



September 2015

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Artful Harvest | Cameron Hockenson | Artist Kudos



Untitled, 1990, Mauro Staccioli.

Bringing in the Sheaves

Harvest is in the news. The long, hot summer has meant an early grape harvest for many California vintners. But, rain or shine, the artful harvest continues both uncapitalized (pun intended) and CAPITALIZED. As in [ARTFUL HARVEST](#) - the Djerassi Program's bang-up, annual gala to celebrate the year-round work of artists here at Djerassi.

Artful Harvest is not just about reaping what you sow - more importantly it is about SOWING what we reap. Yes, the work of choreographers, writers and visual artists will be infused and highlighted prominently during the event. You will catch a snippet of **Anne LeBaron's** newest opera, *LSD: The Opera*, and former

California Poet Laureate **Al Young** will read work inspired during his time with us.

Money raised will allow artists from around the world to plant themselves here on the mountain for 30 days. The time is **THEIRS** - to take risks, to follow their muses wherever our 583 acres take them, or to just **BE**. Djerassi is a place for artists to nourish themselves - away from the press of day-to-day intrusions and distractions. Here artists are trusted and revered and supported. In a world that is often unkind to artists, the gift of time is an extraordinary one.

Why does Djerassi matter? The rest of **ART///SKY** tells that story. Performances, books, exhibitions, plays and concerts - many inspired or created here. Because what happens on the mountain **DOESN'T** stay on the mountain.

Please join us on October 11 and harness yourself to the idea that this perpetual sowing and reaping of all things artful is important.

Care & respect,
Margot H. Knight
Executive Director

September 8 - October 7
Session FIVE ... 2015's penultimate group:

Visual Arts

Carol DePasquale, Oakland, CA

Shea Hembrey, Newport, AR

Media Arts

Jeremy Mende, San Francisco, CA

Choreography

Allie Hankins, Portland, OR

Music Composition

Anne LeBaron, Valenica, CA

Literature

Zhou Binghao, New York, NY. Writer

Melissa Burch, Cambridge, MA. Writer

Tom Gilroy, Brooklyn, NY. Filmmaker/Playwright

Paul Heller, Berkeley, CA. Playwright

Kathie Klarreich, Key Biscayne, FL. Writer

Melissa Roberti, Roseville, CA. Playwright



Session 4.2015

Read the artists' [biographies](#).

Djerassi Dialogues on YouTube

Several Session 4 artists are featured on our YouTube site this month. Make the page a Favorite to keep up with our remarkable group of artists.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6XCiKUMT0X8Rx_Yqo2LNsg

In Mourning:

Cameron Hockenson (2013, winter 2013)

Cameron Hockenson, 40, died recently in an accident near Carmel, CA. Cameron brought his outstanding presence to Djerassi. He made an impact on the Program and his fellow residents with both his art and his character. Cameron produced three "crop circles" on the ranch terrain (see photo). He even coordinated with *Google* to be sure *Google Earth* caught the impressions in their glory.



Quoting from Cameron's report to the Irvine Foundation which underwrote his residency, "I wanted to make art that addressed the sense of global and local scale, deep time, and cultural connections to a unique landscape. While in residence, I completed three large drawings cut from dry grassland to evoke different ideas of time. My drawings are intended to be seen by hikers on the grounds as well as passing air traffic. Common symbols For **Fast-Forward**, **Pause** and **Play** were transcribed onto the hillsides and are inspired by buttons on media devices, as well as geometry found in the most ancient forms of human mark-making. Each image will slowly green over time as seasons pass from Fall to Winter to Spring, and then disappear." RIP, Cameron.



Less Than 3 Weeks To Go - Reserve Your Spot Now

ARTFUL HARVEST is our biggest event of the year! **Join us Sunday, October 11** for a celebration to support the Djerassi Program's Gift of Time for artists. This intimate afternoon that transforms into an evening sunset is unlike any gala you have ever attended.

You'll enjoy delicious fare from Michelin-starred *Village Pub* of Woodside. Entertainment comes from **Anne LeBaron (2006, 2015)** with excerpts from her new opera, *LSD, The Opera*. LeBaron is also a resident this session. See her biography [here](#). In addition, Artful Harvest will host another alum, California Poet Laureate **Al Young (1986)**. Call for tickets at 650-747-1250 or go to our [website](#).



Meanwhile, you can participate in a silent auction with alumni and other artists' works as well as trips and gifts. In addition we will feature for auction an original **David Nash (1987, '89, '90, '97, winter 2006)** work: *Warp Column* and works by Nathan Oliveira.

