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Subject: The Gift of Time!

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April-May 2016

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2016 Season Begins | Pulitzer! | Reunions



Aristus, Bruce Beasley, 1982

Time. . . to be, to reflect, to create, to hope

The frantic pace of providing for and running an artist residency program is diametrically opposed to the experiential outcome we want for the artists who are invited to come here. We work very hard to create a sense of sweat-free serenity while madly managing grant deadlines, planning events and struggling with the internet. The grass needs mowing, the rats need exterminating (sorry, zen-like animal lovers) and the trails need maintaining. All of this matters because artists matter.

"What keeps you going?" a friend asked over lunch a few weeks ago. "The artists," I replied. As we welcome the first group of the 2016 season, every interaction with the group listed below lowers my blood pressure and stills the hammering in my head. What these, and ALL artists, do for me is writ large. They make me see the world differently. They force me to question my assumptions. They allow me to grow. Collectively, artists make the lives of every single individual on this earth BETTER. Though this is rarely acknowledged, it is still a truth I cling to.

Artists make our lives possible

Artists make sense of nonsense, stories from random bits of data, symbols that reflect our deepest desires. Artists make our lives bearable, through song and dance and words and images. Artists lay bare our hypocrisies, lighten our moods and deepen our understanding. Artists illuminate the human experience. Their work can elevate the level of debate - a soft sword against the vulgar coarseness that masquerades as public discourse. Artists are among the bravest people I know, taking more risks in a day than I take in a month.

The 11 sterling representatives of the worldwide tribe of artists we have on the mountain this month give me hope that, well, having hope is NOT a stupid thing to hang onto. There can be no crying over yesterday, only a desirable future state. For me, that journey must include artists every step of the way.

Multiple opportunities to experience the work of artists first-hand are listed below. Whether you read Djerassi alum **Viet Trinh Nguyen's 2016 Pulitzer-winning novel (CONGRATULATIONS, VIET)** or catch an exhibition or see a dance, create some time in your busy, frantic life for art. You'll be glad you did.

Care & respect,
Margot H. Knight
Executive Director

The Season Begins. Session ONE is here!

April 13 - May 11

Visual Arts

Renate Höning, Regensburg, Germany
Marta Salas-Porrás, San Francisco

Media Arts

Marielle Jakobsons, Oakland, CA
Iva Radivojevic, Brooklyn, NY

Music Composition

Jewlia Eisenberg, Berkeley, CA

Choreography

Dusan Tynek, Brooklyn, NY

Literature

Melanie Bishop, Carmel, CA, Writer
Robin Farmer, Mechanicsville, VA,
Writer

Melenie Flynn, Truro, MA, Writer

Beth Marshall, Orlando, FL

Playwright/Filmmaker

Andrew Saito, San Francisco, Playwright



Dialog, Roland Mayer, 2004

See the artists' biographies here: [BIOS](#)

Hello, New York! Djerassi Alumni Gathering!

Don't miss our Djerassi get-together **Tuesday, May 24, 6 to 8 p.m. at the [HERE Art Center](#)**, 145 6th Av, New York City. It's a great chance to meet with past, present and future Program alumni. Light refreshments and wine provided.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 10 to terra@djerassi.org

Space graciously hosted by HERE Arts Center and Basil Twist (2005, winter '12), artistic director of HERE's Dream Music Puppetry Program.

Be HERE then!

That Time of Year Again

Art Market San Francisco returns to the Fort Mason Festival Pavilion through May 1. **ART///SKY** readers may receive free admission by clicking [here](#).

Silicon Valley Gives

May 3rd is *Silicon Valley Gives* day - less than a week away! Please consider giving to the Djerassi Resident Artists Program so we can continue to give artists "the gift of time" to inspire and create their art. Please click this link: <https://svgives.razoo.com/us/story/Djerassi-Program>.

Coming July 24! Reserve Your Spot For Open House

This is our annual event that showcases not only our amazing collection of artists but an outstanding group of scientists who share this year's *Scientific Delirium Madness 3.0* session. Artists who use science and technology meet scientists versed in literary, visual and media arts. Don't miss it! Get your tickets [here](#).

Got Sounds?

