

A STUDIO IN THE WOODS
INSPIRING ARTISTS FOR A DECADE

A STUDIO IN THE WOODS
A PROGRAM OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY
13401 PATERSON ROAD
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70131
www.asitudinthewoods.org

10 years
AND
47 Artists



"A Studio in the Woods has added an exciting dimension to Tulane University—a haven in which faculty members can reflect, recharge and create along with a protected, well-managed preserve in which our researchers can study the Mississippi River and its surrounding ecosystem. It has also given Tulane the ability to empower artists, writers, musicians, performers, architects and other creative souls from around the world, providing them a simple and beautiful setting in which to examine, interpret, express and challenge today's most pressing issues."

—Scott S. Cowen, President, Tulane University



CARROLL GALLERY AT TULANE UNIVERSITY

A STUDIO IN THE WOODS

INSPIRING ARTISTS FOR A DECADE

A RETROSPECTIVE

OPENING NIGHT

Thursday, October 6, 2011

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HISTORY/MISSION:

Infused with art, love and a profound respect for nature, A Studio in the Woods has grown with the forest as organically as it grew into a nonprofit artist retreat and learning center, built sustainably with salvaged materials long before green building became fashionable. In 1968, Joe and Lucianne Carmichael purchased the site and sought to preserve the 7.66 acres of endangered forest for its great value as wetlands and as a powerful source of creative inspiration and education. In 2001, with the encouragement and consultation of artists, environmentalists, and wider community members, A Studio in the Woods was formed.

Since then we have awarded 47 residencies supporting artists working in all media and representing nationalities from four continents. The mission of A Studio in the Woods is to protect and preserve the Mississippi River bottomland hardwood forest and to provide a tranquil haven where artists can reconnect with universal creative energy and work uninterrupted within this natural sanctuary. To ensure the preservation of this landscape, the Carmichaels donated the compound to Tulane University in 2004. The separate nonprofit Friends of A Studio in the Woods provides funding, guidance, and direction for all programming.

FOUNDER'S LETTER:

WHY IS A STUDIO IN THE WOODS HERE?

BY LUCIANNE B. CARMICHAEL

"Whether or not it is clear to you the universe is unfolding as it should." - Desiderata

There is something about a universal force toward order we can never quite grasp, as hard as we try. A Studio in the Woods is here because two people in love who each had grown up in natural environments wanted to take a ride on a Sunday afternoon to explore a road leading out of the city and following the Mississippi River toward its mouth. We enjoyed the serenity, the textures and colors of the natural environment struggling to overcome its past as a sugar plantation.

During one picnic visit to the area, we saw a For Sale sign on one of the enormous pecan trees. We had no resources to buy a forest in 1968, but that didn't diminish our eagerness to try. And as luck would have it, we were successful.

By 1977 we had learned how to protect the forest and also to collect almost old cypress recycled planks, beams and doors. With the help of an unusual and dedicated contractor, we were able to recycle our collection to build a small, simple, but quite wonderful, home in the woods.

An early visiting artist friend joining us around a fire at the end of a workday was the first to utter, "This ought to be a place for artists." As the flames danced in the fireplace, we silently pondered the possibilities. In that moment, 33 years ago, A Studio In the Woods was born. We enjoyed our rural lifestyle, and many friends visited us, often stating that the area should be an artists' community—a resource for creative people and a place of learning for children.

Soon, Joe and I and a small group of our friends were creating a small rustic pathway into the woods so that friends, visitors and school children could be "in the woods" without disturbing the natural life of the forest.

One of my most powerful lessons about the power of the natural world to inspire joy, serenity and healing was learned by observing the first group of 11 children from a class for emotionally disturbed children with teachers and a few parents. Upon leaving the bus, these kids almost immediately became happy, laughing children—running up and down the levee. We crossed into the forest and their joy and delight continued until we gathered together to return to the school bus.

In the 34 years of having the privilege of living "in the woods", each time we leave and return, entering through the beautiful carved metal gate fills me with peace, tranquility and quiet joy. This is how the natural environment nurtures creative minds, hearts and bodies of the 47 artists who have experienced residencies in the past 10 years.

As our mission took shape and we added staff, we wanted to ensure that artist residencies and botanical preservation would survive in perpetuity.

Through our research, we learned that we must give our place and its mission to a financial stable institution...a huge step for Joe and me. We were extremely gratified when Tulane University stepped forth in 2004 to be the recipient of our "dream come true" and preserve our forest and its mission. That security, we believe, will and is allowing A Studio In the Woods to continue its mission and finally achieve what it was created to do.

