

**From:** Djerassi Artists Ranch <drap@djerassi.org>

**Subject:** It's Undebatable: Artists Matter

**Preheader:** Important Information

**Reply:** drap@djerassi.org



**September 2016**

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**Tree, Aristotle Georgiades,  
2013**

### **"Awumbuk"**

I generally do not find time to reach much outside of the news, nonprofit management tomes and books by Djerassi residents. So this weekend was the exception that proved the rule as I downloaded an amazing book, "The Book of Human Emotions: *From Ambiguphobia to Umpty-154 Words from Around the World for How We Feel*" by Tiffany Watt Smith.

I fell into the world of nuanced emotion and found that much of this lexicographical grand tour describes feelings I have about art and artists. These

are the feelings that fill in the gap between mad, glad and sad. More interesting, these are the words that embrace the idea that feelings matter. That, in and of itself, is a revelation in America's hard-driving DNA.

*Awumbuk* is a word used by the Baining people of **Papua New Guinea** to describe "the feeling of emptiness after visitors depart." I tell artists they are not allowed to feel sad about LEAVING our residency until 48 hours before departure. But the staff and I are constantly saying hello just to say goodbye to some of the most memorable people I have ever met. The Baining people fill a bowl with water and leave it overnight to absorb the festering air. The next day, the family rises very early and ceremonially flings the water into the trees, whereupon "ordinary life resumes."

Fortunately, our *awumbuk* is the world's joy, as artists return to their homes, hometowns, galleries and public spaces. They return refreshed and well-fed-ready to re-engage with their communities and their day-to-day lives. They often return with tens of thousands of new words, scores of new sketches and pages of new musical notes.

As the national meeting approaches of the Alliance of Artists Communities - a gathering of **ALL** the people who invest their time in supporting artists and the artistic process, there will be a whole lot of *awumbuk* in the air.

Regardless of where **YOU** live, embrace the artists who live there. **It matters.**

Care & Respect,  
**Margot H. Knight**  
Executive Director

**P.S.** And COME to **Artful Harvest on Sunday, October 16**-it is a celebration of all 2,400 artists who have graced us with their presence over the past 37 years!

**The Penultimate Group ...**

Session 5 is underway.

**September 14 to October 12**

**Visual Arts**

**Anne Beth Albagli**, San Francisco, CA.  
**Ajit Chauhan**, San Francisco.  
**Adam Kuby**, Portland, OR.

**Media Arts**

**Raheleh Minoosh Zomorodinia**,  
Albany, CA.

**Literary Arts**

**Samantha Chanse**, New York, NY.  
Playwright  
**Virginia Grise**, Bronx, NY. Playwright  
**Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich**,  
Cambridge, MA. Writer  
**Rosemary McGuire**, Haines, AK.  
Writer  
**Cintia Santana**, Menlo Park, CA. Poet

**Choreography**

**Laura Larry Arrington**, San Francisco.

**Music Composition**

**Carolyn Chen**, Pasadena, CA.

See a listing and biographies of 2016 artists [here](#).



**Session 4.2016**



DJERASSI RESIDENT ARTISTS PROGRAM  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016  
3PM - 7PM

**See us on YouTube**

Check out Djerassi Program's new YouTube channel. See interviews featuring our artists as they experience their Gift of Time on the ranch. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTyrQiJCrxDSJcv5Utd2SoQ>

**Only 3 Weeks to the Big Day:  
October 16, 2016**

You'll delight to delicious cuisine from Spruce/Village Pub chef Mark Sullivan. Enjoy the inspiring grounds, the legendary sunset and

the outstanding artist works, trips, fine wines, studio visits and other coveted art objects available at our silent auction. In addition, alumni **Basil Twist (2005, winter 2011)** and **Ingrid Rojas Contreras (2013)** will appear. Puppeteer Twist will transport you with his 3D animations and fantasies. Newly minted Program Trustee Rojas is both an author and visual artist who will bring her unique perspective to our appreciative viewers. Make your reservations now for Artful Harvest at our website:

<http://www.djerassi.org/artfulharvest.html>.

### **TREE**

*TREE (Trends in Ecology And Evolution) magazine*

and *CellPress* have made reference to the Program's Scientific Delirium Madness as an example of the trend toward using art to convey scientific concepts to the general public. The publication cites our partner in the enterprise, LEONARDO, International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology. See more about LEONARDO [here](#).

