



Celebrating Djerassi Babies | Artful Harvest | Djerassi News



Margot Knight
with Dad Herbert
Edward Knight

Celebrating Babies

Now that the Program has passed its age of trust birthday, 30 (thanks, Abbie Hoffman), our thoughts are turning to the future. The birth of *Beatrix Hofland*, daughter of staffer **Michelle Finch Hofland** and her husband Aren got us to thinking - when was the LAST baby born to a staff member? No one could remember. So we started to wonder about Djerassi babies in general. While there are certainly more, editor Nick Walsh has accumulated a few pictures of babies created, born or incubated here, including the first one, born to artist **Barbara Greenberg (1981)** while she was a resident in Pamela Djerassi's house in the first incarnation of the Program - when the Artists Residence was just a baby itself.

Okay, you're thinking. Babies. Click-bait for a better open rate on **ART///SKY**. But what has this got to do with ART?

Babies make me think about the world they will inherit from us. Will following in their artistic parents' footsteps be a viable option? How much WILL an MFA cost

in in the 2030s? Will there be ballet? Books? Will places like Djerassi be treasured as hotbeds of creativity or just dinosaurs, once critical to the artistic process but no longer important? These are the things that keep me up at night. These are the things that inspire me as we advance a **Djerassi Forever** initiative.

Now is a good time to ensure the gift of time for those babies who decide to become professional painters, playwrights or poets. Seats at our spectacularly nourishing and exciting (*LSD, THE OPERA!*) **Artful Harvest** are going fast. For alumni artists, the portal is now open for December winter residencies. Invitations for 2016 resident artists will be mailed early next month. Six fee-based workshop retreats in 2016 are ready to accept participants.

In the meantime, enjoy the baby pictures. And be grateful there are no kitten connections to exploit.

Djerassi Forever.

Care and respect,
Margot H. Knight
Executive Director

Session Four

August 4 to September 2

Now our fourth session - we present artists from A to Z:

Visual Arts

Lee Arnold, Brooklyn, NY
Frank Foreman, Santa Cruz, CA
Jack Ryan, Eugene, OR

Media Arts

Alan Brown, New York, NY

Choreography

Maré Hieronimus, Brooklyn, NY

Music Composition

Koji Nakano, Boston, MA

Literature

Ayad Akhtar, New York, NY, writer
Elise Brandenburg, New York, writer
Eugene Gloria, Greencastle, IN, poet
Zahir Janmohamed, Ahmedabad, India, writer



Session 3. SciDelMad 2.0

Kimberly Melton, Portland, OR, writer
Nikki Zielinski, Lakewood, OH, poet

Read more about the artists: <http://www.djerassi.org/2015sess4bios.html>

The Artists Speak

The Djerassi Program has begun a YouTube account. On it you'll find interviews with our residents and related videos. We've begun with Sessions One and Two. See the artists here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6XCiKUMT0X8Rx_Yqo2LNsg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZJRhriF9lY>



You've Saved the Date, Now Reserve Your Spot

ARTFUL HARVEST is our biggest event of the year! **Join us Sunday, October 11** for a celebration to support the Djerassi 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 comes from **Anne LeBaron (2006)** and 2005 California Poet Laureate **Al Young (1986)**. Call for tickets at 650-747-1250 or go to our website <http://www.djerassi.org/artfulharvest.html>.

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 work: *Crack and Warp Column*.

Exhibit at Woodside Town Hall

Direct from their work at this year's **Open House**, the Town of Woodside Plein Air Painters displayed their results at Woodside city hall on August 7-9. See photo. As for Open House itself, this year's *Scientific Delirium Madness 2.0* was a sold-out success. Fascinating presentations and gourmet pizza made for an afternoon enjoyed by all. Thanks to all of our artists, scientists, our partners at LEONARDO, patrons, staff and community for the successful event. See you next year!



**Vicky Coe Mitchell
and gallery at Town
Hall**

2016 Workshops Registration Now Open

Find your muse in the company of some of our most outstanding alumni. You can take classes in exciting disciplines, live and learn on our

mountain ranch overlooking the Pacific, and enjoy chef Dan Tosh's amazing food.

Attend retreats with:

Ann Fisher-Wirth - Environmental Life Writing

Heidi Durrow - Writing Your Debut Novel

Jane Vandenburg - Writing Your Book-Length Narrative

Nova Ren Suma - Young Adult Novel Writing

Sara Shelton Mann - Inside/Outside, Movement Practices

Robert Buelteman - Ways of Seeing/Ways of Being - Photography

Complete costs, fees, schedules and information on our website:

http://www.djerassi.org/2016Djerassi_Program_Workshops.html

Apply Now for Winter Residency

Alumni artists are invited to apply for our offseason residency program.