The making of great art was and IS based upon the fact that it is the great art of the world that raises human consciousness of our oneness and the interdependence of all life. This is A Studio in the Woods' highest purpose.

PILOT RESIDENCIES

The Pilot Residencies were our very first residencies and were conducted unofficially before A Studio in the Woods became a nonprofit artists' community. They were unadvertised and served as learning experiences for the founders and staff to find out whether residencies in these buildings and natural environment were in fact constructive experiences for artists and logistically possible for those who live and work in the woods. The pilot residents were recommended by board members as artists willing and even enthusiastic to test out the facilities, hospitality, surroundings, and ambience. Each pilot artist was provided with food, lodging, and a studio as well as informal assistance with transportation when necessary.

M. JUDE, ARTISAN, INDIA, 2001

In February and March of 2000, Lucianne Carmichael visited Penukonda, India at the invitation of the Young India Project, a non-profit organization founded by Sonja and Narinda Bedi and doing work to improve the lives of rural farmworkers and crafts-people for the past 30 years. She came to work with indigenous potters in a small village of diverse craftspersons such as women textile workers and stone masons, and it was there that she met Marshall Jude, an artisan wood-worker and carpenter. Lucianne also told Jude stories of her own plans to invite artists to the woods for restorative residencies and Jude asked if he could come to assist in the building of lodging for the artists. For six months he was in the United States in residence and helping in a myriad ways to bring A Studio in the Woods closer to the first official residencies.

YUKI FUKUSHIMA, POTTER, JAPAN, 2002

Yuki Fukushima was born in Matsue, Japan, a small city on the Sea of Japan. Yuki's father, Kazuo Fukushima, was a traditional potter whose noborigama, or climbing kiln, was on a mountainside near Matsue. When her father fell seriously ill and it became clear to Yuki that she must attend the Aichi Ceramic Institute and follow in her father's footsteps to become a potter. Matsue, Japan and New Orleans, Louisiana have had a number of international cultural and economic exchanges over the past 15 years. When traveling, the Carmichaels befriended sisters Emi and Yuki Fukushima and decided to invite Yuki to be one of their Pilot Residents and she thrived in the creative environment where she was allowed free reign with her designs rather than being obligated to follow traditional patterns.



FRANCINE PREVOST, POET, FRANCE, 2002

Website: maisonkaisaber.com

Bio: Maison Gai Saber was born in the reeds of the bayous, by the banks of the Mississippi.

Lucianne and Joe fathered dreams and resolutions from afar.

On a distant farmland, a tiny village, an old café turned artist residence.

Any reflections since your residency: A few days at a studio in the woods and who can predict the outcome....

OPEN CALL RESIDENCIES

Many of the early residencies were Open Call, meaning that they were available to all categories of artists – visual, literary, musical, and performing – and that they were also open to artists at any stage of their careers – emerging artists, well-established artists, art teachers and artists returning to former careers in the arts.

These residencies were publicly announced and available to artists from anywhere in the world. These residencies typically lasted one month and were awarded based on the seriousness of purpose, harmony with the mission of A Studio in the Woods, quality of the art, and the creative use of the studio's time, space, and natural environment. Artists were encouraged to interact with the public, some elected to have an informal community dinner at the end of their residency while others gave readings, held open studios to exhibit work created while in residency, or gave informal talks on their work and the residency experience.

2003

JANE MARSHALL, PAINTER AND PRINTMAKER, BIRMINGHAM, AL

Jane Marshall is an artist of great versatility and depth. She is a painter, printmaker, sculptor, fabric and book artist who goes deeply into her subject matter including nature and the great themes and figures of history, mythology and literature. Jane is deeply involved in the natural environment and its preservation and subject matter for all forms of her artwork as she spends hours at a time in one spot quietly observing and drawing the wild and plant life around her before she even begins her artwork.



WENDY TAYLOR CARLISLE, POET, TEXARKANA, TX

Wendy Taylor Carlisle lives between Texarkana, TX and Eureka Springs, AR.

She is the author of *Discount Fireworks* (2008) and *Reading Berryman to the Dog* (2000). Among the anthologies that include her work are *The Poets Grimm*, (2003) *Is This Forever, Or What?: Poems and Paintings from Texas* (2004). Her chapbook *After Happily Ever After*, was #15 in the 2River Series. Her poems have appeared in *Fringe Magazine*, *Salt River Review*, *2River View*, *Unlikely Stories*, *StorySouth*, *CiderPress Review*, *Cardinalis*, *Windhover*, *Borderlands*, *Ekphrasis* and others.