### **Baltic Reunions**

Our international credentials remain in good order as executive director Margot Knight met up with **Cage Glantz/Ken Chowder (1985, '89, '90, winters '11, '13)** and **Marianne Groennow (2003)** in Copenhagen (photo right) and **Katri Haarde (2010)** in Tallinn, Estonia. In addition we made contact with artists through the *Moderna Museet* in Stockholm, Sweden. They are just a few of those who are helping us spread the word to artists in Europe to apply to the artists' ranch.



**Katri Haarde, Tallinn, Estonia**



**Copenhagen, Denmark, (l to r) Margot Knight with Ken Chowder/Cage Glantz, and Marianne Groennow**

### **Farewell and Welcome Aboard**

We say goodbye to **Celia Olsen** who has left the program management position to take a teaching position. Good Luck, Celia.



**Rewa, left, and Anza**

We carry on our Gift of Time support with **Anza Jarschke** and **Rewa Bush** as our new program manager and program associate, respectively. Anza comes to us from Napa where she most recently worked at *diRosa* museum and galleries. Rewa, fresh out of Oberlin, brings her knowledge and experience both off and on the ranch to the position, as she has interned with us for several years. Welcome!



Earlier this month, **Dohee Lee (2014)** presented *ARA - Ritual 1: Waterways*, dance works based on the story of a Korean goddess whose tears produced running rivers that turned into stars. The production also featured the work of *Puri Arts* collaborators and alumni Ian Winters (2013) and **Donald Swearigen (1994)**. See more about Dohee below in **Comings, Goings and Showings (C,G&S)** and about her company at [her website](#).

Read a review of **Cheryl Tan's (2012)** *Sarong Party Girls* novel and its use of "Singlish," the colloquial adaptation of Singaporean and English. Is use of the dialect good? Is it bad? Or is it just Singlish? *Who Gets to Decide What Counts as "English"?* *On Decolonizing Language* by Gabrielle Bellot appears on the Literray Hub website. Read [more](#).

**Anthony Heinz May (2014)** has had a busy summer. He's completed four installations: *Few Trees* (originally titled *Txiti Hítukuk* from Unami/Delaware



photo A.H. May

languages) at the historical Old Stone House in Brooklyn, point of a pivotal American Revolution battle; *Re: Branding A'yahos* developed from a dead white-oak trunk relocated to Bellevue Downtown Park (WA) from Central Oregon, for the Bellwether Confluence Exhibition; *Persievrance*, a site-specific rearrangement of a Norway maple in connection with NOMAA's Fort Tryon Evolving Terrain, on site at the south entrance to Heather Garden (NYC); and *Progress > (Product)*, near the Science and Industry Museum in Jackson Park, Chicago (IL). The work (*photo at left*) is an *in-situ* reconstruction based on a freestanding dead ash tree, victim of the emerald-ash-bore beetle.

**Janet Sternburg (1990)** writes that a monograph of her photography will come out this fall. Berlin-based Distanz-Verlag will publish *Janet Sternburg: Overspilling World* which includes essays on her work by filmmaker Wim Wenders and photographer Cathy Opie. Book launches will be in Los Angeles, New York and Europe. Watch for Janet's events in **Comings, Goings and Showings!** More at <http://janetsternburgphoto.com/>

**Eathan Janney (2015)** reports that his first journal article based on his PhD research on birds and human musicians has been published. He was a noted presenter at last year's Scientific Delirium Madness 2.0.

A brief excerpt: "Some songbirds follow musical principles used by human musicians, according to an international team of researchers ... The paper, published in *Royal Society Open Science*, examines the song of Australia's pied butcherbirds, one of the world's most musical birds. Lead author, Eathan Janney's statistical analyses rely upon an extensive catalogue of field recordings compiled and analyzed musically." The union of art and science continues.

