fishman (2013)** is taking his show on the road as well. Read about his hit [visit to Orlando](#), Florida in January. AND Boris reports his book is now in its **third** print run!

**Dipika Guha (2012)** was featured at *Theatre Kalamazoo New Playfest* in January. She was invited to carry on an 'ongoing conversation' of playwriting in the vibrant cultural community of Western Michigan. See [more](#).

**Sasha Petrenko (2014)** is our latest alum to represent Djerassi at the Oberfalzer Kunstlerhaus in Schwandorf, Germany.



Keep up with **Nina Wise (1990, '06, '13)** and the Motion Theatre and Motion Institute. Subscribe to her newsletter and see her website: [www.motiontheater.org](http://www.motiontheater.org).

Join the throngs of satisfied tourists courtesy of 2013 alum: **David Politzer's Video Vacations**. Thrill to the Grand Canyon, be amazed by Santa Cruz, see tall Redwoods. Remember, a long journey begins with but [a single step](#).

## Comings, Goings & Showings

**Don't be a stranger!** Email your upcoming art events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible) to [nick@djerassi.org](mailto:nick@djerassi.org).

**To follow our alumni and friends' events, be sure to check the D.R.A.P. Alumni Facebook page.**

Through March 7 **Sam Kim (2013)** Premiere of *Sister to a Fiend* Dance Gibney Dance, Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center, 280 Broadway, New York City. Also featuring Joanna Kotze (2013). See: <http://www.gibneydance.org/sam-kim>.

Through March 8 **Nora Ligorano** and **Marshall Reese (1994, '98, '02)**, *LigoranoReese's Dawn of the Anthropocene*, a poignant and timely video with Catharine Clark Gallery at **Moving Image** art fair NYC, Waterfront New York Tunnel, 269 11th Avenue (Chelsea), New York, NY. Free and open to the public.

March 13 - April 11 **Jian-Jun Zhang (1995)** solo exhibition: *Water - Ink - China*, Pace Prints, 32 East 57th Street, New York.

Also: March 13-17 **Jian-Jun Zhang** *Nature and Beyond*, at Art Basel Hong Kong, Leo Gallery Booth 1C30, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

And -- March 17 through June, *1980s: Jian Jun Zhang's Artwork (1978-1988)*, Yuz Museum, Fenggu Road, Shanghai, China.

March 14 **Surabhi Saraf (2012)**, *FOLD*, media and performance art, Hosfelt Gallery, 260 Utah St., San Francisco.

Through March 15 **Kara Maria (2003)** *Creative in Common*, group show at de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA. <http://www.scu.edu/desaisset/>



March 21 **Donna Sternberg (2014)**, a site-specific performance in the garden of Jill Jacobson-Bennett, part of the Theodore Payne Foundation Native Plant Garden Tour, Los Angeles. For garden tour information and tickets go to <http://www.nativeplantgardentour.org/>.

Through April 3 **Barbara Edelstein (1996)** *Leaf in the Air*, visual arts, Christian Duvernois Gallery, 648 Broadway, suite 804, New York, NY.

Through April 5 **Lava Thomas (2003, winter 2009)**, *Beyond*, solo exhibition, Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission St., San Francisco.

Through Apr 11 **Angie Wilson (2013)** *Heft*, group visual arts show featuring Terry Berlier, Angela Hennessy, Masako Miki, Stephanie Robison, Berkeley Central Arts Passageway, 2055 Center Street, Berkeley, CA.

Through April 12 **Lauren DiCioccio: lift/HEFT: New Sculptures by Lauren DiCioccio and May Wilson**. Glass Gallery, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto.

Through April 15 **Beili Liu (2006)** *Stratus*, a site-responsive installation at the Grace Museum, Cypress St., Abilene, Texas. See more at Beili's [website](#).

**April 24-25 Joanna Kotze (2013)** with Jonathan Allen, Zachary Fabri, Asuka Goto, Stuart Singer, Netta Yerushalmy. *FIND YOURSELF HERE*, World Premiere, ADI Incubator, American Dance Institute, Washington, D.C. See [more](#).

April 26 **Kathryn Roszak (1993)** *Danse Lumiere* featuring "Romeo and Juliet" pas de deux, "Reverse Flow," and "City Noir," 2 p.m. Osher Studio Theatre (near downtown Berkeley BART), 2055 Center St., Berkeley. [www.dlkdance.com](http://www.dlkdance.com)

April 7 through May 17 **George Brant (2010)** author, *Grounded*, set to feature Anne Hathaway and Julie Taymor. The Public Theatre 425 Lafayette Street, New York, NY. See [more](#).

Opening May 9 **Beili Liu** [Arte & Arte Foundation](#) exhibit, *Everyone to the Table*, Pianta San Francesco, Como, Italy.

May 12 - June 6 **Ken Urban (2012)** *Sense of an Ending*, Theatre 503, The Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Road, London, England.

Through Dec 11 **Sasha Petrenko (2014)** [Just Passing Through: Sculptures and Installations](#) Kalmanovitz Hall Rooftop Sculpture Terrace, University of San Francisco, 2300 Fulton St.

## ART//SKY March 2015

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