Any reflections since your residency: I'm impossibly grateful for the 'room of my own' offered by ASITW. The poems I began there became my most recent book and the freedom and space the residency granted made them possible. ASITW gave me the quiet and time in a beautiful studio to work in AND Lucianne and Joe fed me. What could be better? I cannot say thank you enough to everyone at ASITW, to Ama and the Carmichael's and every wonderful person who contributed to making "my" month a truly productive time for my work.

2004

STEPHEN DANKNER, COMPOSER, NEW ORLEANS, LA

Stephen Dankner received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Composition from the Juilliard School in 1971. A list of works since 1990 includes nine symphonies, thirteen string quartets, background environmental music for the New Orleans Aquarium of the Americas and a film score. The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra has given premiere performances of six of his nine symphonies. Dankner was the composer-in-residence with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra from 2004-2007.

Any reflections since your residency: ASITW is among the best.



KRISTA FRANKLIN, POET, CHICAGO, IL

Website: www.kristafranklin.com

Bio: Krista Franklin is a poet and visual artist from Dayton, OH who lives and works in Chicago.

Her poetry and mixed medium collages have been published in lifestyle and literary journals such as *Coon Bidness*, *Copper Nickel*, *Clam* and *Callaloo*, and in the anthologies

Encyclopedia Vol. II, *F-K* and *Gathering Ground*. Her visual art has been featured on the covers of award-winning books, and exhibited nationally in solo and group exhibitions.

Any reflections since your residency: My residency at ASITW provided me with so much confidence, support and positive creative exchange that it propelled me to greater heights in my artistic and writing career. I still dream about being there, relishing in the dreamspace and magic of that location. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of such a magnificent experience.



DEEDRA LUDWIG, PAINTER, PORT TOWNSEND, WA

Website: www.deedraludwig.com

Bio: Born in Chicago, Illinois, BFA, NY University in visual arts. *Awards:* Fulbright Fellowship – studies of ancient art in the UK, Fulton County Arts Alliance – Atlanta, Georgia, SouthEast Arts Award – Tunbridge Wells, UK. Sitka Center for the Arts Fellowship Residency – Otis, Oregon. National Parks service

Artist in Residency – Everglades National Park. Collections include Emory University – Atlanta, Georgia, Tokai International - Japan, National Parks Headquarters – Big Cypress Preserve &

Everglades NP, Florida, private & public collections & commissions USA, Asia, Europe

Any reflections since your residency: My time at A Studio in the Woods has continued to nourish my work on many levels. I keep seeing in my work the ebb & flow, birth & decay which I witnessed there in the forest.

“All in nature is interdependent, no one acts or thinks alone but each of our actions affects everything.

All our systems are connected and my work is a part of that energy.”



ALEXIS WREDEN, SCULPTOR, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, RUSTON, LA

Alexis Wreden is an artist and is trained as landscape architect. She is involved in making public art, gardens and parks in Louisiana. She lives and collaborates with her architect husband, Robert Fakelmann, two dogs, 3 cats and many wild birds in the woods around Ruston, Louisiana. Recent exhibits include *Inside/Outside* and *On the Table*. Group show at Arkansas Center for the Arts El Dorado, Arkansas. March 2010. National Invitational. 2009. Masur Museum of Art. Monroe, Louisiana.

2005 (SPRING/PRE-KATRINA)



SHERYL ST. GERMAIN, WRITER, AMES, IA

Bio: Sheryl St. Germain directs the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Chatham University. She has published several poetry books and a memoir, *Swamp Songs*, about growing up in New Orleans. Winner of many awards, including 2 NEA grants and the William Faulkner award for the personal essay, her most recent book of poetry is *Let it Be a Dark Roux: New and Selected Poems*. She is co-editor of *Between Song and Story: Essays for the Twenty-first Century*, due out July 2011 with Autumn House Press. She is currently in France working on a new poetry manuscript about a Louisiana French Creole family
Any reflections since your residency: I continue to be inspired and nourished by my time at ASITW and have twice brought my creative writing graduate students there so that they might also have a taste of that inspiration.



REGGIE YOUNG, WRITER, LAFAYETTE, LA

Website: rybluesville.com

Bio: Reggie Scott Young is a scholar, fiction/nonfiction writer, and poet who lives in Lafayette, LA. He is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a member of the Macondo Writers' Workshop. Samples of his work can be found at <http://reggie-ad-inprogress.blogspot.com>.

Any reflections since your residency: My residency at ASITW was instrumental in helping me make the transition from academic writing back to poetry and creative prose. Since then I finished a novel that I first drafted at ASITW (excerpt available at <http://reggie-ad-inprogress.blogspot.com>), and I have completed a number of poems and stories that I am in the process of placing into circulation. My time there was also important in helping me to complete an edited book on Ernest J. Gaines (*Mozart and Leadbelly*, for which I wrote the introduction during my residency), and it is where I developed ideas for a second book on Gaines titled *This Louisiana Thing that Drives Me: The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines*. My experience there helped me to get back in touch with my own creative nature and it is where I first began to feel like I had become a Louisiana writer.