Winter Session dates: **December 1 through December 18, 2015.**

Deadline to apply: **Friday: September 18, 2015.** For all the details, see our

website: <http://www.djerassi.org/winterresidencies.html>

Meet the "Djerassi Babies"



Proud mom Michelle Hofland presents Beatrix to family and friends.

The birth of staff member **Michelle Hofland's** baby *Beatrix* (at left) inspired us to ask you for photos of other children who were born to other Program alumni. In two words, we struck Baby Gold!

Djerassi's First Baby

Barbara Greenberg (1981), Djerassi's very first resident, not only initiated our artists' outpost, but also arrived here pregnant. She had her baby, *Ivo Anders Kromholz*, during that first session! **ART///SKY** has declared that to be more than a milestone - that's history! Barbara reports that Ivo is now

flourishing in Holland as a 34-year-old digital technician for MTV Networks in Amsterdam. Barbara, husband, painter Pawel Kromholz and Ivo resided at what is now the executive director's house and office for Ivo's first eight months. The family moved to the Netherlands in 1991.



Ivo Anders Kromholz



Unna Katlyn Nelson

Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson (2012) was pregnant while a resident and, understandably, was a bit worried about baby *Unna Katlyn Nelson* arriving early while mother was in such a remote locale. No worries, as young Unna arrived four weeks after the session. Looking back, however, Kyja thinks the mountain environment, the creative atmosphere, group camaraderie and chef Dan's food must get at least some prenatal credit for Unna's early display of artistic ability.

Baby *Alcy (Halcyon Skye Dehal)* was born May 29, 2014 (pictured with parents at right). Mother **Jody Lomask (2014)**, as a choreography resident, imported each of the dancers from her dance company, **Capacitor**, to prepare for a premiere scheduled just months after Alcy's coming debut. While at the Ranch, Jody also felt the support of other colleagues on the mountain, ate wonderful food and had plenty of time to reflect. "It all felt so healthy and right," she said.



Halcyon Skye Dehal



Porter McNeill Cummings

Allison Cummings' (2012) son *Porter McNeill Cummings*, left, is showing promise as a young artist as well as budding popsicle-eating skills.

Robin Beth Schaer (2012) and **Anthony Tognazzini's (2014)** son *Faro* (right) readies himself at a ranch for his first pony ride. See more about **Beth's** new book of poems below.



If we missed your baby picture in this issue, go ahead and send your information along to us for a future issue. We love babies - we'll make more! More room for those adorable pictures, that is.



Ouroboros, Sebastian Mendes, 2005

Djerassi news

Anne LeBaron (2006) held premieres of her work in Los Angeles, one, *LSD: The Opera* was performed at REDCAT. Read a review of her [work-in-progress](#). Some of her other pieces were featured at Songfest and reviewed [here](#).

You can hear Anne's work in person at **Artful Harvest 2015**, October 11 (make your reservations now) at our special gala at the Artists Ranch. <http://www.djerassi.org/artfulharvest.html>



Eggs, 2015, Karl Schaffer in Nest, 1997, Cynthia Harper

Robin Beth Schaer's New Work

Fresh from the printer is **Robin Beth Schaer's** latest collection of poems. *Shipbreaking* comes to us from Anhinga Press. The poetry is said by the author to exude the "smell of salt water." The book is available for preorder on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other outlets. See more on Instagram: [#shipbreaking](#)

Joanna Kotze (2013) presents the New York premiere of her evening-length choreography work *FIND YOURSELF HERE* at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. See **Comings/Goings** below. Joanna has also started a new and updated eponymous website: www.joannakotze.com.

Olive Ayhens's (1994, winter 2013) work was reviewed (praised) in a recent Elle magazine. If you missed it at the newsstand, the article is [here](#).

KQED Arts Profile

Djerassi Resident Artists Program was featured in a *KQED Arts* report on Bay Area artist residences. Authored by Andrew Gilbert, the article points out the features, similarities and differences between the three prominent Bay Area programs (Djerassi, Headlands and Montalvo), especially in nurturing artists that have gone on to achieve national recognition. In the story, executive director Margot Knight points out many of the benefits (and some drawbacks) of the Program's efforts for continued success. See it [here](#).

As **Kate Nichols (2015)** was on the mountain for her residency, she was featured in *Nautilus* magazine in an article entitled *The Ambiguous Colors of Nanotechnology*.

The article discusses her practice with nanocolors, nanopaints and the true adventures involved in using nanoparticles to create colors. <http://nautil.us/issue/26/color/the-ambiguous-colors-of-nanotechnology>

Nicole Buffett (2013) is interviewed by Alexis Emily about her artistic practice/process in an article in *LUXe Cultura*, an online arts magazine. See the article [here](#) and note the photos taken at the Old Barn with her work, *Guardians*, featured.

