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June 2014

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Pause, Cameron Hockenson, 2013

Bit by bit

In the stillness of the mountain, the little things add up. Word by word, poems are crafted. Sentence by sentence, short stories take shape. Note by note, orchestrations emerge. Stroke by stroke, brushes create walls of color. In the Artists' Barn, on the decks of the Artists' House, in the solitude of the Old Barn, under the solar panels of The Middlebrook Studios, artists do what they do best -- they observe, they reflect, they create.

The little things around them do not go unnoticed. The red-shouldered hawk swoops on an unsuspecting rabbit. Twig by twig the swallows build their nests. Delicate velvet grows on antlers. Inch by inch, banana slugs move. The fog ebbs and flows revealing and hiding the ocean. The wind blows and branches fall.

Staff has a role in all this creative work as well. Many are artists themselves. They wash sheets, chop vegetables, dig drainage dishes, organize sculpture hikes, capture misguided snakes and pick up mail.

The gift of time has many enablers here at Djerassi. We have 82 artists this year-selected from 847 applicants -- who are worthy of YOUR support. They are here for 30 sunrises and sunsets. They tell us this time informs their life's work in unexpected ways.

Please say YES when our annual appeal finds its way to your in-box or snail-mail box. Help us help artists make their world AND ours a more vibrant place. Because the little things add up, bit by bit.

Respectfully yours,

Margot H. Knight
Executive Director

May 20 - June 18

On the heels of our session-two artists (see photo), session three's enthusiastic and energetic group has arrived on the mountain to claim their Gift of Time. Please welcome:

Visual and Media Arts

[Marlene Hausegger](#), Vienna, Austria. Visual Artist

[Denise Iris](#), New York, NY. Media Artist

[Norman Long](#), Chicago, IL. Visual Arts

[Ellen Lesperance](#), Portland, OR. Visual Artist <http://www.ellenlesperance.com/>

Choreography

[Maurice Fraga](#), Winchester, VA, Choreographer

Music Composition

[Dohee Lee](#), New York, NY. Composer

Literature

[John Paul Abellera](#), Manila, Philippines. Writer

[Elizabeth Gjelten](#), San Francisco, CA. Playwright

[Marisa Handler](#), Berkeley, CA. Writer

[Melissa Stein](#), San Francisco, CA. Poet

[Anthony Tognazzini](#), Brooklyn, NY. Writer

See more about the artists [here](#).

Djerassi Alumni Gathering at artMRKT SF



Session Two-2014



Dale Djerassi talks with Vesta Kirby (2004). Photo: C. Olsen

artMRKT SF at Fort Mason was a gathering of art galleries displaying artists' work that dazzled with its variety of visual work and its celebration of art and artists. And for the second year in a row, the organizers provided space to Djerassi to host a 'reunion' for our alumni. A good time was had by all. See photo.

Exec Director Interviewed by SFAQ

Executive director Margot H. Knight was interviewed by former Djerassi trustee Terri Cohn in SFAQ Online. The print and online publication keeps current with the vibrant Bay Area, national and international art scene. In the article they discuss why residencies matter. Read [more](#).

Citizen Artist

In what we think is a first, session two composer **Aleksandra Vrebalov** completed her application for US citizenship during her time here. Trouble was, she had to return to New York in the middle of her stay. Should she go back and miss almost half of her Gift of Time? Thanks to outstanding Djerassi supporter John Diekman and some key air miles, Aleksandra was able to leave here and complete her immigration duties in New York. She then returned to fulfill her valuable stay on the mountain. Congratulations are in order. We'll see more of her when she returns to California for the world-premiere of her piece celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Sea Ranch in Gualala, California. The event will be in May 2015 with the Kronos Quartet performing.

Djerassi news



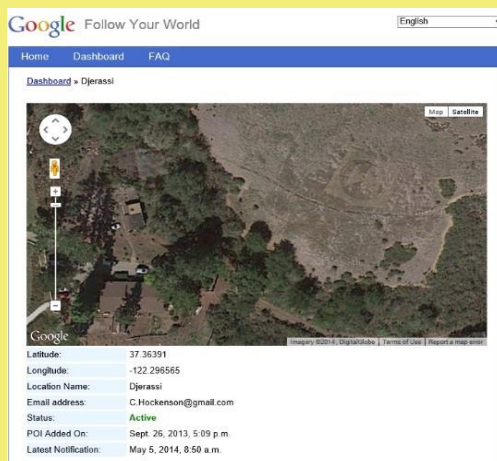
**Drue Kataoka Reflection. Photo:
Michelle Le**

Local Award

Menlo Park's prominent local newspaper, The Almanac has won eight statewide awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. One of the first-place honors went to photographer Michelle Le who took the photo of artist **Drue Kataoka (2013)** reflected in the mirror shards of her work *Fall of the Celestial Axe, 2013*. Read [more](#).

Robin Tewes (1997) was honored with a 2014 Teaching Excellence Award by Pace University's New York City campus. Tewes teaches art in the university's Dyson College of Arts & Sciences. She holds a master's of science in teaching (MST), earned at Pace in 2012. She received this year's honor on May 21 during the university's commencement at Madison Square Garden.