SPECIAL INVITATION RESIDENCIES

Special Invitation Residencies are provided when two needs can be met in one residency—the need of a particular artist to have the opportunity for self-restoration and creation of new work, and the wider community's benefit from that new work. One example was the 2003-2004 residency of Dr. Michael White in which he let go of all his regular obligations in order to rest, study early jazz masters, and to compose new songs. The subsequent performance of his new recordings in a public concert attended by over 1000 people and entitled "Jazz out of the Woods" stands as a significant musical contribution to the wider community and to the roots of this art form.



DANIEL WINKERT, ARCHITECT-IN-RESIDENCE, NEW ORLEANS, LA, 2003

Daniel Winkert (Wink) is an architect and planner who was born in New Orleans at the age of 18 (having spent his previous life in Maryland and Tennessee). Graduating from Tulane University School of Architecture, Wink then began a career of defining his architectural work in terms of how it rests between the natural world, the evolved societal ways of creating our built environment, and the ways in which those can and do grow and change together. He continues to practice for John C. Williams Architects in addition to learning how to raise a family.

Recent news/exhibits/performances: Wink was the sustainability leader for John C. Williams Architects for the Second Line Stages film studio, which is currently in the process of achieving at least LEED Silver certification, one of the first in New Orleans to achieve this honor.

Any reflections since your residency: Being able to take the time (nearly a month) to sit in nature and envision how others will eventually function in the environment was a luxury that I wish could be afforded on all building projects. It would make our world much more harmonious (and beautiful!)



SYNDEY BYRD

MICHAEL WHITE, COMPOSER, NEW ORLEANS, LA, 2003-2004

Bio: Dr. Michael White is the New Orleans musician/composer who has been most instrumental in helping to perpetuate the original New Orleans jazz tradition. Among the most respected jazz musicians in the Crescent City, Dr. White is one of only a few clarinetists to explore and develop an original manifestation of the unique New Orleans clarinet style. Currently, Dr. White holds the Rosa and Charles Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities/New Orleans Music and Culture at Xavier University, where he has taught for over 30 years. Dr. White frequently lectures, publishes, records and is a consultant for numerous jazz programs, documentaries and feature films.

Reflections: Learning the importance of nature, isolated space and time, and a peaceful environment in finding inspiration and developing creativity is the most important legacy of my residency. My experiences at ASITW have forever changed the way I approach song writing and have given me a deeper understanding of musical improvisation that fuels my playing and had jumpstarted a path of growth and development that will probably bear rich fruit for the rest of my career.



DAMIEN AQUILES, PAINTER, CUBA, RESCHEDULED TO 2007
FROM 2005 DUE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

Damian Aquiles is a graduate of the graphic design institute and the Art Academy of San Alejandro in Havana. His work has been exhibited in Cuba, Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, Argentina, Italy, South Africa, Nicaragua, and the United States and is in numerous public and private collections in Europe and the United States, including the Orlando Museum of Art, artist Ross Bleckner, Rita Schragar, Beth Rudin Dewoody, and artist Robert Wilson. *In his own words:* I like to work with used materials, for the concentrated energy that emanates from them, they have a lot of light. I don't work with trash, but with last life. Those materials have a previous history.

My art pieces concentrate on that energy. I continue it's life by recycling it, by using it's previous life, energy, and history to tell my own story.



PETER COLES, WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER, ENGLAND, 2006

Peter Coles is a writer and photographer, now based in London. For 20 years he lived and worked in Paris, contributing articles and photographs to a number of international magazines. He is currently Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths, University of London, where he contributes to a Masters degree in Photography, as well as pursuing a photographic and research project on ancient urban trees.

Recent exhibits: The London Independent Photography Greenwich Annuale, Viewfinder Gallery, London in August 2010 and John Evelyn's Mulberry and Other Stories. Literary London Conference, London on July 22, 2011.

Any reflections since your residency: My residency, sponsored by Tulane, came 6 months after Katrina and was an invitation to gather testimonial to both the devastation and the resilience of the city's inhabitants. Both have left a lasting impression. Since 2006 and my return to London after 20 years in Paris, my work has been focusing on (rare) ancient trees in London, both as organic archaeological markers of a vanished past, and as examples of endurance in the face of change.