Writer, raconteur **Kimberly Dark (2011)** jumps into the controversy concerning today's oversensitive academics who feel they must be warned before they have to deal with controversial or upsetting topics, stories, lectures, etcetera. We can practice respect without losing the will to face difficult subjects. Heads up: The online piece appears at bullshit.ist.com. <https://bullshit.ist/trigger-warnings-and-the-myth-of-over-sensitive-students-f2b811a0b18e#.osias5pfv>

News from **Susan Robb (2012)**. She's been commissioned by the Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS), in partnership with the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to research, develop and create a **Public Art Master Plan** for downtown **Seattle**. During her year-long residency, Robb will formulate a public art plan that creates a robust, cohesive, and long-range vision for SDOT's *One Percent for Art* programming and enhancements in Seattle's downtown core. Kudos to Susan for her position in this important platform, and **ART///SKY** salutes the city of Seattle for their dedication to public art!

**Taylor Ho Bynum (2013)** reports, "I am profoundly excited about my new album, *Enter the PlusTet*. The official street release date is October 28 on [Firehouse 12 Records](#), but if you just can't wait to get your hands on it, you can get an advance copy at one of our upcoming gigs." See **CG&S** (below) for details.

**Patricia Colleen Murphy's (2016)** poetry collection, *Hemming Flames*, is reviewed in the *Hayden's Ferry Review*. The interest and awards continue for this newly released collection. Read the review [here](#).

**Laurie Stone's (2007)** new book *My Life as an Animal, Stories* published by TriQuarterly Books/Northwestern University Press will be released October 15. Look for stories as "haphazard as the chards of a bowl you've dropped on the floor."



**Orpheus Coyote and Friends, William King, 1999**

#### **Number 4!**

Playwright **Ayad Akhtar (2015)** is on AmericanTheatre.org's top 20 produced playwrights for the 2016-17 season. The publication of Theatre Communications Group counts 14 Akhtar productions on the boards. The list includes names like Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller. Ayad is a solid fourth. To see the list, click [here](#).

# CG & S

## **Comings, Goings & Showings**

Let's hear from our artists about upcoming events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible, please). Send 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.**



**Sep 27 Austen Leah Rosenfeld (2016)** Poetry and group readings under the auspices of ZYZZYVA, noted San Francisco literary magazine, City Lights Booksellers, 261 Columbus Av., San Francisco.

**Thru Oct 1 Jessica Dunne (1997, 2002, multiple winters)** *Anne and Mark's Art Party*, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA.

**Oct 1 & 2 Lenora Lee (2013)** *The Eye of Compassion* (world premiere) multimedia immersive

dance experience. Donaldina Cameron House, 920 Sacramento St., San Francisco.

**Oct 1 to Jan 22 Sandra Gibson (2011, winter '13) and Luis Recoder (winter 2013)** Behind the Curtain, group exhibition, Museum Kunstpalast, Dusseldorf, Germany.

**Oct 1 Lindsey Renee Derry (2013)** A *Kickstarter* campaign launch to support her upcoming dance performances at dance festivals in Hong Kong and Seoul. Champagne, good company and rewards for backers. The Market, Twitter Building, 10<sup>th</sup> and Market St., San Francisco.

**Oct 1 to 8 Karen Benke (2001)** *WRITE BACK SOON! Adventures in Letter Writing* (Shambhala/Penguin Random House, 2015). Karen presents in NYC, leading workshops at Poets House and the NYPL. Visit her at [www.karenbenke.com](http://www.karenbenke.com) for more info.

**Thru Oct 2 Karen Tam (2011)** *Terra dos Chinês Curio Shop* installation, at the artist-run centre, articule, 262 Fairmont O., Montréal, Quebec, Canada.  
<http://www.articule.org/en/projects/terras-dos-chines-curio-shop>

**Oct 2 to 7 Melanie Bishop (2016)** *Writing Workshop*, Vagabond Inn, Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA. A few more places in this writers' workshop are open. See more at <http://www.vagabondshouseinn.com/MelanieBishop.html>

**Oct 7 Taylor Ho Bynum (2013)** *THB's Rank Sentimentalist* (w/Marika Hughes, Evan Patrick, Stomu Takeishi & Chad Taylor). [Pioneer Works](http://www.pioneerworks.com), 159 Pioneer St, Brooklyn, NY.

