



Session 6 | Djerassi News | More Kudos



Yield to Whim, Frank Foreman, 1983.

**WHY, HOW and WHO
(Because We Know WHERE)**

As we wind down the regular season (only good weather!) of artist residencies and prepare for winter artists and weather surprises, I contemplate the grass-covered hills from my office window and ask myself 'WHY?' On the heels of another record-breaking Artful Harvest gala followed too quickly by a national gathering of the tribe of people who do what we do, I ask myself 'WHY?'

WHY, when we revere artists and look to them to create meaning and imagery and text and movement to illuminate the human experience, is it so challenging to support artists?

WHY, after artists form beachheads in cities across the country do they get priced out of the very communities they created? WHY is the simple "gift of time" - a transformative opportunity to expand the cultural landscape - such a tough case to make?

WHY is the concept of supporting art, artists and the creative process for its own sake so hard to explain, so hard to understand? WHY are artists valued more for what they DO - whether it's revitalize neighborhoods, teach our children, write novels or create murals - than WHO they are and HOW they work?

The work of the 68 artists who have joined us in 30-day stints will continue to ripple across the world in quiet and noisy ways. Many will soon win awards and recognition for work inspired here this year. Many won't see recognition for years. There are no gestational boundaries for creativity or credit. Many will return to teaching positions - refreshed and renewed - to instruct a new generation the value of expressing themselves creatively. Many will return to other so-called "day-jobs" as editors, scientists, curators, wait-staff, or professional poker players (Okay, we had ONE).

Their job here is TO BE. We are no vacation, as they dive deeper and deeper into their respective muses. Here they wrestle with ideas, fight with paragraphs, figure out keys and clefs, sort out colors and soothe aching, dancing joints. Here they are *artists* with all the rights and privileges they ought to have accorded to them year in and year out.

The more time I spend with artists the less I ask WHY. And the more I ask myself HOW. Djerassi Resident Artists' Program is part of the HOW. And then I ask WHO. And I sure hope it's YOU.

To quote Alice's Mock Turtle - Will you won't you, will you won't you, will you join the dance?

Care and Respect,
Margot H. Knight

Executive Director

**Last but not least. Session 6 for 2015:
October 20 - November 18**

Visual Art

Shelley Jordon, Portland, OR
Ann Kresge, Salem, OR
Melissa Wyman, Palo Alto, CA

Choreography

Netta Yerushalmy, New York, NY

Music Composition

Mark Taylor, New York, NY

Literature

Gloria Bond Clunie, Evanston, IL. Playwright
Yalitzza Ferreras, San Francisco, CA. Writer
Chris Leslie-Hynan, Portland, OR. Writer
Mari L'Esperance, Pasadena, CA, Poet
Jonathan Luskin, San Francisco, CA. Playwright/Composer
Emilio Rodriguez, Detroit, MI. Playwright

Read the Artists' [Biographies](#).

Djerassi Dialogs on YouTube

Several artists are featured on [our YouTube site](#) each month. Make the page a Favorite to keep up with our changing groups of artists.



Harvest guests (l to r) Robert and Julie Buelteman, Sue and John Diekman



Artful Harvest

A Successful Artful Harvest

Over 150 participants came to our biggest event of the year:

Artful Harvest. The annual celebration to support the Djerassi Program's *Gift of Time* had perfect weather, treasured auction items, Michelin-starred restaurant fare, flowing wine and thought-provoking entertainment from **Anne LeBaron (2006, 2015)** and California Poet Laureate **Al Young (1986)**. Watch for next year's fantastic festivities.



Performers (l to r) John Schneider, Anne LeBaron, Alison Bjorkedal, Lucy Shelton

Bobcat Dialog



Arriving on the mountain for **Artful Harvest**, Alison Bjorkedal (photo above) was the featured harpist for **Anne LeBaron's (2006, '15)** excerpt from *LSD, The Opera*. That morning Alison toured our sculptures, quickly coming to **Roland Mayer's (2004) Dialog**. Upon further review, she saw romping among the sculpture's struts 3 - count 'em - 3 young BOBCATs (Bobkittens?) playfully pursuing each other up and down Mayer's work. She alertly took a video (one is just visible in screen print). The cats should consider themselves lucky to have such a playhouse. *Dialog* is now closed to humans. **Lenora Lee (2013)** and her dance group are shown in one of the last artist uses of *Dialog*.