JAMES LANGLOIS, WRITER – PARTNERSHIP WITH TULANE UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS, LA, 2007

ADA BIDIUC, WRITER – PARTNERSHIP WITH TULANE UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS, LA, 2008

MOLLIE DAY, POET AND ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALIST, NEW ORLEANS, LA, 2008

Mollie Day is a New Orleans-based poet. She holds a masters degree in Creative Writing from the University of New Orleans and is a fellow of the Institute for Environmental Communications, Loyola University, New Orleans. Through her work, Mollie illustrates the indivisible ecological and cultural elements of certain landscapes as the extension and potential of what we are. She explores the interconnectivity of that which we tend to compartmentalize. Mollie's work was recently exhibited in Louisiana and *Trees: Life Entwined*, a group show curated by Wanda Boudreaux, Sibley Gallery, New Orleans.

Any reflections since your residency: I am ever thankful to ASITW for reminding us all of the quiet places where one might just stop and watch the carrots grow.



ALEX HARRIS, PHOTOGRAPHER, DURHAM, NC, COMING 2011

MICHAEL WHITE, COMPOSER, NEW ORLEANS, LA, 2003-2004

(See page 9)

RIVER RESIDENCIES

River Residencies honor the Mississippi River, a magnificent body of water that has inspired authors, musicians, artists, historians, and playwrights for over a century yet today is challenged by pollution and containment. River Residencies provide sustained quality work time in contact with the Mississippi; time in which one can experience and study the river using it as a catalyst to create art that contributes to our awareness of the river, its needs and its gifts to all life. Funded by the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research with a grant from the Aron Foundation Charitable Trust.



AURORA LEVINS MORALES, WRITER AND
HISTORIAN, BERKELEY, CA, 2005 (PRE-KATRINA)

Website: www.auroralevinsmorales.com and www.palabrerapress.com

Bio: Aurora Levins Morales is a writer, historian, visual artist and activist. She's the author of three books and her work has appeared in dozens of anthologies and been translated into six languages. She is currently working on a historical mystery novel and a book about individual and environmental healing.



PAT WARNER, SCULPTOR, LOS ANGELES, CA, 2004

Pat Warner was born and raised in an agricultural area of southeastern Pennsylvania, and traveled extensively throughout the world observing the natural environment and indigenous cultures.

Those experiences influence her indoor and outdoor sculptural environments and recent drawings that are involved with the relationship of humans and nature. Warner has participated in symposiums and residencies regionally, nationally and internationally and her public art projects include being design artist for the Pierce College Station on the LAMTA Orange Line and designing and fabricating a work for the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL. Warner was artist in residence at Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo, Japan in April of 2010. This summer, 2011, she will be completing a public art work for the city of Long Beach, CA.

**RESTORATION RESIDENCIES:
RESTORING NEW ORLEANS ONE ARTIST AT A TIME**

In response to the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, A Studio in the Woods created month-long Restoration Residencies for New Orleans visual artists, musicians, composers, writers and performing artists who lost their homes, studios and/or work in the hurricane and were either displaced in other cities and communities or back home in New Orleans without resources. Eligible artists needed to have residency (or had residency and intended to return) in the New Orleans metropolitan area. These residencies provided lodging, food, studio space and a \$2000 stipend. Restoration Residencies were funded in part by the Alliance of Artists Communities, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Ford Foundation, Acadiana Arts Council, Allen Gerson of the Art and Artists Restoration Fund, New Orleans Our Hometown, and Howard Read of the Cheim & Read Gallery. Supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council.

Funding has also been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal Agency.

2006

JASON CHAFFIN

Born in St. Louis, Raised in Savannah, Reconstituted in New Orleans. Attended Kansas City Art Institute; BFA, 2004, and then University of New Orleans; MFA, 2010. Creates work in "Neodadaism" style. Recently exhibited

TEXTURED CINEMA PROTEIN -Slap N Tickle Gallery, Kansas City, MO

Any reflections since your residency: I have learned to use every minute that I can steal to make work and I look back fondly on my time at the studio as a gift of the highest value, during the most stressful of times, to keep my ethic trained in searching out and making new work no matter the distraction, ASITW is the perfect refuge to sanctuary an artist's most important need to focus.



JENNY KAHN, PAINTER

Jenny Kahn was born and raised in New Orleans. She studied painting at the Gerritt Reitveld Academie in Amsterdam and The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. She has exhibited in New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and elsewhere. Kahn was living in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina swept through the city. She lost her home, her studio and much of her work. She evacuated to San Antonio with her husband and their two cats and relocated to the San Francisco Bay area in the fall of 2006.