The Djerassi Resident Artists Program presents this short WISH LIST for any of our friends and supporters who would like to help us out in our Composers Studio. Donations in kind or in cash would be most gratefully appreciated.

Bass or Guitar amplifier

Wall-mounted speaker system

Flat-screen TV

Additional audio equipment (cables, recording equipment, digital instruments, amplification systems)

To donate, email terra@djerassi.org. Equipment should be relatively new and in good working condition. We will happily recycle or re-donate equipment that may not fit our needs, Thanks to all donors!



Torii, Bruce Johnson, 1983

Djerassi news

Portland Reunion

Our reunion in Portland, Oregon, was unique. Attendees were alumni of both Djerassi and Ucross artist programs, hosted by the **Elizabeth Leach Gallery** in the City of Roses. Formal thanks were made to the The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) who support 4 fellowships per year to Djerassi and Ucross. In addition, as announced by **Kandis Brewer Nunn**, foundation consultant, TFFF has expanded their support of Oregon artists to several other residency programs.

Despite the rain (no surprise there) the chance to meet again with alumni - and even some of our future residents - was a great opportunity for all in attendance. We look forward to more gatherings, especially our **upcoming New York Reunion** on May 24 (cited above).



l to r: Brittany Powell (2013), former artist manager Krist Mills, Erik Geschke (2013), Ka'ila Farrell-Smith (2016).



I to r: Chris D'Arcy, **Margot H. Knight**, executive director, **Michael Boonstra (2014)**, **Ann Kresge (2015)**, Laura Vandenburg, **Paula Rebsom (2013)**.



Margot Knight and Kandis Brewer Nunn. All Portland photos: **Terra Fuller**

Karen Benke (2001) recently published the third in her creative writing adventure book series, *WRITE BACK SOON! Adventures in Letter Writing* (Shambhala/Penguin Random House, 2015). In March she presented her intergenerational letter-writing "play-shops" in the Bay Area and in New York at Pen + Brush Gallery. Karen will present again in NYC, October 1-8, leading workshops at Poets House and the NYPL. Visit her at www.karenbenke.com for more information.

Courtney Leigh, who has attended 2 of **Nova Ren Suma's (2012)** writing workshops has published an article extolling her experience and pointing out what she considers to be the 3 main benefits of attending one of our retreats. In fact, she liked her participation so much it appears on 2 websites: A longer version at [Model Behaviors](#) and a shorter one at the [Huffington Post](#). Click and enjoy.

Kudos ...

2016 **Pulitzer** prizes have been announced, and **Viet Thanh Nguyen (2008)** has won the **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction** for his novel *The Sympathizer*. The book has also won a **Carnegie Medal** for Excellence in Fiction, the Center for Fiction's **First Novel Prize** and the **Asian/Pacific American Literature Award**. Critics say the novel stands in the same light as work by Conrad, Greene and LeCarre. <http://vietnguyen.info/>

Eric Wubbels (2014) **Robert Carl (2000)**, composers, received recognition by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Eric received a *Charles Ives Fellowship*, awarded to individual composers. The stipend derives from royalties produced by Mr. Ives' estate. Robert's award was the *Arts and Letters Award for Music*, presented for

artistic achievement and included a payment towards expenses for recording one of his works.

Lindsey Renee Derry (2013)/Linsdans has received a Community Arts grant from the Zellerbach Family Foundation for Lindsey's new work *Would_She*. The Zellerbach grant spotlights new artists and panel-reviewed projects. See premiere and performance information in **CG&S** below. This just in: Lindsey will also travel to China at the invitation of the *Beijing Dance Festival* to guest teach as well as present *Would_She* at the festival in July.

Eugene Gloria (2002, '07, '15), has received a *Fulbright Lecturer Award* sending him to Manila, Philippines, where he will be hosted by the Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies at The Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas (UST). Founded in 1611, UST is the oldest extant university charter in both the Philippines and Asia.

From Montreal, **Karen Tam (2011)** feels "doubly honoured" [Canadian spelling] to be both a finalist for an award from the *Musee National des Beaux-arts de Quebec* and making the nomination list for the *2016 Sobey Art Award*. We'll be watching for upcoming good news. More about Karen in **CG&S**.

The 2015 IZZIES Go To ...

Named for the legendary dancer, the **Isadora Duncan Dance Awards** have been announced for their 30th year. Djerassi alum **Pamela Z (2010)** received an award for *Outstanding Achievement in Music/Sound/Text ...* Other recipients were **Deborah Slater (1992, multiple winters)** and **the Deborah Slater Dance Theatre Special Award Honoree ...** and **Jodi Lomask (2014)** *Outstanding Achievement in Visual Design*.

Congratulations are in order for **Yalitza Ferreras (2015)**. **The Best American Short Stories 2016** has chosen her story "*The Letician Age*" for inclusion in this year's edition.

In addition, flying into SFO, **Yalitza** alertly snapped an outstanding photograph of the Artists Barn and Middlebrook Studios. Photo at right.



Look! You can see the barn from here!

Ari Frankel (2014) has been invited to participate in this year's New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival. "*InErnest*," created at Djerassi during Scientific Delirium Madness 1.0 will be performed along with Ari's other composition "*EnCaged*." See details below in CG&S.

In Other Djerassi News ...

Keep up with Eathan Janney (2015) on his *Floating Piano Blog*.

<https://floatingpianoblog.wordpress.com/2016/03/31/centro-cultural/>

This issue highlights Eathan's travels through Peru and describes his work bridging both geography and culture on a global scale.

Mary Gilliland (2011) will be in residence at MASS MoCA this summer and fall. You can listen to her poem 'Ember Days' at the *Notre Dame Review* current issue website, <http://ndreview.nd.edu/current-web-issue/>. Read other poems forthcoming this year in *Nimrod*, *Tampa Review*, and *Stand*.

Kimi Eisele (2014) is interviewed in *Tucson Weekly* about her life and career, featuring community engagement projects, local issues and themes of her art. Kimi views her work based on environment, species conservation, social justice, and community building. <http://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/t-qanda/Content?oid=6079562>

Read an insightful commentary on the artist's life by **Ann Kresge (2015)**. Entitled "*Creativity thrives best when we are not afraid*." Ann writes that curiosity beats out fear and provides the inspiration and drive to accomplish the 'work' in artwork. To read, copy and paste this URL.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/life/2016/04/02/creativity-thrives-best->

[afraid/82521990/](#)

Fame continues for the **Diane Middlebrook Studios**, our 2012 housing addition, designed by board of trustee chair **Cass Calder Smith**. An article in *No.3 Magazine* discusses Cass' union of rural aesthetic with creature comforts that aid and inspire creativity. Read more at www.number3mag.com.

Christine Lee (2015) has been appointed Assistant Professor in Wood/Sustainability at the School of Art, Arizona State University. Congrats!



Orpheus Coyote and Friends, William King, 1999

Composer **Luca Forcucci (2015)** is headed for the *Red Bull Station Studios* in Sao Paulo, Brazil, beginning May 11 until July 1. The studios enhance artists' research, experimentation and musical experience.

Sara Shelton Mann (1995, '02, '11) announces that her collaboration with **Keith Hennessy (2010)** entitled *Sara the Smuggler* is available for streaming online. Go to: <http://circozero.org/sara-read-more> to see this highly praised dance work.

Sorry we missed you

Jonathon Keats (2014) launched his book about eccentric inventor and genius Buckminster Fuller on April 14th at City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco. *You Belong to the Universe, Buckminster Fuller and the Future* is described by critics as an inspiring call to action on our own

future...**Joe Goode (1991)** exhibited at The Dallas Art Fair, at the Fashion Industry Gallery, Dallas, TX, April 12-14. He is represented by Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA. <http://www.peterblakegallery.com/>...**Mare Hieronimus (2015)**

ANTLERED EARTH- solo dance program. At The Muriel Schulman Theater at Triskelion Arts, Brooklyn, NY...**Christy Funsch (2006, 2012)** danced in Daniel Nagrin's *Path*, part of National Dance Week. April 24th at Ocean Beach, San Francisco...**Conrad Cummings (1985)** *Science Fair*, new opera with 'experiments.' Featuring mezzo-soprano Hai-Ting Chinn. *Here Arts Center*, New York.

www.here.org...**Michael Boonstra (2014)** *Transitory Surface*, prints, paintings and drawings. Ended this week, Fairbanks Gallery on Oregon State campus, Corvallis, OR.