Smile - or is it Fast Forward?



Fast Fwd symbol (upper right)

Photos above and top.

During his session, **Cameron Hockenson (2013)** cut giant 'fast forward, play and pause' symbols into the hills around the ranch. Then, Cameron put in a request to Google Earth to notify him when they published new satellite images of the Djerassi hillsides. As a satellite has photographed Djerassi, there are new images of his work. Symbolic of both our technological civilization and the ephemeral nature of sculptures at the artists' ranch, the 'crop circles' themselves are now disappearing. Captured by satellite, however, they remain preserved in time.

Pat Montley (2005, 2013) has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance to finish writing the play she was working on at Djerassi. Scheduled for production in the spring of 2015 is a reading of *Pope Joan II*, about an American nun who becomes Pope (could this be 'In the heels of the Fisherman?'). [More](#).

A resident in 2013, **Boris Fishman's** new novel, *A Replacement Life*, debuts June 3, published by HarperCollins and available online as well. In her comments on the book, Joyce Carol Oates said, "A Replacement Life is a memorable debut by a

wonderfully gifted young writer...Boris Fishman has written a beautifully nuanced, tender, and often very funny novel about conscience and familial loyalty that will linger long in the memory." In addition to novelist, Boris has followed a career as a journalist and a contributor to The New Yorker. [More.](#)

Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan (2012) will be feted at a special evening by the Consul-General of Singapore on June 10 in San Francisco. The event celebrates her newly edited book *Singapore Noir*, a collection of crime and mystery fiction. Part of the long-running Noir series by publisher Akashic Books, the new work contains dark-side tales from a land that maintains a reputation as a modern society with law-and-order stability. Cheryl's assemblage presents a slightly different view. Read [more.](#)

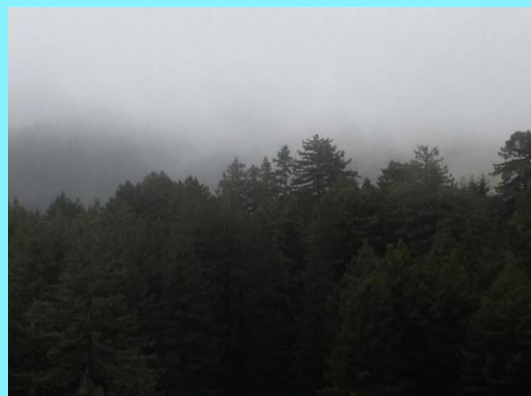


Faeries, Friend or Foe? Derek Jackson, 2002.

Comings, Goings & Showings

Contact us to spread the word about our exceptional alumni! **ART///SKY C, G & S** lists our alumni artists' events. Please email your upcoming exhibitions, performances, premieres and/or book tours (as far in advance as possible) along with your session year to nick@djerassi.org

To follow events involving our alumni and friends, be



sure to check the D.R.A.P. Alumni [Facebook](#) page.

May 29 - July 11 **Barbara Edelstein (1996)** and Jian-Jun Zhang will participate in the *Sempre Natura* exhibition at Christian Duvernois Gallery, 648 Broadway, Suite 804, New York, NY.

June 5 - August 2 **Val Britton (2014)** *Passage*, two dimensional works and site-specific sculpture installation, Gallery Wendi Norris, 161 Jessie St., San Francisco.

June 7 - July 19 **Kara Maria (2003)** *Incarnate*, group exhibition with artists Josephine Taylor, Kate Gilmore and dancers Damian Smith and Anna Halprin, Catharine Clark Gallery, 248 Utah St., San Francisco.

June 7-8 **Charles Moulton (2000)** Flower Power, open studio, 812 Rosemont Rd., Oakland.

June 13 - July 31 **Linda Mieko Allen (2001, 2008)** *'Figmenta,'* new paintings, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, 520 27th St., New York City.

Through June 14 **David Politzer (2013)** Residency Exchange - Lawndale and CentralTrak, media arts, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX.

Through June 29 **David Politzer** *New Growth/Mediated Realities*, new videos, Freedman Gallery at Albright College, Reading, PA.

July 5 - 6 **Lindsey Renee Derry (2013)** *Fail Safe*, dance, Stoffwechsel-Metabolism at Dock11, Berlin, Germany.

Through August 1 **Benigna Chilla (1988)**, *Transmutations*, paintings, Cultural Center of the Dalai Lama, 22 W. 15th St., New York City.

Through August 3 Robert Buelteman **(1996, winter 2014)** *Signs of Life*, photograms, Gates Garden Court Gallery, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO.

Through August 31 **Beili Liu (2006)** *Chine*, installations, Art Musuem of Southeast Texas, 500 Main St., Beaumont, TX.

Through Oct 12 **Susan Robb (2012)** *What is wild? Where is wild? Are you wild?* Grand Central Art Center, California State University, Fullerton, CA.

ART///SKY June 2014

A publication of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Nick Walsh, editor.
Banner art: State Certified Fact, 1999, James Chinneck. Fine sausages courtesy of Frank's. Photo: N. Walsh; Other photos: N. Walsh or as noted.

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