Breaking News

Basil Twist (2005, winter 2012) has been selected as a 2015 MacArthur Fellow. Describing his work as "puppetry that explores [the boundaries] between animate

and inanimate, the abstract and the figurative." Read the citation [here](#).

Basil's current show in New York has met with critical acclaim - and its run has been extended (see *Comings, Goings* below). Read a *New York Times* review of Basil's current work at the Abrons Art Center [here](#).

More Interviews

Find a review of **Joanna Kotze's (2013) *FIND YOURSELF HERE*** [here](#). It's reviewed by Rennie McDougall in *Culturbot maximum performance* ezine.

Jessica Dunne (1997, 5 winters) is interviewed in the latest issue of *Catamaran Literary Reader*, an arts magazine based in Santa Cruz. See it [here online](#) or at newsstands.

***Disgraced* - West Coast Opening**

The West Coast premiere of 2013's Pulitzer-winning play *Disgraced* will be at Berkeley Rep. (See *Comings, Goings* below.) The playwright **Ayad Akhtar (2015)** will make a personal appearance along with the event's host **Judy Dater (1999, former trustee)** at her studio before the show at a special **Djerassi Forever** gathering. The new series of intimate creative conversations will engage new friends to enhance our mission - to keep giving **The Gift of Time** to our praiseworthy range of artists.

Ayad was also featured in an interview [here](#) with the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* John Timpane.

And there's more Ayad Akhtar in the [British press](#).



Vanishing Ship, John Roloff, 1988

Djerassi news

Moving House

Sarah FitzSimons (2014)

has taken part in the initial *Chicago Architectural Biennial*. Her exhibit was on display during October at the Chicago lakefront (see photo). If it looks familiar, it formerly stood on the hill overlooking the Artists' Ranch. *House for Djerassi*, rechristened simply *House*



House, Sarah FitzSimons, 2015.

was a prominent feature of the new every-other-year architectural celebration for the Windy City.

Who Made it to the Fashion Week Runway?

It's **Robin Beth Schaer's (2012)** collection - of poetry. *Shipbreaking* was noted as being a fashion companion to a dress by designer Tibi Spring. In all, BuzzFeed noted 24 designers' work that related to current book cover designs. [See more.](#)

Keeping up with Eathan Janney (2015)

Late of Scientific Delirium Madness and Open House, Eathan has traveled to Europe prior to his current location in Peru. Janney has posted his interactive presentation from his time at Djerassi. See and join in with it [here](#).

Executive Director Margot H. Knight interviewed

In a wide-ranging interview about collaboration, sabbaticals and learning as you go, Ms. Knight discusses issues affecting the Program as well as best practices in nonprofit management. The interviewer, Kirsten Bullock is a nationally known consultant for nonprofits. See [more](#).

Kudos

Chana Bloch (1989, '91, '06, '12) "*The Joins*" appeared in *Best American Poetry, 2015* and will appear in the *2015 Pushcart Prize Anthology*. The work was inspired by her time at Djerassi and **Roland Mayer's (2004)** sculpture *Dialog*.

In addition, Ms. Bloch recently recorded a selection of her poems on [Voetica.com](#).

Kenji Liu (2013) was a Finalist for the *Hong Kong University International Poetry Prize 2014* with his poem *Map of an Onion*.

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) announced recipients in the Performing Arts and Media Arts round of funding under its *Investing in Artists* grants program, which is designed to build the personal and creative capacity of the Bay Area's artists working in these media. Including **Dohee Lee (2014)** and **Vero Majano (2007)**.

Melissa Stein (2005, 2014) is featured as the Poem of The Week in *Narrative*, an online arts magazine. The opening of her poem *Blessings* is on view [here](#).