C G & S

Comings, Goings & Showings

"Welcome to the Hotel California" - *The Eagles* ... with the Djerassi Program version: "...Where you can stay 30 days, but then you must always leave." But keep in touch! We want to hear from you! **Let us know about your comings and goings.** Email **ART//SKY** with your upcoming **art events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours** (as far in advance as possible). Send to nick@djerassi.org.

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

Thru Apr 30 Joanna Kotze (2013) performing in Kimberly Bartosik's new work *Étroits sont les Vaisseaux* at Gibney Dance, 280 Broadway, New York City. See more at Joanna's website: www.joannakotze.com/

Apr 28 to Jul 5 Val Britton (2014) *Transmissions*, solo exhibit, large-scale painted collages. Gallery Wendi Norris, 161 Jessie St. at New Montgomery, San Francisco.

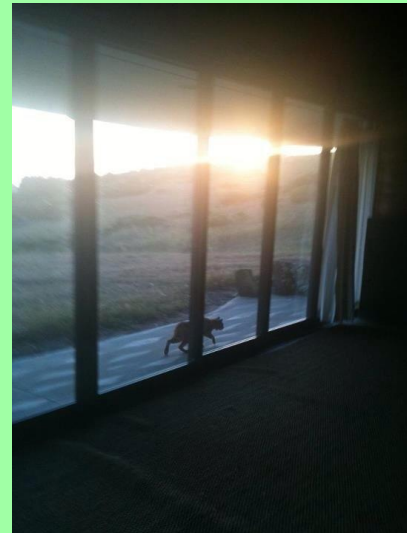
Thru Apr 30 Allison Leigh Holt (2014) *The Glass System* - glass, video, light and more, North Dakota Museum of Art, 261 Centennial Dr., Grand Forks, ND.

May 6 & 7 Lindsey Renee Derry (2013) *Would_She* - San Francisco dance

premiere, Joe Goode Annex, 499 Alabama St., San Francisco.

Thru May 12 Robert Buelteman (1996, 5 winters)
Botanica, color photos without cameras. On display via Stanford Art Spaces in several Engineering dept. spaces. See <https://www.facebook.com/StanfordArtSpaces> for maps and directions. Stanford, CA.

May 19 Kenji Liu (2013) Poetry, presented the Inlandia Institute's Inaugural Hillary Gravendyk Prize. Reading at the *Inlandia Conversations at the Culver*, Barbara and Art Culver Center for the Arts, University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA.



Bobcat sunset. Photo **Kelle Groom (2012)**.

May 21 & 22 Lenora Lee (2013), Lenora Lee Dance and other performers present *Double Victory* a tribute to the contributions of Asian American communities to the historic vision of victory over both fascism and racism in World War II. Admission Free. Under Golden Gate Bridge entrance: Fort Point, 999 Marine Dr., San Francisco.

Thru May 28 Jian-Jun Zhang (1995) *Water. Quintessence*, visual art solo exhibition, Pearl Lam Galleries, Shanghai, China.

Jun 2 Karen Tam (2011) installation at *Power Ball XVIII: Pleasure Principle*. Karen recreates her "opium den" at Power Plant Art Gallery, 231 Queens Quay West, Toronto, Canada.

Thru Jun 5 Tony Philips (1987, winter '02) *Surrealism: The Conjured Life*, group show, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.

Thru Jun 5 Adam Kalinowski (2012) *Abstraction Spaces: Kalinowski Family Work*. National Museum of Gdansk, Gdansk, Poland.

Jun 5 Ari Frankel (2014) Video music composition: *InErnest*, New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, National Sawdust, 80 North 6th St., Brooklyn, NY.

Jun 5 to Aug 21 Linda Simmel (2013) *Scene/Unseen*, explorations of the landscape experience, Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA.

Jun 19 to 24 Kimberly Dark (2011) *Yoga for Every Body Retreats in Hawaii (What's your body's story?)* See her Facebook page for more information. And keep up with Kimberly via her website <http://www.kimberlydark.com/>

Thru Aug 14 Jeremy Mende (2015) *Guantanamo Bay Museum of Art and History*, featured

in Take This Hammer: Art + Media Activism in the Bay Area, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco.

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