

Sold Out! Open House Sunday, July 16



## Djerassi Resident Artists Program

### Heads Down, Grazing

Is it just me or does the world feel more chaotic than usual? If my Facebook feed is any indication—we're living in a swirl of re-evaluation and confusion, punctuated by polarizing anger and bewilderment. Governments, foundations and individuals are all in serious conversations about the value of supporting culture in the wake of social issues exacerbated by the uncertainty that surrounds us.

I lived in Idaho for nine years and our first winter there the temperature was below zero for two weeks straight—dipping to 34 below one morning. Every day, I watched our three horses, anxious for their health. The wind blew and the snow whipped around them. And every day, they kept their heads down, grazing. They had their priorities.

Djerassi Resident Artists Program has its priorities—to provide inspirational time and space for artists and scientists, to shape the world's culture, to keep our trails open and our forests healthy for generations to come. The health, vitality and diversity of cultural expression and those remarkable people among us—the painters, the filmmakers, the choreographers, the poets, the playwrights, the composers—who illuminate and provide perspective are our priority.

Arts and culture are a cornerstone of civilization. The distraction that recent ship-of-state tsunamis have offered (who will be investigated next?) should not deter us from pursuing the progress that comes with respect (and money) for art and artists.

Artists—both living and dead—and the organizations like ours that trust and present their work compel us to see the world differently. The work of artists summons forth emotions we didn't know we had. The work of artists engages the intellect with a fierce authority unmatched by the dry musings of politicians or the glib chatter of talk radio.

The political winds are blowing; economic storms are brewing. Up here on the mountain, artists are dreaming. There are no small dreams on the mountain. The dreams of artists transform the world. It is OUR priority to support and sustain those dreams.

Blow ye winds. I hope you will all join me as I keep my head down, grazing. I have my priorities.

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

Visit our website: [www.djerassi.org](http://www.djerassi.org)

**Session 3 is here!** (photo at right)

### Scientific Delirium Madness 4.0

**June 28 - July 26**

**Anna Davidson**, Davis, CA. Biologist/Visual Artist

**Ken Eklund**, Corvallis, OR. Media Artist

**Katharine Hawthorne**, San Francisco, CA.

Choreographer

**Gina LaCerva**, Santa Fe, NM, Writer

**Adria Le Boeuf**, Lonay, Switzerland Biologist

**Patrice Le Gal**, Marseille, France. Physicist

**Marco Nardelli**, Highland Village, TX. Physicist,  
Composer

**Ainissa Ramirez**, New Haven, CT. Engineer

**Heather Ruth Spence**, Arlington, VA. Marine  
Biologist, Musician

**Javiera Tejerina-Risso**, Marseille, France. Media  
Artist

**Peter Walter**, San Francisco, CA.

Biologist Read the participants' biographies  
here. ([Bios](#))



### Los Angeles Alumni Gathering

On June 29, Los Angeles-based alumni and friends of the Program attended our first LA Alumni reunion. Hosted by author **Heidi Durrow (2005, 2013)** and Chef **Darryl Wash** (photo left) at *The BLVD Kitchen* in Sherman Oaks, CA, the event gave opportunity for introduction, reunion and reminiscence about the

many 'gifts of time' received over the years. More reunions will be coming, so make plans to attend one near you.

## Winter Residencies

Program alumni are eligible to apply for Winter residencies. This time, visits will be in the new year from **Thursday, January 4 to Thursday, January 25, 2018**. Artists may apply for a stay of up to 2 weeks during this time period. Preference will be given to those who have not had a residency at the Djerassi Program (Winter or Core Season) in the last few years. **Deadline to apply is September 21, 2017**. Residents will be announced in October.

Click for [Application](#)

## Carl Djerassi Tribute

On June 9, Program Founder Carl Djerassi was honored by the American College of Sofia, Bulgaria. The late Dr. Djerassi was saluted as "the world-renowned scientist, writer, patron of the arts, and former student of the American College" with the renaming of their campus science building as *Djerassi Hall*. In attendance were son **Dale Djerassi** and grandson **Alexander Djerassi**. [Read more](#).

## Gelegenheit! Deadline: August 25, 2017

That's 'Opportunity!' The Djerassi Program is currently seeking applications from ALUMNI of the Djerassi Program in Visual Arts and Media Arts as part of an exchange with AIR Artist-in-Residence Krems program in Krems, Austria.

For an application go to <https://djerassi.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/33851>

The selected artist will receive a two and one-half month long residency from Thursday, April 5 through Sunday, June 10, 2018, a stipend of 1,300 euros per month (in total 3,900 euros), paid in cash, and curatorial support by the curators of AIR Krems/Kunsthalle Krems.

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## Djerassi News

Acclaimed by *ELLE* magazine, **Camille Dungy's (2014)** novel *Guidebook to Relative Strangers: Journeys Into Race, Motherhood, and History* is one of the 'The 24 Best Books to Read This Summer.' Better get started. The [whole list is here](#).



In addition *The Rumpus* emag includes **Camille Dungy's** book *Trophic Cascade* on their list of "What to Read When the President Decides to Exit Paris." [See more](#).

And there's even more ... *Essence* magazine salutes **Camille** with their "*Five Must-Read Books You Need To Pick Up This Month*." Camille's *Guidebook* is their first choice.

**Coming soon.** The novel **Laura Catherine Brown (2009)** worked on at Djerassi has been accepted for publishing by C&R Press for release in 2018. More details to come.

**Melissa Wyman (2015)** has posted about her well received *Young Artist Fellowship at Djerassi* with Sequoia High School, Redwood City. Read the details here. <http://youngartistsfellowship.tumblr.com/>

### In Vogue

**Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich (2016)** and her book *The Fact of a Body* are praised in *Vogue* magazine. Read the article here <http://www.vogue.com/article/the-fact-of-a-body-alexandria-marzano-lesnevich-interview> Working on the novel for 10 years that included sessions at Djerassi, we are planning an event to honor Alexandria in September.

In addition, *The Fact of a Body* is also featured on *Entertainment Weekly's* "The 10 Best Books of the Year So Far."

**Andrew Saito (2016)** writes about his experience at the Artists' Ranch as part of the Djerassi Playwrights Initiative. Andrew and several other playwrights were nominated by prominent playwrights' organization partners Latinx Theater Commons, New Blackfest and SF Playwrights Foundation. Read Andrew's account [here](#).

"**You must read Eileen Myles' (1994) first novel,**" declares Chris Kraus at LitHub. Kraus says the 2000 novel *Cool For You* is an examination of childhood and the influence of institutions upon the development of self in mid-century America. Read [more here](#).

Read *Two Poems* by **Melissa Stein (2005, 2014)** in the *Los Angeles Review*: <http://losangelesreview.org/two-poems-melissa-stein/>

*National New Play Network*, an alliance of nonprofit theaters, champions new plays. In June the network presented a production of *Br'er Cotton* by **Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm (2016)** at the Kitchen Dog Theater, in Dallas, Texas. The play will also be presented by the [Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble](#) in Los Angeles, CA, **September 23-October 15**.

On June 25th, the premiere of **Howard Hersh's (2004, winter 2012)** "Run!" for piano was performed by Philadelphia-based pianist Charles Abramovic. Presented and recorded previously in its solo marimba version, this presentation was the debut of the work's keyboard incarnation.

Mark the dates: **July 26-30** for the **John Luther Adams (1986) Festival**. A variety of musical works featuring *Everything That Rises (world premiere)*, *Inuksuit*, and *Veils and Vespers* performed by outstanding artists in a variety of venues including Grace Cathedral and the Sutro Baths. See the [details here](#).



**Now Arriving:** Airport Install Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the site of an installation by **Olga Lah (2014)**. Entitled *Translation*, the work shapes opened paperback books to form an undulating wall. But you'll need a ticket! The installation is in the Customs Hallway, Arrivals Level, through mid-September. [See more](#).

### Kudos

**Basil Twist (2005, winter 2011)** was honored with the **Drama Desk 2017 Award for Outstanding Puppetry Design** for his work on *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. This is Basil's second DD Award, his previous one was for his puppetry design on *The Addams Family* on Broadway in 2009.

Sculptor **Brian Goggin (1997, 2006)** has been selected to create a piece for the *Water Street Promenade* in Petaluma, CA. The selection process took over two years. Brian said he seeks to create a piece in tune with the heritage and space of the historical Sonoma County town. [Read more](#).

The **Spring 2017 SFFilm/Kenneth Rainin Foundation** Filmmaking Grant Winners have been announced. Cowriter **Karl Soehnlein (2000, 2004, 2011, current trustee)** with writer/director Aron Kantor, received a grand for the film: '*The Continental*.' The film was one of eight awardees from a field of 14.

**Lisa Locascio (2014)** has won the **Penelope Niven Prize in Creative Nonfiction** from the 2017 International Literary Awards for her work *Protest*. In addition, her debut novel *Jutland Gothic* is scheduled to be released in 2018 by Grove Atlantic. [See more.](#)

**Kara Lee Corthron (2014)** has received a **Parents' Choice Foundation** Gold Award for her book *The Truth of Right Now*, fiction written for kids 14 and up.

Making "The List" on the [TheKilroys.org](http://TheKilroys.org) website of un- and under-produced plays by female and trans playwrights of color, are Djerassi alums **Dipika Guha (2012)** with *Unreliable* and **Sam Chanse (2016)** and *The Opportunities for Extinction*. The list of plays promote works worthy of further presentation by stages throughout the country.



## CG&S

### Comings, Goings & Showings

**"Art is the Queen of all sciences, communicating knowledge to all the generations of the world."** – Leonardo DaVinci. Communicate your upcoming exhibitions, performances, premieres, events, book tours, etc. (as far in advance as possible) to all of our **ART///SKY** readers. Email [nick@djerassi.org](mailto:nick@djerassi.org). **To follow our alumni and friends' events, be sure to check the newly renamed 'Djerassi Program Alumni' Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/289078631188852/>

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**July 16, 23 Christy Funsch (2006, 2012)** Sundays 1-5:00 PM, Christy teaches *Adventures in Unknowing*, a Composition Workshop at ODC Dance Commons. 351 Shotwell St., San Francisco.

**Thru Jul 16 Jen Blazina (2011)** [2017 Glass Art Association Members Juried Exhibition](#), Glass Wheel Studio, 128 W Olney Road, Norfolk, VA.

**Jul 18-20 Jeremiah Barber (2015)** *Exhabitations*, sculpture and performance. Cue Art Foundation, 137 W. 25th St., New York.

**Thru Jul 21 Jamie Brunson (2005, winter 2010)** *gallery exhibit*, Andrea Schwartz Gallery, 545 4th St., San Francisco.

**Jul 28 & 29 Deborah Slater (1992, 4 winters)** and the DSDT's 6th Studio 210 Summer Residency presents performances by residents *13th Floor* and *Sarah Cecelia*. Studio 210 Theater, 3435 Cesar Chavez St., #210, San Francisco.

**Thru Jul 29 Jessica Dunne (1997)** *Paintings*. B. Sakata Garo Gallery, 923 20th St., Sacramento, CA. more at [www.bsakatagaro.com](http://www.bsakatagaro.com).

**Thru Jul 30 Robin Tewes (1997)** *Guerilla (And Other) Girls: Art/Activism /Attitude*, Eisenberg Gallery at the Zimmerli Art Museum Gallery, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

**Thru Jul 30 Marietta Hoferer (2002)** *Patterning: Selections from the Kentler Flatfiles*, Kentler International Drawing Space, 353 Van Brunt, Brooklyn, NY.

**Thru Aug 4 Allison Leigh Holt (2014)** *The Beginning Was The End*, solo exhibition, [Pro Arts](#) Gallery, Oakland, CA.

**Aug 11 to 15 Sara Shelton Mann (1995, 2002, 2011, multiple winters)** PADL West Dance Festival, City Heights Performance Annex, 3795 Fairmount Av., San Diego, CA.

**Thru Aug 12 Lisa K. Blatt (2010)** *Overview 2017*, photography, Bruno David Gallery, St. Louis, MO.

**Thru Aug 17 Lisa K. Blatt** *On Freedom*, photography, Aperture Gallery, W. 27th St., New York, NY.

**Thru Aug 20 Christy Chow (2017)** *Installations*, Museum of Capitalism, 55 Harrison St, Ste. 201, Oakland, CA

**Thru Aug 27 Genevieve Quick (2004, winter 2014)** *art+process+ideas*, artists-in-residence show. Mills College Art Museum, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

**Thru Aug 27 Chris Fraser (2013)** *Your Mind, This Moment: Art and the Practice of Attention*, group show, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA.

**Aug 25 to Sep 10 Jamie Brunson** with Nina Tichava, *New, New Mexico Abstraction*, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.

**Thru Aug 31 Ann Weber (1999)** *Artist as Subject*, group exhibition, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, 210 Post St., San Francisco.

**Thru Sep 10 Lisa K. Blatt** *Detritus*, group show of artists' 'leftovers,' San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA. Also included is work by **Genevieve Quick, Jeremiah Barber (2015), Lauren DiCioccio (board member), Val Britton (2014), Mel Day (2010), Surabhi Saraf (2012), Kara Maria (2003)** and many more.

**Thru Sep 16 Marietta Hoferer (2002)** *The Summer Show 2017*. DM CONTEMPORARY Gallery, 39 E. 29th St., New York City.

**Thru Sep 24 Marietta Hoferer** *Drawing on History: The National Drawing Invitational – A Retrospective Exhibition*. Arkansas Art Center, 501 E. 9th St., Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Thru Oct 14 Tuguldur Yondonjams (2012)** *Hibernating Tattoos Guarding the Sweat of the Sun*, first U.S. solo exhibition. Richard Taittinger Gallery, 154 Ludlow St., New York, NY.

#### ART///SKY July 2017

A publication of Djerassi Resident Artists Program. Written and edited by Nick Walsh: [nick@djerassi.org](mailto:nick@djerassi.org). Photos by N. Walsh, except: LA Reunion, Terra Fuller and Session 3 by Staff. Banner art: *Black Pearl*, **Mark Oliver (1991)**. Barn installation by Olga Lah (2014).