



Djerassi Resident Artists Program stands in solidarity and support of Black Lives Matter; we are committed to foregrounding Black Lives and Black Voices in all forms.

Truth and justice is ringing like a bell that we all want to hear, from the protests in the United States to the moving demonstrations that are now being heard around the world.

We condemn the systemic racism plaguing our country, and believe that our country is at a crossroads to reimagine and to rebuild a new reality. This has been a long time coming. Amidst the upheaval of COVID-19 and the pandemic of racism and intersectional oppression, a new truth and a new honesty about our history is coming forward.

We mourn the painful loss of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and the many others who have died unjustly in senseless acts of violence—Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile, Alton

Sterling, Walter Scott, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Layleen Polanco, Tony McDade, Nina Pop and Eric Garner. We say their names and seek that their stories be told so that our laws and social patterns change for good.

The Djerassi Program stands with the transformative work happening in protest to make lasting and immediate change in our everyday lives, with all those seeking an end to police brutality, to end white supremacy, and a new day for us all.

Like many institutions, Djerassi Resident Artists Program is deep listening—

How can we help to dismantle white supremacist frameworks, how can we better amplify Black and indigenous voices, and how can we help to build true and lasting change?

How can our land and our mission reflect a regenerative oasis for diverse artists to thrive and tell the diverse stories that need to be told? How can we build true inclusion into every step of our Program and our overall approach?

These are urgent times, and we will do our best to keep improving how we support artists, how we hire, how we collaborate and lead, and how we support our communities.

We stand with Black Lives, and with the many artists, activists, and brave communities at the front line creating incredible breakthroughs in this movement even as we write this.

We renew our commitment to share a spectrum of artists' voices. We will act by creating new ways to share pivotal dialogues with artists through our platform. We seek to cultivate a regenerative

environment where artists thrive and new ideas that transform society can grow.

At the Djerassi Program, we will do all we can to encourage sustained dialogue, and to create a space, a haven for a greater shift in our collective imagination.

We believe that together we will create a way through -- a portal to a new present and future.

Thank you for all that you do.

Onwards,

The Board and Staff of Djerassi Resident Artists Program

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In 2016, Djerassi Program resident, Chicago artist Paola Cabal created an installation in the Sue and John Diekman Old Barn to memorialize 116 victims of police-involved shootings. She notes that:

“Accountability for police violence is rare, which is why it is of interest to note this piece is bookended by two such instances: Laquan McDonald's death at the hands of police in October of 2014 ultimately led to the removal of the Chief of Police Garry McCarthy in Chicago. Similarly, the death of Jessica Williams Nelson in San Francisco while I was in residence at the Djerassi Program (she died on May 19, 2016) led to the resignation of

San Francisco Chief of Police Greg Suhr."

We add their names to the list.

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Banner: Aleta Hayes (Djerassi 2007, 2008, 2017) performance with The Chocolate Heads, 2017

"If we could create the next California, how would it appear? This performance diorama, an imaginary and constructed place, is set in the present, but proposes a future that hopes to rival the beauty, diversity and inventiveness that is California." - Aleta Hayes