



Session 4.16 | Artist Updates



**Playing the Glass Bead Game in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The rules of the glass bead game, a central tenet of Herman Hesse's prophetic novel, *Magister Ludi* are, (according to *Wikipedia*) "only alluded to-they are so sophisticated that they are not easy to imagine. Playing the game well requires years of hard study of music, mathematics and cultural history. The game is essentially an abstract synthesis of all arts and sciences. It proceeds by players making deep connections between seemingly unrelated topics."

At play in the fields and forests of Djerassi, the glass bead game is explored with wit and vigor. Here at Djerassi this game is not an abstract idea-it is as real as the creative minds we welcome each month. And though Hesse's imagination created no scoreboard (NOR could women play!), the artists and scientists who come

here have not only ideas but also books, art, music, poems, installations and dance to show for it. Who and how the ideas are generated are as magical as the sudden appearance of a Pokemon Go character. The fog inspires, a walk excites, a casual conversation over bagels hatches some new idea. Ideas are not captured but set free again and again.

Our mission to preserve-without interruption-this kind of internal and external exploration is as dear to us as our promise to preserve the redwood forests and coastal grasslands. Artists come here for themselves and each other with few, if any, outside commitments. In a transactional world plagued by divisiveness, the currency of the glass bead game-Djerassi style-makes the world a better place.

You can help artists at play and work (is there a boundary?) with your support. Artful Harvest, our annual gala, is coming up on October 16. Buy a ticket or a table and celebrate creativity with us. And numerous Fellowships are available as well.

In the meantime, give your own mind some time to play the Glass Bead Game. Imagine a world where artists and scientists are trusted. Where ideas free themselves from rigid ideologies and evolve and grow through mutual trust. Imagine Djerassi. And help make it real.

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

**Next ...**



**Session 3 - SDM 3.0**

As we say 'farewell' to session 3, we welcome our next group of outstanding

artists.

**August 10 - September 7**

### **Visual & Media Arts**

**Kaila Farrell-Smith**, Portland, OR. Visual Artist  
**Mayumi Hamanaka**, Oakland, CA. Visual Artist  
**Tess Martin**, Rotterdam, Netherlands. Media Artist

### **Literary Arts**

**Marilyn Abildskov**, Emeryville, CA. Writer  
**Ann Fisher-Wirth**, Oxford, MS. Writer  
**Roald Hoffmann**, Ithaca, NY. Writer  
**Robert Marc Friedman**, Oslo, Norway. Playwright  
**Austen Rosenfeld**, Brooklyn, NY. Poet  
**Lauren Wilkinson**, New York, NY. Writer

### **Choreography**

**Ginger Krebs**, Chicago, IL

### **Music Composition**

**Matthew Barnson**, Brooklyn, NY

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

### **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>



### **Save The Date: October 16, 2016**

**Sunday, October 16, 2016** - Mark your calendar for our major annual event. You'll delight to delicious cuisine from Spruce/Village Pub chef Mark Sullivan. Enjoy the inspiring grounds, the legendary sunset and the outstanding artist work, 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 for Artful Harvest at our website <http://www.djerassi.org/artfulharvest.html> . Ready, set, mark your calendar ...

### **Open House Successful? Try Amazing!**

Science and Art intertwine to enhance the human experience in "Scientific Delirium Madness," our session that invites artists *and* scientists to explore our universe

together. With LEONARDO - The International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology - the third session of the year can be a fantastic collection of intellect and talent. And we welcome our friends to Open House every year to see the results. This year food-truck pizza, open land for exploration and sculpture viewing, presentations and participation all combined. Once again we proved that **Art + Science = Open House**. 2017 will be no exception so, "See you next year!"



**Register here. l to r: Carolyn Bush, Terra Fuller, Chrissy Kemling and Judy Freeland**

### **Woodside Plein Air at Open House**



**Plein Air artist Nancy Tracy**

Making their third appearance at Open House, the Woodside Plein Air painters were stationed around the Artists' Ranch to record their vision of the great outdoors. Friday, August 5, was the opening of a weekend display of the results. Once again our community partners' work shone as it appeared in the Woodside Town Hall.

### **Attention Alumni - Austria Calling!**

The Djerassi Program maintains an artist-exchange program with AIR Artist-in-Residence Krems program in Krems, Austria. The Program is currently seeking applications from Djerassi **ALUMNI** in the following disciplines: **Visual Arts** (painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, mixed media, installation art) and **Media Arts/New Genres** (film, video, multimedia, performance/experimental theater, sound art).