2016 Workshops Registration Now Open

Find your muse in the company of some our most outstanding alumni. You can take classes in exciting disciplines, live and learn on our mountain ranch overlooking the Pacific, and enjoy chef Dan Tosh's amazing food.

Attend 2016 retreats with:

Ann Fisher-Wirth (2005) - Environmental Life Writing - January 10-16

Heidi Durrow (2005, '13) - Writing Your Debut Novel - January 22-28
Jane Vandenburg (2010, winter '13) - Writing Your Book-Length Narrative -
February 17-21, 2016 and Feb 1-5, 2017
Nova Ren Suma (2012) - Young Adult Novel Writing - March 6-12 and March
17-23
Sara Shelton Mann (1995, '02, '11) - Inside/Outside, Movement Practices -
March 25-28
Robert Buelteman (1996, winter '08-'14) - Ways of Seeing/Ways of Being -
Photography - April 3-8
Ian Winters (2013) - Media and Video Installation - June 23-29

Complete costs, fees, schedules and information on our [website](#).

Djerassi news

Sarah Broom (2012) has family members who lived through the hell that was hurricane Katrina 10 years ago in New Orleans. She describes her family's ordeal in the *New Yorker* magazine in an article entitled *The Yellow House, a decade after the storm, my mother still can't go home*. Sarah goes back to NOLA and recounts the impact of the horrendous storm and the chaotic aftermath that surrounded her family, relatives, friends and neighbors. Read this compelling story [here](#).



Sculpture Tour

Art and Science - Carbon Dating or Just Good Friends?

A thought-provoking article discusses the relationship between art and science, the author, Cheryll Barron, evokes our founder Carl Djerassi, and asks the headline-question, "*As great scientists frankly admit what they owe artists, should the income gap between gifted arts and science workers be quite so wide?*" Read it [here](#).

Kenji Liu (2013) was awarded the inaugural Hillary Gravendyk Book Prize by Southern California's Inlandia Institute. He will receive a publishing contract and stipend for his work *Map of an Onion*. Winner of the National category, the book will be published in 2016. See [more](#).

Jeremiah Barber (2015) has received a grant from the Franklin Furnace Fund. With the subtitle "On a Mission to Make the World Safe for Avant-Garde Art," and supported by the Jerome Foundation, among others, the Fund has annually awarded grants "to emerging artists selected by peer panel review to enable them to prepare major performance art works."

Robin Tewes (1997) spent time as an artist-in-residence at Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild in Woodstock, New York. The colony holds open houses at the end of their sessions. Robin's work completed during her stay was on display during Byrdcliffe's Open Studios on August 28.

Birthday Celebration in honor of Anna Halprin

The Bay Area dance legend turned 95 last month. Many outstanding dance performers, enthusiasts and admirers were there. Under the auspices of Tamalpa ArtCorps, the celebration program featured an improvisation by **Nina Wise (1990, 2006, 2013)**. From their website: "Tamalpa ArtCorps helps bring the healing power of dance and creative expression to communities in need."



Panel discussion at US Bank/Ascent, featuring (l to r) Elizabeth Leach, Dale Djerassi and Margot

Knight. Photo Terra Fuller.

Djerassi: A Legacy is on view at the US Bank building in San Francisco. The display features all-Djerassi alumni visual artists curated by Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, Oregon. Sponsored by *Ascent*, the private banking unit of US Bank, the artworks are on exhibit for the firm's visiting clients. Djerassi alumni featured are **Sayed Alavi (1990), Val Britton (2014), Suzie Buchholtz (2015), Judy Dater (1999), Jessica Dunne (1997), Kara Maria (2003), Carol Setterlund (2004, winter 2007),**

Linda Simmel (2013), John Wehrle (1995), and Heather Wilcoxon (1998).

Hot off the presses

Fox Tooth Heart stories by John McManus (2013) is available through [Powell's City of Books](#).

Allison Cobb (2015) recently of this year's Scientific Delirium Madness, has had her chapbook *Plastic: an autobiography* published by Essay Press. Find it at <http://www.essaypress.org/>.

Timothy Braun (2010) reports, "My story *The Anatomy of Detroit, or How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love 'Mike and Molly'*, part of *Away, With Dusty*, has been published by Medium.com. It features me breaking a finger, scattering herbs and spices on Colonel Sanders' grave, and interviews with and links to the work of several artists." Find it [here](#).

A new book has arrived from **Laura Marello (1995)** a professor at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia. Entitled *The Gender of Inanimate Objects and Other Stories*, the book is published by Tailwinds Press, and the collection is discussed [here](#).

Melville House is set to publish a new novel by **Rachel Cantor (2012)** entitled *Good on Paper*. See a preview and release schedule [here](#).

