



September 2014

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Artful Harvest | Workshop Mentors | Session 6 of 7



### **Collaborative Chemistry**

Kander and Ebb, Simon and Garfunkel, Ginger and Fred... Collaborations don't just spontaneously generate. They are the result of a delicate combination of talent, time and trust. And a willingness to take risks. Djerassi Resident Artists Program - with no required work outcomes for our residents - is devoted to the artistic building blocks that generate collaborations. Sometimes we are the petri dish, sometimes the incubator, sometimes the lab for artistic trial and error. The bottom line? What happens on the mountain doesn't stay on the mountain - the relationships with art and people that are created here reverberate through a worldwide cultural landscape.

Utterback and Foehringer, Abraham and Wise, Tromble and Sumner, Conrad and Vikram. You may not recognize Camille & Mark, Ralph & Nina, Meredith & Dawn, Cummings & Seth. Yet. But the collaborative fires sparked here among these 8 residents alone have resulted in the world premiere of *Dances of the*

*Sacred and Profane* at Ft. Mason's Cowell Theatre, the on-going success of *The Kepler Story*, a new sculpture AND visualized dream installations AND a groundbreaking opera, *The Golden Gate*, drawn from a groundbreaking book in verse. What's more, Conrad Cummings and Vikram Seth have a new collaboration: *Two Premiers and a Reunion* at the National Opera Center in New York. In a more commercialized enterprise we would be shouting, "The hits keep on coming." (See *Comings & Goings* for details).

By and large, artists arrive at the Artists' Ranch alone. They travel to do THEIR work - to focus on their own individual muse. We often say we support the *individual* artist. But then the Djerassi Magic takes hold. And one becomes two. And sometimes two become three. Before you know it, the composer is in the media arts studio and the poet is in the choreography studio.

"Will you won't you, will you won't you, won't you join the dance?" cries Lewis Carroll's mock turtle. Please join our work - come to Artful Harvest, make a donation, go the Arts Silicon Valley/San Francisco Art Fair, attend a performance of one of our alums, make a connection. Join the dance. Because investing in artists makes the world a more vibrant place.

Care and respect,  
Margot H. Knight  
Executive Director



Dohee Lee. Photo Pak Han.

### **Artful Harvest**

**Join us October 12** for ARTFUL HARVEST, an intimate and unique celebration to support Djerassi Resident Artists Program's gift of time for artists. Limited to 150 participants, this creativity-infused afternoon and evening sunset is unlike any gala you have ever attended.

Enjoy delicious fare from Michelin-starred Village Pub of Woodside. Entertainment

courtesy of 2014 alum **Dohee Lee** (pictured) and her haunting dance 'Crow' as well as music from **Amy X. Neuberg (1988, winter '06, '11)**, "bridging the boundaries between classical, experimental and popular music." In addition, hear from **Boris Fishman (2013)**, as he reads from his acclaimed new book: *A Replacement Life*.

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: *Small Cut Corners Arch*.

Don't miss it. Here's your [invitation](#).

### **Weeklong Writing Workshops Launched**

The Djerassi Ranch will be the site of several alumni-led workshop/retreats (7-11 participants). The mentors will be **Heidi Durrow (2005, 2013), Ann Fisher-Wirth (2005), Jamie Pachino (1998), Nova Ren Suma (2012), Laurie Stone (2007), and Jane Vandenburg (2010)**.

With over sixty sculptures and miles of private hiking trails, chef Dan Tosh's delicious meals and the ocean view, participants will find the support, space and time they need for their best writing! Check our [website](#) for event calendar and schedules. Space is limited. [APPLY NOW](#)

### **Where Art Originates ...**

...returns with a reading of our founder **Dr. Carl Djerassi's** play *Insufficiency* FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th at Z Space Below. The performance will be followed by a Q & A with Carl. That evening is a special night "just for Djerassi." We have reserved 50 of the 73 seats on Friday, available for \$35 each. See more at the Z Space website. <http://zspace.org/>

### **Calling Winter Artists**

This winter the Artists' Ranch will be available to invited alumni artists during the pre-holiday period only: from December 1 through December 19, 2014. Artists may apply for up to 2 weeks during this time. Residency awards may be for less than the requested time. Please read the [webpage information](#) for differences and responsibilities winter residents will encounter.

Alumni artists working in the disciplines of visual arts, media arts, choreography, music composition and literature are welcome to submit applications for a winter residency. Collaborative applications are welcome.

### **Session 6.2014**

Our penultimate session brings artists from far (Alaska) and wide (Cuba) and points in-between to stimulate more creative chemistry on the mountain.

**September 9 - October 8**

## **Visual Arts**

**Avantika Bawa**, Portland, OR, The Ford Family Foundation Fellowship

**Lisyanet Rodríguez Damas**, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba, UNESCO Fellowship

## **Choreography**

**Hsiao-Wei Hsieh**, Flushing, NY

## **Media Arts**

**Allison Leigh Holt**, San Francisco, CA

## **Music Composition**

**LeRoy Bach**, Chicago, IL

## **Literature**

**Stephen Haven**, Cleveland, OH. Poet

**Arlitia Jones**, Anchorage, AK. Poet/Playwright/Director, Rasmuson Foundation Fellow

**Kirsten Imani Kasai**, San Diego, CA. Novelist/Poet

**Jonathon Keats**, San Francisco. Critic/Journalist/Novelist/Artist

**Silvia Pareschi**, San Francisco. Literary Translator

Read about the artists [here](#).



