

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

Subject: Open Now: Djerassi News

Reply: drap@djerassi.org



December 2014

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Secrets of the Ranch | Winter Artists | Djerassi News



Secrets of the Ranch



Courtesy of J. Vierra.

Over 2,000 artists have roamed these 583 acres over the past 35 years. They have shared secrets, discovered secrets and left secrets. Every once in a while we find a sculpture we didn't know existed. Or we find a note in a book, a poem in a drawer, a carving on a tree stump.

But before there were artists, there were Carl Djerassi's short-horned, polled Herefords. And before there were beef cattle there were dairy cattle. And loggers. And, a sawmill that made 3-foot shingles, whose workers lived in 6 or 7 small cabins near what we now call the Picnic Grounds.

I had the good fortune to walk the property with one of its former residents, a rancher named Joe Vierra. Joe lived here between 1941 and 1953. He and his young wife raised their youngsters in a house behind the Old Barn. The kids rode horses to school; there was no electricity and their sole road accessing the property was the one that runs to the east of the current gate. They cultivated hay and sold their milk in San Jose.

A place is everything it has been and everything it is going to be. A place is its history AND its future. Throughout generations of various uses, the land upon which Djerassi Resident Artists Program sits has been key to the health and happiness of the people who lived on it. Now the fertile land nourishes fertile minds.

We sometimes think, living as we do in the cradle of the new - in the heart of Silicon Valley - that our sense of place has been irreparably redefined. Everything here is always about the NEXT, the start-up, the deal. But if you look hard enough, it is **the past** that makes our particular corner of the earth feel so special.

Spending time with Joe reminded me how much people love the places that nourish them. How memories are as vivid as what today's eyes see. There may be no trace whatsoever of the house he lived in, but I felt its presence in his eyes as he described it. His photo album, aptly titled "Those Grand Days" shows rolling grasslands and hilltops that have changed very little. The fashions were different but the smiling faces look just like those of last month's artists.

Half of our dual mission is to preserve, in perpetuity, the land upon which the Program is situated. As we launch into our year-end fundraising campaign, it is not just artists and the future of art that matter to us. It is the uninterrupted stillness, the far-as-the-eye-can-see landscape and the redwood forest's rebirth that we value. It is all part of keeping the Djerassi magic alive. That is the secret. Please help us keep it.

Care and respect,
Margot H. Knight
Executive Director

Djerassi Welcomes Hardy Winter Residents

Alumni artists can apply for winter residences at the ranch. This year we are having only one winter session due to Artist House repairs. 10 alumni artists arrive December 1 to work on various projects. With any luck, we'll have some rain, so here's hoping they'll get to use their mudboots. We know they'll be using their woodstove skills.

This year's winter residents:

December 2014

Sabina Ott (1990), Oak Park IL, Visual Arts

Frank Foreman (1983), Santa Cruz, CA, Visual & Media Arts

Genevieve Quick (2004), San Francisco, Visual Arts

Christopher Patton (1999), Salt Lake City, UT,
Literature- Poetry

John Schott (2012), Berkeley, CA, Music Composition

Sarah Johnson (1997), Brooklyn, NY, Choreographer

Lionel Popkin (2008), Santa Monica, CA, Choreographer

Nils Bultman (2005), Berkeley, Music Composition



Session 7.14

Exciting News!

Take the **Diekman Alumni Giving Challenge!** "'Tis the Season," as they say. Alumni, if you're looking to make a contribution that can really help others discover their Gift of Time, please consider a gift to the Djerassi program. **For the second year in a row, your contribution will go twice as far ... Every gift made by Djerassi alumni before midnight December 19 will be matched by Sue and John Diekman.** Up to a total of \$10,000!

The \$20,000 raised will underwrite 2 core season residencies.

Last year 75 alumni donated to Djerassi. Let's make it over 100 this year!

[DONATE TODAY](#)



Djerassi news



Design Connection

In 2012, former board of trustees chair, the late **Bill Moggridge** was kind enough to lead executive director **Margot H. Knight** and her husband, **ART///SKY** editor **Nick Walsh** on a backstage tour of the ongoing rebuild of the Cooper-Hewitt/Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City, of which Bill was the chief executive. The building has just reopened after the extensive renovations. You can see some of the changes on their website www.cooperhewitt.org. There is also a tribute to Mr. [Moggridge](#), who was a great friend of the Djerassi program and was most influential in the world of art and design.