The application deadline is **August 25, 2016**. The two and one-half-month residence includes monthly stipends. See the web page for all the details:

[www.djerassi.org/2017-air-krems.html](http://www.djerassi.org/2017-air-krems.html)

### **Cheryl Tan in San Francisco For Djerassi Forever**



**Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan (2012)**

In July, Russian Hill in San Francisco was the site of a book reading by alum **Cheryl Tan (2012)**. The author began her book entitled *Sarong Party Girls* during her session at Djerassi. The book describes mating and mores in the social whirl of Singapore, Cheryl's hometown. The lives chronicled in the book provide many comical moments sprinkled with social commentary. The presentation was one of the first events of "Djerassi Forever," our program to build momentum into the coming years for the Program to continue to thrive.

Consider this an invitation to watch for future artist encounters to benefit the Gift of Time.



## *Djerassi news*

A number of plays are being assembled in response to the June 12 massacre at Orlando's Pulse nightclub. One contributor is slated to be **Ken Urban (2012)**. The plays will be presented in a reading this fall in New York. The works will then be published by NoPassport Press and entitled "After Orlando."

**Karen Benke (2001)** has published *WRITE BACK SOON! Adventures in Letter Writing* (Shambhala/Penguin Random House, 2015). Karen will present workshops on letter writing in October in New York City. See CG&S below.

**Tony Phillips (1987, winter 2002)** has written *Big Sur and Beyond: the French Mason Connection - a Memoir*. It's been published in the current issue of *Mission at Tenth*, an arts publication of the California Institute of Integral Studies. The painting on the journal's cover is a collaboration of Tony with wife **Judith Raphael (1987)**. And to add to the Djerassi flavor of the work, *Mission at Tenth* is edited by **Randall Babtkis (1987)** and his wife **Carolyn Cooke (1987)**.



**Teoma Naccarato (2016) at Open House**

**Christy Funsch (2006, 2012)** requests that you kindly **Save the Date!** Her performance of *Le grand spectacle de l'effort et de l'artifice* will appear at the ODC Theater in San Francisco on November 4-6 (see CG&S below). If you would like to contribute to the cause, click here: [Support 'le grand spectacle'](#).

**Melanie Bishop (2016)** leads writing retreats for aspiring authors. The sessions are meant to combine active learning,

interaction with kindred writers in prime locations. See information on her workshops [here](#).

**Kara Maria (2003)** exhibited part of her *'altered states'* work as part of a group show at the Seattle Art Fair, August 4-7. The presentation was under the auspices of the **Catharine Clark Gallery** of San Francisco. More from Kara below in **CG&S**.

**Robin Farmer (2016)** has published a story about a disastrous house fire - hers - which took place a year ago. *Race Doesn't Matter When Saving a Life*, is about a good-hearted neighbor she didn't really know. The knock on her door saved her life. As Robin admits, her rescuer saw her as a neighbor before she saw him as one. Our perspectives can sometimes trap us, but there are many valuable lessons to be learned. Read [more](#).

**Marielle Jakobsons (2016)** invents instruments that combine the visual with the aural in an effort to "make visual some of the hidden phenomena that remain hidden." Read [this online article](#) about her amazing musical pursuits.

**Allison Leigh Holt (2014)** has an event-rich 2016. In addition to a nomination as a finalist for a *Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship (SARF)*, she will follow a schedule that takes her from the *Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics* to other programs in San Francisco and Seattle. Follow Allison's events on her website: <http://www.oillyoowen.com/>.

Read an interview with **Patricia Colleen Murphy (2016)** in *Clackamas Literary Journal* online. The article discusses her recent *May Swenson Poetry Award* for her poetry collection *Hemming Flames*. Click [here](#).

**Pat Montley (2005, 2013)** has published new plays in a collection called *Elder Pair*,

*Four Senior Courtship Comedies*. The short comedies may be summarized: "Love and romance don't end when memory and eyesight begin to fade." Go to the publisher's website for details: <http://www.bluemoonplays.com/ElderPair.html>

**Kimberly Dark (2011)** has released a new performance piece entitled *Things I Learned from Fat People on a Plane*. The play launched in San Diego in July and will be presented in Chicago in October. See more about Kimberly at her website [www.kimberlydark.com](http://www.kimberlydark.com)

Hear an interview/podcast with **Leslie Hirst (2002)** in which she "shares insights about her practice and philosophy as an artist, designer and professor, while discussing the nuts and bolts of making and exhibiting work." The talk comes from the Clark Hulings Fund and its *Thriving Artist* podcast series . Click [here](#) (press forward button).

**Kristiana Kahakauwila (2015)** is featured in the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study's newsletter. Her in-progress novel, *To Weave With Water*, was inspired by a trip to Maui when she read about a lawsuit initiated against companies that were diverting water from one side of Maui to the other. The water is taken from her ancestral taro farmers to benefit sugar plantations on the arid side of the island. Read more about her work [here](#).