Former Army brat **Donna Musil (2014)** is featured in online *Huck* magazine in a story that asks the question, *Does a Nomadic Childhood Lead to a More Creative Life?* The piece entitled *Uprooted Kids*, by Shelly Jones, explores the lives of several people who moved around a lot during childhood. The article focuses on military kids and others whose home lives seemed never to sit still. <http://www.huckmagazine.com/art-and-culture/uprooted-kids/>

ART///SKY mourns the passing of **Alan Cheuse (1990)** of Santa Cruz, author and National Public Radio book critic. He was 75. Among living relatives is Djerassi-alum wife **Kristin O'Shee (1989, '90)**. Read *The New York Times* tribute to him [here](#).

Catch up with **Tim Braun (2010)** and his faithful four-legged companion Dusty as they travel the world. His new tale *New Orleans, or My Evacuation Plan: The Cheese Danish in My Pants* is available online. Read the story [here](#).

Caroline Wellbery (2015) discusses her experience at the Ranch during her stay for session 3's Scientific Delirium Madness 2.0. On the Georgetown University Medical Center website, Dr. Wellbery said her stay at Djerassi gave her additional inspiration and enhanced her work in teaching students to be more creative, not merely technical, in their medical practice. Read [more](#).



Awards

Nick Hadikwa Mwaluko (2011) writes that his play *Sheroe* won **best play, best director and best actresses** at the *Spring 2015 Fringe of Marin*. In addition, copies of his play *Waafrica* are available on Amazon at: <http://www.amazon.com/Waafrica-Nick-Mwaluko/dp/3981386329>

Sara Backer (1999) has received the **2015 Turtle Island Poetry Award** for her hybrid poetry/essay chapbook *BICYCLE LOTUS*. It's scheduled to be published by FootHills Press (NY) sometime this fall.

Recent alum **Laura Konjetzky (2013)** has been named to the **Europäische Musikautoren-Stipendium** (EMAS/European Music Author Fellowship) from the German Society for Musical Performing (GEMA). Congratulations to all!

Comings, Goings & Showings

Simplify! Simplify! - *Henry David Thoreau.*

Simplify your life with an easy email to **ART///SKY with your upcoming art events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours**(as far in advance as possible - next issue September 18) to nick@djerassi.org.

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

Through August 22 **Karen Tam (2011)**, *Terra dos Chinês Curio Shop*, solo exhibition at Artspace, 378 Aylmer St. N., Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. More at her website:

<http://www.karentam.ca/english.html>

Through August 23 **Lava Thomas (2003, winter 2009, trustee)** one-person exhibition. Closing reception and catalog release August 23, 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley, CA.



August 23 **Joya Cory (1983)** *Full Spectrum Improvisation*, dance benefit for The Faithful Fools, a street ministry to the homeless in the Tenderloin. 234 Hyde St., San Francisco. In addition, you can apply for Full Spectrum Improvisation classes this fall. To register, go to www.joyacory.com.

Through August 29 **Olga Lah (2014)** *Reinventory*, group show of recipients of 2015 Professional Artists Fellowships by Arts Council for Long Beach, Collaborative Gallery, Long Beach, CA.

Through August 29 **Juan Carlos Quintana (2006)** *Retrospectives*, jack fischer gallery, 311 Potrero Av., Berkeley.

Through August 30 **Walter Robinson (1998, winter '11)** *Home Grown*, visual art - presented by Catharine Clark Gallery - Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA.

Through August 31 **Susie Buchholz (2015)** *One Fine Day*, paintings, CaldwellSnyder gallery, 1328 Main Street, St. Helena, CA.

Through September 3 *Group Hang*, California-based female artists featuring **Val Britton (2014)**, along with Christine Elfman, Ana Fernandez, Helen Garber and Ranu Mukherjee. Gallery Wendi Norris, 161 Jessie St., San Francisco.

September 10-13 and 17-20 **Lenora Lee (2013)** World Premiere of LLD's *Fire of Freedom* presented by Fort Mason Center in association with Asian Improv aRts, API Cultural Center, and the Chinese Historical Society of America, Fort Mason General Residence, Franklin and Bay Streets, San Francisco.

September 12 to October 17 **Kara Maria (2003)** *Haywire*, visual art. Catharine Clark Gallery, 248 Utah St., San Francisco.

Through September 20 **Robert Buelteman**, *Night Begins the Day: Rethinking Space, Time, and Beauty*, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA.

September 17-19 **Joanna Kotze (2013)** *FIND YOURSELF HERE*, Howard Gilman Performance Space, Baryshnikov Arts Center, 450 W. 57th St., New York.

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

Through January 5, 2016, **Stacey Steers (2014)**, *Night Hunter House* is featured in a group show *Showing Off, Recent Modern and Contemporary Acquisitions*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO.

ART///SKY August 2015

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nick@djerassi.org.

Photos by the parents. *Beatrix* and *Town Hall* by Terra Fuller. Others by N. Walsh. Banner art: *Hear*, 2013, **Aristotle Georgiades**.

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