House, Sarah FitzSimons, 2014

### ***Djerassi news***

**SOUTH from Alaska** - our first Rasmuson Foundation fellow has arrived: playwright Arlitia Jones. In an exchange program, our new northern partners nominate candidates to come to artist residences in the 'lower 48' while residences down here nominate artists for a stay at the Island Institute in Sitka. This year our Djerassi alum nominee, playwright **Dipika Guha (2012)**, was invited for a 60-day residency in Sitka.

**Sarah FitzSimons (2014)** has graced the Artists' Ranch with an impressive sculpture entitled *House*, set high above our mountain retreat (see picture). The structure represents a similar footprint and profile of a 3000 sq. ft. house. In the spirit of keeping our works 'ephemeral' the sculpture will remain in place only a few months. Hopefully our high winds and winter storms won't take the house down before Sarah comes back from Madison, Wisconsin in January to deconstruct and retrieve the piece.

**All's Fair, they say.** The Art Silicon Valley/SF Arts Fair that is. October 9-12 at the Expo Hall in San Mateo, CA. We have a new partnership with this event which includes VIP passes and other benefits. The Fair features many international galleries as well as a commitment to support LOCAL cultural organizations such as Zero 1 and Djerassi. Although we at the Ranch will be preoccupied with Artful Harvest that weekend, anyone interested in attending should start by reading all about the event [here](#).



**Taylor Ho Bynum (2013)** has embarked on his Acoustic Bicycle Tour. Taylor writes, "In a lifetime of unusual artistic choices, this may be the craziest - playing gigs all along the West Coast from Canada to Mexico, traveling only by bike with my cornet strapped onboard."

The full details and itinerary are at [www.acousticbicycletour.com](http://www.acousticbicycletour.com). Taylor is also keeping a travel journal on the site.



*Dialog, Roland Mayer, 2004*

**Kent Nelson's (2003)** new collection of short stories, *The Spirit Bird*, has won the Drue Heinz Literature Prize from the University of Pittsburgh Press. The book is due out in mid-September. He has also had seven stories published this year in various literary magazines.

#### **Ryland Kelley, Former Trustee**

Ryland Kelley, a dear friend of the Program and former trustee passed away August 30. He was 88. Mr. Kelley shared a poem with executive director Margot H. Knight at this year's Founder's Dinner, entitled simply:

#### **Djerassi Resident Artists Program**

Beyond its inherent mystery,  
the gauzy fact of being hidden away,  
devilishly inaccessible down a road  
onto a path into an entrance that then becomes  
another shroud covering the discovery,  
now floating within this brilliant place,  
this tender understanding lying between  
stunning physical beauty and the ever more  
gorgeous concept of artistic fulfillment.

[More about ~Rye!](#)

Alumni choreographer **Lenora Lee (2013)** is on the cover of the SF Weekly! She and her company will be dancing in September and October as part of their 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary. See more [here](#) and in *Comings and Goings*.

**Kara Maria (2013)** will be an Artist in Residence from October 1 to January 31, 2015, at nearby Recology in San Francisco. Kara has also had a notable Museum acquisition. The work is *Orange/Yellow/Green*, acrylic on canvas, 68 x 68 inches, 1999. It was purchased by Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento. See more <http://www.crockerartmuseum.org> There's more about Kara in *Comings & Goings*.

**Ben Hjertman (2013)** was featured in the *Memphis Flyer* online. To quote: "The most interesting composer in the mix might be **Ben Hjertmann**, who has challenged the norms of composition at their core. His piece 'Donkey Rhubarb' was crowdsourced through voting software on his blog. Students from dozens of music programs made decisions on everything from the title to the opening theme. Hjertmann completed his Ph.D. at Northwestern in June 2013 studying microtonal harmonic structures, which are the spaces between the notes in a scale. He also heads the "avant-pop" band Kong Must Dead." [Read more](#)

**Laura Konjetzky (2013)**, performed a solo piano recital of **NIGHT-TIME** & the world premiere of her compositions, **Nocturne 3 and Nocturne 5** at Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus in Schwandorf, Germany, on September 5. You can see an upcoming performance of her work on September 20 in Munich. See *Comings & Goings*.

**Camille Utterback (2012)** is proud to be one of three finalists, along with Leo Villareal and Jennifer Steinkamp, for the [Moscone Expansion Project](#), a large public art project in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Arts Commission put out an RFQ looking for projects that will create an iconic sense of arrival to enhance Moscone's civic presence on Howard Street, reconnecting it to the surrounding neighborhood. The project proposes a new enclosed pedestrian bridge connecting the upper levels of the new Moscone North and Moscone South as the primary art enrichment site and is looking for an artwork that utilizes light to transform the architectural space.