Artists at Large

November 22 marked the opening of **Tuguldur ('Tugo') Yondonjamts' (2012)** show at the Pony Project Gallery in Berlin, Germany. Entitled *Hunters to Skull Island*, the exhibit depicts an imaginary journey to the island home of the likes of King Kong, T-Rex and, yes, Godzilla. Tugo invites all to see it soon.

Composer **Laura Konjetzky (2013)** has sent us links to her new *Nocturne 2 and 3* video. Thank you, Laura. Enjoy:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COYgp0VcN8c>.

Fellow musician, **Jose Valente (2012)** sends us his latest video. To celebrate the official edition of his new EP *Circumstances* which includes the song "THIS TIE DOES NOT COMBINE WITH THE COLOR OF THE SOCKS," he decided to record a video-clip. Dig it!

Julie Perini (2014) made several videos during her Session 7 residence this year. See two of them now: [Djerassi Walk](#) and [Djerassi in 2 Minutes](#).

Good news from Julie Mayo (2013). Julie was selected as a 2014-2015 *New York Live Arts Fresh Tracks Performance, Residency and Commissioning Program* recipient. Congratulations are in order.

Wishing You Joy For The Coming Season

Once again, everyone here at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program sends our warmest **Thanksgiving, Holiday and New Year's** greetings to all of our past, present and future artists, friends, benefactors and neighbors. May we all experience peace and prosperity in the coming year. **ART///SKY** will return in February.



Artful Harvest 2014

Comings, Goings & Showings

Show and Tell. Let us get the word out on what you're doing! Email your upcoming art events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible) to nick@djerassi.org.

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

November 27 - December 5 **Zachary James Watkins (2012)**, musical performance, Segundo Concurso de Internacional de Libro Artista, Guadalajara, Mexico.

December 11 - 14 **Deborah Slater (1992, winter '06, '10, '12, '14)**, Artistic Director, Deborah Slater Dance Theater: *Private Life*, ODC Theatre, 3153 17th Street, San Francisco.
More info at <http://www.deborahslater.org/>

December 14 **Helene Aylon (1999)** "The G-D Project of Helène Aylon: Visual Art as a Means for Transmitting and Subverting Jewish Text." Association for Jewish Studies - 2014 Conference, Baltimore Hilton, Baltimore, MD.

Through December 12 **Barbara Edelstein (1996)** *HongKou Stones, Part 2*, and **Jian-Jun Zhang (1995)** *China Chapter series*, 'Pursuing Dream' sculpture and visual arts exhibition, Shanghai Sculpture Space, 570 West HuaiHai Rd., Shanghai, China.

Through December 15 **Lauren DiCioccio (former res. mgr.)** demonstrates and creates artwork along with artist May Wilson, weekends at the Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto. See January 17 exhibit schedule below.

Through December 31 **Barbara Edelstein** *Soft Power*, visual arts group show, Leo Gallery, 376 Wu Kang Rd., Xuhui District, Shanghai

Through January 12, 2015 **Scott Polach (2013)** a group show, *Hiding in Plain Sight: Eight Voices in Contemporary Photography*, at the San Diego Central Library gallery. See more on Scott's website www.scottpolach.com.

January 17 - April 12, 2015 **Lauren DiCioccio: lift/HEFT: New Sculptures by Lauren DiCioccio and May Wilson**. Glass Gallery, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto.

Through January 18, 2015 **Walter Robinson (1998, winter 2011)** group show *Late Harvest*, including Robinson's work *Exodus*. Nevada Museum of Art, 160 W. Liberty, Reno, NV.

Through January 18, 2015 **Sarah Klein (2005)** Animation, part of Doppler Shift exhibition at the New Jersey Visual Art Center. Summit, New Jersey gallery. <http://www.artcenternj.org/>

Through March 15, 2015 **Kara Maria (2003)** *Creative in Common*, group show at de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053-0550

<http://www.scu.edu/desaisset/>

ART//SKY December 2014

A publication of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Nick Walsh, editor. Banner art: *Untitled Landscape*, Alison Moritsugu, 1995. Photos by N. Walsh or as noted.

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Djerassi Resident Artists Program | 2325 Bear Gulch Road | Woodside | CA | 94062

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