Comings, Goings & Showings

"If the house is a-rockin', don't bother knockin'!" - Stevie Ray Vaughan.
Let's everybody get rockin' with an email to ART//SKY with your upcoming **art events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours** (as far in advance as possible - next issue October 30) to nick@djerassi.org.

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

September 22 **Zachary James Watkins (2012)** *Black Spirituals*, acoustic-electric onstage improvisation, The Sump, 1563 Decatur St., Queens, NY. Listen to a sample of Black Spirituals [here](#).

September 26 **Daniel Gwartzman (2005, winter 2013)** *Making Movies Festival* at the Jamaica (NY) Performing Arts Center. More at Daniel's website:

<http://gwartzmandance.org/>

October 1 - 31 **Basil Twist (2005, winter '12)** *Sisters Follies, Between Two Worlds*, new genres puppetry, Abrons Art Center, 466 Grand St., New York, NY.

October 8 **Lisa K. Blatt (2012)** *The Land Mark Show*, 28 contemporary artists, Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Through October 10 **Jian-Jun Zhang (1995)** *China Chapter Series*, Galerie Albrecht, Berlin, Germany.

October 10 **Christie Funsch (2006, 2012)** Improvisational performance at *Yerba Buena Night* with Aura Fischbeck, **Erin Mei Ling Stuart (2007, 2011)**, and Arletta Anderson. Jessie Plaza, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco.

October 11 **Deborah Slater (1992, winter 2006, '10, '12, '14)** movie short: PRIVATE LIFE VARIATIONS selected for the San Francisco Dance Film Festival, directed and choreographed by Ms. Slater. 7:00 p.m., Brava Theatre Center, 2781 24th St., San Francisco.

October 14 & 15 **Laura Konjetsky (2013)** *NIGHT-TIME*, solo piano recital, Schwere Reiter, Munich, Germany.

October 17 **Christie Funsch** Performance of new solo work by Nol Simonse in a benefit for **Deborah Slater's Studio 210**, 3435 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco.

Through October 17 **Kara Maria (2003)** *Haywire*, visual art. Catharine Clark Gallery, 248 Utah St., San Francisco.

Through October 17 **Roberto Paci Dalò (1987)**
Re/Presenting Music #2, group exhibition, Galerie Mario
Mazzoli, Potsdamer Strasse, Berlin, Germany.

October 17 **Roberto Paci Dalò** music for *Nicola
Costantino: La Artefacta*, a film by Natalie Cristiani, BFI
London Film Festival, London, England.

October 23 - November 15 **Christie
Funsch** Choreographer for *Arctic Requiem*, with
Bootstrap Foundation, Z Below, 470 Florida St., San
Francisco.

October 24 **Joya Cory (1983)** *Full Spectrum* beginner
and intermediate classes, Spring/Fall Studio, 2525 8th St.
at Dwight, Berkeley. Apply for more available Full
Spectrum Improvisation classes this fall. To register, go
to www.joyacory.com.



Kara Maria. Photo T. Fuller

October 27 - December 3 **Surabhi Saraf (2012)** *Remedies*, solo exhibition, Galerie
Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai, India.

Through November 1 **Alice Miceli (2013)** photographs taken in Colombia, exploring the
space of minefields, Cisneros-Fontanals Grants and Commissions Program (CIFO), CIFO Art
Space, 1018 N. Miami Av., Miami, FL.

November 2 **Sarah Klein (2005, winter '07, '09, '12, '13)** *Stop & Go, Made from Scratch*,
animation, Intersection for the Arts, 925 Mission St., San Francisco.

November 13 & 14 **Jerome Kitzke (2009)** *An American Maverick, Jerome Kitzke at 60*, The
DiMenna Center for Classical Music, Mary Flagler Cary Hall, 450 West 37th St., New York,
NY.

November 13 & 14 **Donna Sternberg (2014)** *What's Next?* dance, poetry and music mash-up,
with poet Suzanne Lummis and musician Colm O'Riain, Ivy Substation, Culver City, CA.

Through November 22 **Luca Forcucci (2015)** group show: AFTERSOUND, Frequency,
Attack, Return, including two of Luca's graphic scores: *In a Silent Way / Russian Map of the
Attack of Berlin*, Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University, Purnell Center for the Arts,
Pittsburgh, PA. [See and hear more.](#) Read about Luca's recent show in San Francisco [here](#).

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

Through January 5, 2016, **Stacey Steers (2014)**, *Night Hunter House* is featured in a group show *Showing Off, Recent Modern and Contemporary Acquisitions*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO.

ART///SKY September 2015

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