MONIQUE MOSS, CHOREOGRAPHER AND DANCER

A native of New Orleans, Monique Moss received a B.A. in French and an M.A. in Latin American Studies from Tulane University. Artistic Director of Third Eye Theatre interdisciplinary performance company, her accomplishments include a Newcomb Fellows Grant, Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Fellowship to Tokyo, Fulbright-Hays Teacher Fellowship to South Africa, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Haitian-Creole, Big

Easy Classical Arts Awards in Dance and Choreography, Artist Residencies at A Studio in the Woods and A Studio at Colton in New Orleans and Headlands Center for the Arts in San Francisco, and research presentations on the Arts in Louisiana, Alabama and Italy. Her choreographic works have been performed at the Congo Square Festival, the Essence Festival, the Houston Black Dance Festival, the National Dance Educators Organization Conference and the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. Moss has worked as a Performing Artist and Arts Educator for various Arts organizations and Dance companies in the New Orleans community and has traveled to Haiti for the last four years to research and study the connection between the History and Culture of Haiti and New Orleans.

Recent news/exhibits/performances: Currently serving on boards for the Hope for Haitian Children Foundation HFHCF, the Louisiana Museum of African American History LMAAH and the Creative Alliance of

New Orleans CANO, Monique Moss is an adjunct professor pursuing an M.F.A. in Interdisciplinary Performance in the Theatre and Dance Department at Tulane University. She recently received a 2011 Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship from the School of Liberal Arts at Tulane University and a research grant from the Newcomb Center for Research on Women to travel to Haiti. She was the choreographer for the Artspot Production *Go Ye Therefore* which won the 2011 Big Easy Award in Theatre for "Best Original Work of Theatre." In October 2011, Monique will present her Interdisciplinary Performance MFA Thesis work titled *Rumors of War: ceremonial acts of resistance based on the 1811 Slave Revolt* which commemorates its bicentennial this year, at the New Orleans African American Museum in the Historic Tremé.

Any reflections since your residency: Thank you to the wonderful family at A Studio in the Woods for offering Artists the opportunity to heal and to create in an environment that exemplifies our Louisiana history and culture.



VALENTINE PIERCE, WRITER

Valentine Pierce is a poet, photographer and graphic designer delves into various arts forms, including Domestic Arts. She is currently working on a novel, "Dead North".

Recent news/exhibits/performances: Essay, "Summer Lights," recently published in *Bayou Magazine. Performed in the ATP's production of "Women Who Kill," won two AACT awards for performance as "Door Popper" in "A-Musing"

Any reflections since your residency: Wish I could work full-time on my art like during my residency.

It is increasingly challenging to do art and work full-time but living without art is not a possibility.

I am glad ASITW exists to give artists a respite from the daily grind so they can work on their art.



YVETTE SIRKER, PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR, AND ACTOR

Playwright, director, producer, actress, choreographer and teaching artist. Produced plays: *Hell and High Water*, *Pink Collar Crime*, *Troubled Waters*, *Speakeasy* and *Last Day One Acts*. Acting credits include TV, theater and film roles. Union affiliations: Actors Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild, Dramatists Guild of America.

Ms. Sirker is faculty in the departments of Theater and Communications at Berkshire Community College.

Recent performances: *Hell and High Water* recently ran in NYC in a MultiStages Theater Company production to rave reviews. It also ran at the Storefront Artists Project in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts to enthusiastic standing ovations. It will run at the Theater Institute at Sage (former NYSTI) in Troy, NY in the fall of 2011. *Last Day One Acts* is a series of one-acts that ask the question: If you knew today you're your last day alive, how would you spend the day? The first one-act was developed in collaboration with WAM Theatre of Western MA and MOPCO Theater in Troy, NY. It premiered in March 2011 at The Arts Center of the Capital Region. The second, of four "Last Day" one-acts, will be presented by Berkshire Fringe Festival in Great Barrington, MA in July 2011.

Any reflections since your residency: ASIW residency was a valuable time for post-Katrina re-grouping. It was unique time to create and while there I developed a Katrina related work, "*Hell and High Water*," that is now being performed throughout the USA and is in preparation for an international tour.

2007



JANE HILL, SCULPTOR

Jane Hill grew up in Baltimore Maryland, and has lived in New Orleans since 1991. She currently works in ceramic sculpture and drawing. Jane Hill is a recipient of a 2011 summer residency Assistantship at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts in Maine. In 2010, she created "*Spirit Vessels*", a communal clay project in Bayou St John to provide solace in the wake of the BP oil spill.

Any reflections since your residency: I continue to draw upon my experience and connections as a former resident at A Studio in the Woods to develop my work and to share my art and creativity with the larger New Orleans community.