**Oct 7 to 30 Frank Foreman (1983, 2015, multiple winters)** *Judy's Cabinet of DADA Curiosities & More, A retrospective of five decades of art by Judy Foreman (1940 - 2014)*, elements of her "dada life." The exhibition reflects the fact that Dada is alive and well during this centennial of its birth in Zurich. Includes work by Djerassi alumni **Mel Henderson (1983, '85 - '89)**, **Leigh Hyams (1983, former exec director)**, **Catie O'Leary**, **Dennis O'Leary (executive director 1997-2011)** and **Beili Liu (2006)**. R. Blitzer Gallery, 2801



Djerassi Moon, photo by Weidong Yang, 2016

Mission St, Santa Cruz, CA.

**Oct 8 and 9 Ryan Smith, Wendy Rein (2011) RAWdance.** *Concept Series: 19*, the Green Room, 401 Van Ness, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, San Francisco.

**Thru Oct 9 Jessica Dunne** *WildSpaces in Urban Places*, (sponsored by U.S. Forest Service) Artiszen Cultural Arts Center, 337 Georgia St., Vallejo, CA.

**Thru Oct 11 Vanessa Woods (2008) Emic/Etic**, 40 unique collages, a.Muse Gallery, 614 Alabama St., San Francisco.

**Oct 11 Luca Forcucci (2015) Mental Imagery and Embodiment in the Sonic Arts - Extending Space, Sound and the Self.** A LASERZurich presentation. Hardturmstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland. More info: <http://www.laserzurich.com/talks.php>

**Thru Oct 12 Robert Buelteman (1996, multiple winters) Who Speaks for the Land?** Images of the Peninsula including views of the Artists' Ranch, San Mateo County Historical Museum, Redwood City, CA.

**Sep 28 to Oct 13 George Brant (2010) Grounded**, drama presented at Company of Fools' Theater, 110 North Main St., Sun Valley, Idaho.

**Thru Oct 16 Brent Fogt (2014) New Business**, visual art of 23 artists who have participated in development programs with the Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 S. Cornell Av., Chicago.

**Oct 23 Hannah Star Rogers, Maja Spasova, Matteo Farinella, and Adam Zaretsky (all 2016) New York LASER: Rendezvous Event**, speakers from this year's Scientific Delirium Madness. A presentation of Leonardo Education and Art Forum (LEAF). LevyArts, 40 E. 19<sup>th</sup> St., New York City.

**Oct 27 to 29 Julie Mayo (2013) Novatia Tryer**, dance performance featured in *Making Space* - Gibney Dance's fall season. 280 Broadway at Chambers St., New York, NY. More info at <https://gibneydance.org/>

**Thru Oct 31 Jian-Jun Zhang (1995) White Grey Black**, Canvas International Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

**Nov 4 to 6 Christy Funsch (2006, 2013) Performance: Le grand spectacle de l'effort et de l'artifice**, ODC Theater, in San Francisco.

**Nov 9 to 19 Sam Kim (2013) Fear in Porcelain**, dance performance. The Chocolate Factory, 5-49 49th Avenue, Long Island City, NY.

**Nov 12 to Dec 22 Karen Tam**, exhibition of a herd of piñata versions of Tang Dynasty funerary ceramic statues of horses and camels, alongside cyanotype tiles depicting

constellations from the star charts found in the Dunhuang caves. Galerie Hugues Charbonneau, 372 Ste. Catherine O., Montréal. <http://huguescharbonneau.com>

**Nov 24 to Mar 17, 2017** Chris Fraser, installation and sculpture group show, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico.

**Thru Dec 31** Barbara Edelstein (1994, '96) and Jian-Jun Zhang (1995) *Under Heaven: Contemporary Art from China in the Ahmanson Collection*, Ahmanson Gallery, Irvine, CA.

**Thru Jan 1** Jessica Dunne *Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here - In Defense of Culture*, San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin St., San Francisco.

**Thru Jan 8** Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder *Celluloid*, group exhibition, EYE Filmmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

**Thru Feb 19** Joan Perlman (1990, winter '13), "a sky in a palm of a hand" paintings and video. With Lloyd Hamrol. Pasadena Museum of California Art, 490 East Union St., Pasadena, CA.

#### **ART///SKY September 2016**

A publication of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, written and edited by Nick Walsh: [nick@djerassi.org](mailto:nick@djerassi.org). Rewa/Anza photo by staff. Other photos by N. Walsh or as noted. Banner: *Torii*, Bruce Johnson (1983).

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