Catch the Latest

Kimberly Dark has an essay at [The Nervous Breakdown \(TNB\)](#). Keep up with Kimberly with her handy website calendar:

<http://www.kimberlydark.com/calendar.html>

On a TV Near You

Jamie Pachino (1998) is the screenwriter of an upcoming production on the Hallmark Channel. It's an adaptation of Karen Kingsbury's *The Bridge*. Look for it coming in December.

Also coming to the small screen, *Big Joy, The Adventures of James Broughton*, a feature-length film edited by **Dawn Logsdon (2012)** will appear on KQED in San Francisco on November 15. The film is a biography of Beat Generation godfather and former San Francisco Art Institute film instructor James Broughton.

<http://ww2.kqed.org/trulyca/big-joy/>

New Valente

Portuguese composer **Jose Valente (2012)** is back with new compositions. *The Birds Are Broken (Os Passaros Estao Estragados)* displays his characteristic solo viola and electronic music. See and hear more. <http://www.josevalente.com/>.

Sorry we missed you ...

Karen Tam (2011) had a busy October. She was part of the *Feature Contemporary Art Fair* <http://www.featureartfair.com/> in Toronto, Canada,

Then, in Chicago, *Project VISION* - the nonprofit Karen helped found in 2003, held its 8th Annual Fall Soiree in a benefit for 6th-12th graders' after-school programs. Read more. <http://www.projectvisionchicago.org/>

Read about **Luca Forcucci's (2015)** recent show in San Francisco here.

<http://leonardo.info/blogs/bodyscape/>

Tugulder Yondonjamts (2012) placed an installation called "Between Two Giants"

at the American Museum of Natural History during the Margaret Mead Film Festival in late October. 'Tugo' showed his current video work at the festival. Read and see [more](#).

Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco came to the San Mateo Event Center in October and showcased outstanding national and local art galleries and the visual artists they promote. Two such were Djerassi alums **Mel Day (2010)**, **Laurie Frick (2011)** and **Valentin Popov (1990, winter 2002)** (Apologies to those we may have missed). The Djerassi Program was a cosponsor of the event along with other prominent Bay Area arts organizations.

During October, **Michael Boonstra (2014)**, **Sarah FitzSimons (2014)** participated in a three-person exhibition, *Between Places*, SOIL Gallery in Seattle, WA....**Matthew Terrell (2014)** *San Francisco Top to Bottom*, headlined the final show at the current location of Magnet in San Francisco....**Alice Miceli (2013)** exhibited photographs taken in Colombia, exploring the space of minefields, at the Cisneros-Fontanals Grants and Commissions Program (CIFO), CIFO Art Space, Miami, FL.

Comings, Goings & Showings

"To create one's world in any of the arts takes courage." - Georgia O'Keeffe . **Good news** - It takes practically no courage at all to send an email to ART///SKY with your upcoming art events, exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible - final 2015 issue December 1) to nick@djerassi.org.

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

November 2 **Sarah Klein (2005, winter '07, '09, '12, '13)** *Stop & Go, Made from Scratch*, animation, Intersection for the Arts, 925 Mission St., San Francisco.



House for Djerassi, Sarah FitzSimons, 2014

November 5 to December 18 **Michael Boonstra** Solo show at Duplex, 219 NW Couch St., Portland, OR.

November 6 **Luca Forcucci (2015)** Multiplicidade Festival, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

November 6 to 8, **Deborah Hay (1997)** is featured in the sixth annual Bridge Project: *Rewriting Dance*,

performance and workshops at the intersection of language and choreography. Produced in association with [CounterPulse](#), 80 Turk St., San Francisco.

November 6 & 7 **Cid Pearlman (2002, 2008)** *Looking Left*, "somewhat annual" dance performance, Motion Pacific, 131 Front St., Santa Cruz, CA.

EXTENDED! Through November 7 **Basil Twist (2005, winter '12)** *Sisters Follies, Between Two Worlds*, new genres puppetry, Abrons Art Center, 466 Grand St., New York, NY.

November 6 to December 20 **Ayad Akhtar (2015)** West Coast premiere of Pulitzer-prize winning play *Disgraced*. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley.

November 7 - December 19 **Timothy Nolan (2006, winter 2011)** *The Constant Speed of Light*. Large-scale, collage-based prints on aluminum and fabric. [CB1 Gallery](#), 1923 South Santa Fe Av., Los Angeles, CA.

November 12 **John McManus (2012)** Discussion of his short story collection *Fox Tooth Heart*. Presented by Sarabande Books. Bookstore Café, 126 Crosby St., New York, NY.

November 13 & 14 **Jerome Kitzke (2009)** *An American Maverick, Jerome Kitzke at 60*, The DiMenna Center for Classical Music, Mary Flagler Cary Hall, 450 West 37th St., New York, NY.

November 13 & 14 **Donna Sternberg (2014)** *What's Next?* dance, poetry and music mash-up, with poet Suzanne Lummis and musician Colm O'Riain, Ivy Substation, Culver City, CA.

November 14, 21 and December 5 **Christie Funsch (2006, 2012)** open rehearsals to mark launch of Funsch Dance's new work *The Unfixed, Attending*.

November 14 **Deborah Slater (1992, '02, '10, '12, '14)** *Ways Not to Drown (Creating Source Material)* theatre workshop. Studio 210, 3435 Cesar Chavez Av., San Francisco.

Through November 15 **Christie Funsch** Choreographer for *Arctic Requiem*, with Bootstrap Foundation, Z Below, 470 Florida St., San Francisco.

November 15 **Molissa Fenley (1998)** Book party for new publication *Rhythm Field, the Dance of Molissa Fenley* by various contributors (Seagull Press, 2015). Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery St., New York, NY.

November 19, continuing into 2016 **Laura Viale (2002)** Co-curator and artist in "*a due*," *Arte Contemporanea in Italia e Belgio 1990-2015*. Visual art, opening at the Italian Cultural Institute of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium.

Through November 22 **Luca Forcucci** group show: *AFTERSOUND, Frequency, Attack, Return*, including two of Luca's graphic scores: *In a Silent Way* and *Russian Map of the*

Attack of Berlin, Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University, Purnell Center for the Arts, Pittsburgh, PA. See and hear [more](#).

November 25 - December 24 **Christie Funsch**, choreographer, *Word for Word's Holiday High Jinx*, Z Below, San Francisco.

Through December 3 **Surabhi Saraf (2012)** *Remedies*, solo exhibition, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai, India.

Through December 11 **Eva Davidova (2009)** curator of *Happenland*, installation, sculpture, video art, painting, photography and augmented reality by 10 contemporary artists from Spain, Brazil and USA. Radiator Gallery, 10-61 Jackson, L.I.C., New York.

December 11 **Roberto Paci Dalò (1987)** *Front*, a film with live music performed onstage, presented at *Premio Napoli 2015*, Auditorium Napoli RAI, Naples, Italy.

December 12 **Jin Hi Kim (1995)** Work-in-progress from *Composers NOW*, her residency at Pocantico Center (NY). The work, *Ghost Komungobot*, will be presented at CultureHub REFEST 2015, La MaMa Theatre, East 4th St., New York City.



Val Britton, 2015, photo Terra Fuller

Through December 19 **Squeak Carnwath (1992)** *What Before Comes After*, painting and various media, including cigar boxes. Lombard Gallery, 518 West 19th St., Chelsea, New York City.

Through January 3 **Ann Weber (1999)** *Fiberlicious* group show, fiber-art, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles.

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

Through January 17 **Camille Utterback (2012)** featured in group show [NEAT: New Experiments in Art and Technology](#) at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission St., San Francisco.

January 22 **Luca Forcucci** Music program highlighting travels in South Africa, presented at Museum Friedrich, Dürrenmatt, Switzerland.

ART///SKY November 2015

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