CHRISTY SPEAKMAN, MULTI MEDIA AND CONCEPTUAL ARTIST

Christy Speakman was born and raised in New Orleans. Her work has been shown at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Chashama, and the Bronx River Art Center in New York, and she has participated in artist residencies at the Santa Fe Art Institute, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and the Oregon College of Art. She received an MFA in Photography from Ohio University in 2005, and BA in Studio Art from the University of New Orleans in 2002. She is a 2010 visual arts recipient of the Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) Award. In 2010, her work was acquired by the James Hotel in NYC as part of the permanent conceptual landscape exhibition “Stand Here and Listen”, and was featured in *Prospect 1.5 Biennial* at Octavia Art Gallery in an exhibition curated by Dan Cameron.

Any reflections since your residency: I was taught an amazing lesson about the power of nature during my month in the woods. It continues to inform the core of my artist practice every day. Even in a city like New York, remembering that nature is a great teacher can unveil quiet and magical moments in the urban landscape. My recent photographic compilations of moss growing between sidewalk cracks to resemble utopic islands stem from this magic. My short time in the woods healed me from the disaster that was Hurricane Katrina, but the experience reaches much further than a month of restoration. My memories of spring emerging in the midst of the woods, studying native birds and plants, and walking on the levee before sunrise- these memories will always give me a constant stream of hope.



ELIZABETH UNDERWOOD, MULTI-MEDIA AND CONCEPTUAL ARTIST

Having devoted her creative practice to the recovery of her post-disaster New Orleans neighborhoods with 38 site-specific community-based installations via AORTA Projects, Ms. Underwood is currently working on a new series of photographs exploring the influence of impermanence on one’s experience of time and identity. Working with one woman every month for the entire year, this series “Real/Time/Women” will depict a diverse group of characters in action, wielding personal tools and talismans through a landscape of dream-like environments. Working with unpredictable cameras that she shoots with closed eyes, Ms. Underwood’s process directly depends on divine intervention, producing uncanny images that resonate with the uncontrollable energy of ongoing change.

Any reflections since your residency: What a relief, to have been able to let go of the trauma I experienced in the Federal levee breaks of 2005 and to see our city evolve and flourish! My time as a Restoration Resident at A Studio In The Woods most definitely lit the spark that began the process of healing that’s gotten me here, to where I can be present and create new work. How lucky we are to have the oasis of ASITW—a site of genuine restoration—in our midst; how lucky I am to have been able to rest and regenerate my own new life there.



MONIQUE MICHELLE VERDIN, PHOTOGRAPHER

Monique Verdin is a native daughter of southeast Louisiana. Her documentation exposes the marsh-level realities of global climate challenging the bayou communities of her homeland, at the base of the Mississippi River delta. During the summer of 2010, a large collection of Verdin's photographs from the Louisiana wetlands were used in a research project titled "Mississippi Delta: Constructing with Water,". The work was shown at the US Pavillion during the 12th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale Di Venezia. In September of 2011 she exhibited her most recent body of work at Mesa College in San Diego, California and is currently in post-production with a personal documentary film titled *My Louisiana Love*.

Any reflections since your residency: My restoration residency at A Studio in the Woods has inspired me to use my lens to pay attention to the beauty of the bottomland hardwood forest of southeast Louisiana. So often my work documents the decay we are witnessing here in the Mississippi delta, but ASITW represents the life that makes this corner of the world such a dynamic and special place on the planet. ASITW is preserving more than a few arpents of old plantation land alongside the river—it is connecting a community of artists, scientists, citizens and strangers to the frontlines of a fragile landscape, so we may appreciate, celebrate, document and advocate for the protection of our natural and cultural resources.

2008

KATHY RANDELS

Founded by Artistic Director Kathy Randels in 1995, ArtSpot Productions is an ensemble of artists dedicated to creating meticulously live theater in New Orleans. Our productions are a sincere blend of disciplines developed through ensemble authorship, physically rigorous training, original music, interactive sculptural environments, and extended research and rehearsal. We practice social justice and shared power in our creative and organizational processes, and we strive to incite positive change in our community with visually stunning performances and empowering educational programs.

Recent news/exhibits/performances: Right now (October 13-30, 2011) — in collaboration with Monique Moss, Students at the Center, McDonogh 35 High School, Tulane University, Dillard University and the Louisiana Museum for African American History — ArtSpot Productions is remounting its acclaimed large-scale performance "Rumours of War" at the New Orleans African American Museum in Treme.

ArtSpot's work has toured extensively in 2011: "Flight"(2008) was featured at Performatica, a festival of dance and contemporary performance in Cholula, Mexico in April; Excerpts from "Loup Garou" were featured at Sarah Lawrence College and at Alternate ROOTS' 35th Anniversary Festival this spring and summer; and "Go Ye Therefore..." is being developed into a healing retreat for women and girls, and was also featured at the Alternate ROOTS Festival.