The three proposals will be on display for public comment in October (exact date tbd). Follow Camille's [Facebook page](#) for up-to-date information on where and when to view the proposals.

Camille is also in a project with **Mark Foehringer (2012)** and his dance company in a collaboration that began when they were residents at Djerassi. See more about their upcoming performance to reopen the Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason in *Comings & Goings*.

## Comings, Goings & Showings

**ART///SKY** wants you! Alumni, send us your arts events. Please email your upcoming exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible) to [nick@djerassi.org](mailto:nick@djerassi.org).

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



Farm Dreams, Dawn Sumner,  
Meredith Tromble, 2014

September 10 **Conrad Cummings (1985)** *Two Premieres and a Reunion, a special evening of music by Conrad Cummings*. Includes lyrics by **Vikram Seth (1987)**. The National Opera Center, 330 Seventh Av., New York, NY.

September 12 - October 25 **Ruth Boerefijn (2006)** "*Inhabiting Space*," Gray Loft Gallery, 2889 Ford St., Oakland, CA.

September 12 to 14 **Christy Funsch (2006, 2012)** and the Funsch Dance Experience: *This is the Girl (premiere)*. A full-length work with accompaniment by the Grrrl Brigade Taiko drummers, guitarist Dory Ellis and many others. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St., San Francisco.

September 13, 14 and 19 to 21 **Mark Foehringer (2012)** and the Mark Foehringer Dance Project, World Premiere of *Dances of the Sacred and Profane* in a collaboration that began at the Djerassi Artists Residence with media artist and MacArthur fellow **Camille Utterback (2012)**. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco.

September 13 & 14 **Rene Yung (1995, 2007)** *Community Gathering* EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park, in San Francisco's India Basin and *China Camp Village*, San Francisco.

Through September 14 **Jessica Dunne (1997, winter 2010)** two works in *Big Keith: Golden State Grandeur*, landscapes. St. Mary's College Museum of Art, Moraga, CA.

September 18 - 21 **Jodi Lomask (2014)** and **Capacitor**, *Synaptic Motion*, performance. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco.



September 18 - 21 **Charles Moulton (2000, winter 2002)** choreographer. *The Luminous Edge*, Garrett and Moulton Productions, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St., San Francisco.

September 20 **Laura Konjetzky (2013)**, solo piano recital, *NIGHT-TIME*, Seidlvilla, Munich, Germany.

September 26 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

September 26 to 28 & October 3 to 5 **Lenora Lee (2012)** *Lenora Lee Dance 7th Anniversary Season* - two weekends of multimedia performances of new and repertoire work that weave together dance, martial arts, video projection, text and music. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street (at Mission), San Francisco.

September 28 **Donna Sternberg (2014)** *Neighborhood Stories*, based on interviews with residents of downtown Long Beach. Acres of Books lot, 3rd and Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA.

Through October 4 **Joyce Kozloff (1995)**, *No. 2, A Graphite Exhibition*, group show, DC Moore Gallery, W 22<sup>nd</sup> St., New York City.

October 5 **Kathryn Roszak's (1993)** *Danse Lumiere* presents an Open Rehearsal Benefit. The group will present Kathryn's newest creation, *Romeo and Juliet*. Studio B, 2055 Center Street, (in the Arts Passageway) Berkeley, CA. More at [www.dlkdance.com](http://www.dlkdance.com).

October 6 *RAWdance* - **Ryan Smith and Wendy Rein (2011)**, dance film. Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema, Canyon Theater, Boulder, CO.

Through October 12 **Susan Robb (2012)** *What is wild? Where is wild? Are you wild?* Grand Central Art Center, California State University, Fullerton, CA.

Through October 12 **Walter Robinson (1998, winter 2011) and Ann Weber (1999)**. *The Third Dimension - Four Sculptors*. University Art Gallery, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA.

October 15 **Kara Maria** *Indelibly Yours: Smith Andersen Editions and the Tattoo Project*, Flint Institute of Arts, Graphic Arts Gallery, 1120 East Kearsley Street, Flint, MI.

October 18 **Boris Fishman (2013)** *An Evening with Boris Fishman*, author of *A Replacement Life*. Corte Madera Book Passage bookstore, Corte Madera, CA. (See Boris at **Artful Harvest** October 12.)

October 24 & 25 Former trustee and resident, **Deborah Slater (1992, winter 2014)** and the Deborah Slater Dance Theater will perform a new commissioned experiment, '*Line of Beauty,*' at the Jewish Community Center in San Francisco. [See more.](#)

Through November 11 **Mauro Staccioli (1987, 89, 90, 99)** sculpture in Parc du Domaine Seneffe, Chateau Seneffe, Belgium.

November 14 & 15 **Dohee Lee (2014)** *Mago*, World Premiere, *an Inner Journey with Myth and Past Lives*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St., San Francisco.

Through November 16 **Alice Miceli (2013)** *A Series* recently shot in Cambodia, according to the artist: "part of a research project exploring the space of minefields." MAM - Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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](http://www.scottpolach.com).

#### **ART///SKY September 2014**

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