**Fish Bowl at Open House**

**Ciel Bergman (2008)** was the focus of a Pop-Up art exhibit in Santa Fe, New Mexico on August 8. *Archives Uncovered: 'The Moons'* (Article#3), was presented by braveART Consulting. See more at <http://www.braveartconsulting.com/>

**Patrick Dougherty's (2001)** work *Shindig, 2015*, appears on the cover of *NEA ARTS magazine, number 2, 2016*, a publication of the National Endowment for the Arts. The work was photographed in the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. See it [here](#).

### **In The Running**

**Boris Fishman (2013)** has made the list - the Brooklyn (NY) Library Eagles' Fiction Long List. The Eagles will choose the finalist and present him or her with the *Brooklyn Eagles' Literary Prize* during the organization's fall celebration of

Brooklyn-based authors. Keep us posted, Boris!

Trustee **Binta Ayofemi**, teamed with City Slicker Farms, has been announced as a finalist in the *Kenneth Rainin Foundation Open Spaces Program*. The award will fund public art projects in San Francisco and Oakland. Each finalist receives a stipend for development of their work, with the winner, to be announced in December, receiving full project funding. Binta, let us know!

### **See the Sights in Chicago**

The *Chicago Sun-Times* suggests you view some outstanding public art as you enjoy the city's great architecture or simply wait for the bus. *Catching a Loop Link bus? While you wait, enjoy the view* spotlights alum **Paola Cabal's (2016)** installation and has some endeavors on display. Read [more](#).

Several **Pokemons (0000)** have been spotted on the Ranch. No one has yet to experience injury while in pursuit of the elusive quarry.

# C G & S

## **Comings, Goings & Showings**

"I heard it through the grapevine..." - *Gladys Knight, Marvin Gaye, Michael McDonald, et al.*

For our alumni, **ART///SKY** is the Grapevine. 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.**

**Thru Aug 21 Linda Simmel (2013)**  
*Scene/Unseen*, group show with prints, drawings and photographs. Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga, CA.

**Aug 26-27 Sara Shelton Mann (1995, 2002, 2011, multiple winters)** *The Gathering, a Conversation with the Soul*. The Final installment of the *Eye of Leo* series. Joe Goode Annex, 401 Alabama St., San Francisco.



**Open House: Christine Metzger (2016)**

**Thru Aug 28 Surabhi Saraf (2012)** *Intensities*, single-channel video presentation, part of *Arts + Process + Ideas Exhibition* at Mills College, Oakland, CA.

**Thru Aug 28 Timothy Nolan (2006, winter 2011)** *Summer Reverie*, recent collages. CB1 Gallery, 1923 S Santa Fe Av., Los Angeles, CA.

**Thru Sep 3 Jen Blazina (2011)** *Bound by Glass*, group show, Morgan Contemporary Glass Gallery, 5833 Ellsworth Av., Pittsburgh, PA.

**Jul 23 to Sep 4 Jan Blythe (2012)** *Reach*, installation of 100 pairs of life-size plaster hands reaching from the floor. Stark Gallery, 933 Parker St., Berkeley, CA.

**Thru Sep 8 Kara Maria (2003)** *Common Ground, "A Centennial Celebration of Our National Parks, America's Best Idea."* Hazel Wolf Gallery, David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

**Thru Sep 10 Ann Weber (1999)** *MASS*, large organic sculptures, ANDLAB-SPACE, 600 Moulton Av. #303, Los Angeles, CA.

**Thru Sep 11 Chris Fraser (2013)** *Lightopia*, Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon, Portugal.



**Thru Sep 15 Tuguldur Yondonjants (2012)** *Open Sessions7: Hibernating Plan*, The Drawing Room at The Drawing Center, 35 Wooster St., SoHo, New York City.

**Thru Sep 16 Catie O'Leary (1997-2011)** *Metamorphic: Collage in the Dadaist/Surrealist tradition*. Stanford Art Spaces in the Paul G. Allen and David W. Packard Buildings, Electrical Engineering Department, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

**Sep 24, 25, and Oct 1, 2 Lenora Lee (2013)** *The Eye of Compassion (world premiere)* multimedia immersive dance experience. Donaldina Cameron House, 920 Sacramento St., San Francisco.

### **Open House Transport**

**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.

**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>

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

**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.

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

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

### **ART///SKY August 2016**

A publication of Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Editor: Nick Walsh: [nick@djerassi.org](mailto:nick@djerassi.org). Open House, C. Tan and Plein Air photos by Terra Fuller. Remaining photos by N. Walsh. Banner art: *Hemetca Sii, Anthony Heinz May (2014)*.

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