Any reflections since your residency: A Studio in the Woods was one of the collaborators on our performance "Beneath the Strata/Disappearing." This is where we created and performed the work; it was a character in the piece; it was an endless source of research and inspiration for the performance, historically, experientially and botanically. Joe and Lucianne Carmichael's stewardship of this land — and their generosity in opening it up and sharing it with hundreds of artists — has modeled for me how life, art and land are intertwined. Every time I enter this place, I feel peace and harmony. We planned to create "Beneath the Strata/Disappearing" as a way to immerse ourselves in the research around the loss of Louisiana's wetlands so that we could share that knowledge with others. Katrina came and made all of us who live in southeast Louisiana experts about our plight. ASITW has become the space in which artists who call this place home and artists who find lots to learn from Louisiana create work that makes all of us think about how we live on this earth. I am forever grateful to and forever learning from ASITW.



GIANNA CHACHERE, FILMMAKER

Gianna Chachere is the Managing Director of the Hamptons International Film Festival located in East Hampton, New York. A film programmer for the Independent Feature Project (IFP) Market, Staten Island Film Festival, the Pioneer Theater and Howl Film Festival, Chachere has extensive experience in conceptualizing and curating film, video and live performance programs for various film festivals and cultural institutions throughout the U.S. In 2003, she directed and co-founded the Don't Knock the Rock Film and Music Festival in Los Angeles with partner/filmmaker Allison Anders.

A native New Orleanian, Chachere spends half the year in New Orleans.



JON GROSS, COMPOSER

Jon Gross began playing the tuba when he was 9 years old. A scholarship to Loyola University's College of Music landed him in New Orleans, where he currently makes a living playing with several different bands and as a freelance tuba player. He is passionate about educating other on New Orleans' rich musical heritage while doing his part to preserve and promote Louisiana's traditional music.



BRIGHAM HALL, COMPOSER

Brigham Hall began his career as a piano accompanist and music teacher at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts | Riverfront. His work, which currently includes both music compositions and photography, has been heard at national music festivals and seen at regional art competitions. A recent Reynolds Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Hall now resides in Boston, MA with his wife Sidney Besse, a painter and printmaker.

Any reflections since your residency: If I can't be myself, what's the point in saying anything?



RAYMOND "MOOSE" JACKSON, POET

Moose is a Detroit native and ex-military who found his way to New Orleans via squatting, direct activism and trainhopping. His poetry speaks to the spirit of place and to that end his recent play LOUP GAROU won the New Orleans Big Easy Award for Best Original Work of 2009.

He continues to write, perform and produce in New Orleans.

Recent news/exhibits/performances: How to Build a Forest, Pearl d'Amour and Shawn Hall NYC June 2011

Any reflections since your residency: One thing the storm has taught me both in the woods and in my community is that sometimes it takes great calamitous events to relieve entropy and reawaken biospheres, neighborhoods and even the human soul.

MICHAEL WHITE, COMPOSER

(See page 9)

CHANGING LANDSCAPES RESIDENCIES

At the close of the 2008 deadline, we noticed a marked decrease in artists applying for Restoration Residencies, indicating to us that New Orleans and Gulf Coast artists were in a more stable position than they had been since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Inspired by the drastic upheaval in our local ecology Changing Landscapes was formed, a six-week residency based on the premise that Southern Louisiana can be seen as a microcosm of the global environment, manifesting both the challenges and possibilities inherent in human interaction with the natural world. We ask artists to describe in detail how the region will affect their work, to propose a public component to their residency and to suggest ways in which they will engage with the local community. Artists are awarded \$3000 as a stipend as well as \$1000 towards materials.

Supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council.

Funding has also been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal Agency.

2008



ANDREA MYERS, MIXED MEDIA ARTIST, CHICAGO, IL

Andrea Myers currently lives in Columbus, Ohio, and is an instructor at Columbus College of Art and Design. She previously lived and worked in Chicago where she attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Recent exhibits include the McCormick Gallery (Chicago), Ohio Art League, Willis Tower (Chicago, formerly the Sears Tower) and an upcoming outdoor commission, Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, Ohio

Any reflections since your residency: My time at ASITW will always be precious to me, it was at a very transitional point in my life, and allowed me to have solitary, focused time to reflect on my practice and surroundings. It will also forever be the last residency I did before having my daughter, Bell Roelle.

2009



ANNE DEVINE, PERFORMANCE ARTIST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Anne Devine originates site-specific distance walking performances and public walks. She holds a BFA in Visual Art (Photography, Film & