

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

**Subject:** Breaking Djerassi News

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**April 2015**

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**Celebration | Session One Artists | Djerassi News**



**Rainbow**

### **The Voice of the Turtle**

The peace and chaos that descends upon us when the first group of artists arrive is palpable. We are doing what we are meant to be doing - letting artists BE. No bedtime, no alarm clocks, no outside demands. They are here to follow their muse wherever she takes them. Bewilderment in the wilderness leads to poems, plays and paintings. It sounds like, to use a Biblical phrase, the voice of the turtle in stereo.

We have some new water tanks and a refreshed kitchen. The artists are safe in

this rustic setting. We constantly work to make sure they are supported while they are here. That takes warm hearts and cold cash.

We are participating in the giving program, **Silicon Valley Gives** (see [here](#) and below) AND are identifying donors to underwrite individual artists.

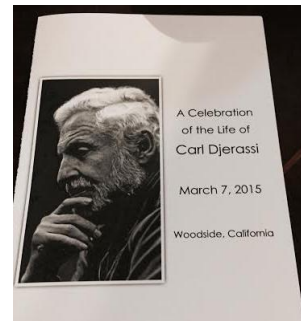
Join us in whatever ways you can to support artists. Go see one of the many shows and exhibitions listed. Buy a book. Embrace the peace and chaos that art-making provides.

Happy Spring.

Care and respect,  
Margot H. Knight  
Executive Director

### **Carl Djerassi Celebration**

On March 7, the extraordinary life of our founder, Carl Djerassi, was celebrated at the Artists Ranch. The program was presented true to the meaning of the word "celebration." Carl Djerassi had a profound effect on science, the arts and on all of those around him. Over 250 people came together to share their experiences of this exceptional man.



To mention only some of the speakers, appearing were Dr. Djerassi's son Dale, and grandson Alexander; Sean Decatur, president of Kenyon College; actors and producers Isabella Gregor (2008) and Andy Jordan; alum Jane Hirshfield, (1987-89); Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffman (1986, 1988, 1989, 2008); and Jose Valente (2013) who performed a musical tribute on viola.

### **Carl Djerassi Memorial Fund**

To make a donation in memory of Dr. Djerassi, and to help support his artist-residence vision, visit the [Carl Djerassi Memorial Fund](#).

### **Spring is Here - Introducing Session One!**

Our first group has arrived, ready for their Gift of Time.

**April 7 - May 6**

Visual Arts

**Suzie Buchholz**, San Rafael, CA

**Samira Yamin**, Los Angeles

Media Arts

**Jeremiah Barber**, San Francisco

**Jamie Topper**, Chicago, IL

Choreography

**Barbara Stimoli**, Udine, Italy

Music Composition

**Howard Hersh**, Nevada City, CA

Literature

**Ernestine Hayes**, Juneau, AK. Writer

**Kristiana Kahakauwila**, Bellingham, WA. Writer

**Barbara Krohn**, Regensburg, Germany. Writer

**Billy Manes**, Orlando, FL. Writer

**Beldan Sezen**, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Graphic Novelist

**Cathy Tempelman**, New York, NY. Playwright

See [more about the artists](#).

### Good-bye and Hello

Farewell, **Laura Amador**! Laura has moved on up to the friendly confines of the DeYoung and Palace of Fine Arts complex, where she will bring her docent-coordinating skills to those world-renowned institutions. **Celia Olsen** moves into Laura's former post.



Tree, Aristotle  
Georgiades, 2013

Now we welcome two new staff: **Alice Marshall** is our new Program Assistant, filling in for Celia. Over in the office, **Terra Fuller** with a new title - Stewardship and Events Associate - is moving into **Michelle Hofland's** former position. Michelle departs for maternity leave later this month. Terra recently worked at Mesa Refuge writers retreat in Pt. Reyes.

**Save the Date - Open House 7.19.2015**

It's not too early to think about your plans for Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, and this year's Open House. Not only is it a chance to tour the Ranch, visit with friends and see dazzling performances, but it is also the culmination of our Scientific Delirium Madness session - one that brings an extra dimension of intellectual and artistic stimulus. Order your [tickets here](#).

### **Annual Silicon Valley Gives**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** is the date for the second annual Silicon Valley Gives charitable event. Last year's benefit helped the Silicon Valley Community Foundation aid 600 nonprofit organizations in the Bay Area. On **Tuesday, May 5**, donors will be able to support local nonprofits through a single online donation platform. This provides an easy way to connect donors to charitable causes while encouraging them to take action. The Djerassi Resident Artists Program is one of the nonprofits listed. Thank you for [your support](#).



*From Wisdom to Folly, Walter May, 2010.*

### ***Djerassi news***

News from **Kent Nelson (1989, 2001)** "I have readings at Kenyon College, Antioch

College April 21; and Bowling Green State on April 23 [see *Comings*, below]. My story, *The Mercy of Others*, won the 2014 **Red Hen Story Prize** and will be published this fall in LA Review. I also have new stories coming out in *The Sewanee Review* and in *The Antioch Review*."

Check out **Jane Hirshfield's (1987, 1988, 1989)** busy schedule of upcoming poetry readings, [listed here](#). See also *Comings*, *Goings*.

**Nick Neely (2014)** has been awarded the 2015 **John Burroughs Nature Essay Award** for *The Book of Agate*, published by *Ninth Letter*, a journal distributed by the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in its Fall/Winter 2014-15 issue. Congratulations, Nick. In addition, the long essay Nick wrote about salmon during his Ranch time in the fall was recently accepted for publication by *The Kenyon Review*, and will appear in May. See Nick's website for more. [www.nickneely.com](http://www.nickneely.com).

**Lena Lapschina (2011)** has added some artwork to the Paddle8 art auction website. Check it out [here](#).

It's that time again! **Art Market San Francisco** returns to Fort Mason **April 29-May 3**, for its fifth year of presenting the Bay Area's leading art fair. This year there is no "official" Djerassi reunion, but go, and you're sure to meet many of your Djerassi friends.

**Kenji Liu (2013)** has a poem entitled *Each Breath Despite the Air* featured on the website Truthdig.com. The webpage is illustrated with a work by **Katherine Mann (2013)**. [See it here](#).

**Nova Ren Suma (2012)** is spotlighted admiringly on [Beth Kephart's blog](#). Ms. Kephart is an award-winning author in the Young Adult genre.



**Listening Chair, Brian Rust, 1996.**

### **Comings, Goings & Showings**

**You don't call, you don't write. Give us the word on what you're up to!** Email your upcoming art events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible) 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.**

Through **April 12** **Angie Wilson (2013)** has designed costumes and sets for *The Warrior*, in collaboration with Destiny Art Center, at Laney College - Odell Johnson Theater - 900 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA.

April 12-30 **Robin Tewes (1997)** *con+in Fluence* group show. Hewitt Gallery of Art, Marymount Manhattan College, 221 E. 71<sup>st</sup> St., New York, NY.

April 15 **Kent Nelson (1989, 2001)** reading from his work, Kenyon College, Gambier Ohio;  
... and ... April 21 at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, ... and ...  
April 23 reading at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.

April 17-19 **Sara Shelton Mann (1995, 2002, 2011)** *Sara (The Smuggler)*, a dance about

legends, friendship, history and love. CounterPulse, 1310 Mission Street, San Francisco.

Through April 18 **Richard Mayhew (1985, 1986)** paintings, and Herb Alpert, trumpet, *Harmonic Rhythms*, ACA Galleries, 529 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY.

April 18 **Taylor Ho Bynum (2013)** A screening of a film of the *Acoustic Bicycle Tour*, a 5-week, 2,000-mile trip last fall along the West Coast. Followed by a performance by Masters of Ceremony (aka Quartet Collective - Taylor, Abraham Gomez-Delgado, Melanie Maar and Rachel Bernsen), as part of [Art for Arts Evolving Pop-Up Series](#), 107 Suffolk Street, New York, NY.

April 19 **Sasha Petrenko (2014)** *Spring Open House* at the Headlands, Sausalito, CA.

April 21-27 **Jane Hirshfield (1987, 1988, 1989)** appearances at [The Cuirt Festival](#), Galway, Ireland.

... and ... April 30, Jane appears at [Diesel Books](#), in Larkspur, CA.

April 24-25 **Joanna Kotze (2013)** with Jonathan Allen, Zachary Fabri, Asuka Goto, Stuart Singer, Netta Yerushalmy. *FIND YOURSELF HERE*, World Premiere, ADI Incubator, American Dance Institute, Washington, D.C. [www.americandance.org/performance/joanna-kotze/](http://www.americandance.org/performance/joanna-kotze/)

April 24-August 16 **Lisa K. Blatt (2010)** *ARTillery, Contemporary Art Influenced by Weaponry*, Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, Mesa, AZ.

April 26 **Kathryn Roszak (1993)** *Danse Lumiere* featuring "Romeo and Juliet" pas de deux, "Reverse Flow," and "City Noir," 2 p.m. Osher Studio Theatre (near downtown Berkeley BART), 2055 Center St., Berkeley. [www.dlkdance.com](http://www.dlkdance.com)

April 30 **Kimberly Dark (2011)** *Storytelling (in English)*, La Sue BARcelona, Barcelona, Spain. See more of Kimberly's schedule [here](#).

May 8 and 10 **Christy Funsch (2006, 2012)** *Dissolver*, a new full-length dance work. ODC Dance Commons, Studio B, 351 Shotwell Street, (at 17th Street), San Francisco.

May 9 **Allison Leigh Holt (2014)** *Gentrification/faction*, film, in collaboration with Negativland, and part of Tuscon microcinema *Exploded Views Avant AZ*, Tuscon, Arizona.

Through May 17 **George Brant (2010)** playwright, *Grounded*, set to feature Anne Hathaway and Julie Taymor. The Public Theatre 425 Lafayette Street, New York, NY. [More](#).

Opening May 9 **Beili Liu (2006)** [Arte & Arte Foundation](#) exhibit, *Everyone to the Table*, Pianta San Francesco, Como, Italy.

May 12-June 6 **Ken Urban (2012)** *Sense of an Ending*, Theatre 503, The Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Road, London, England.

May 17 **Donna Sternberg (2014)** site-specific performance at Tongva Park, featuring the Venice Symphony Orchestra, Santa Monica, CA.

Through Dec 11 **Sasha Petrenko (2014)** *Just Passing Through: Sculptures and Installations* Kalmanovitz Hall Rooftop Sculpture Terrace, University of San Francisco, 2300 Fulton St.

### ART///SKY April 2015

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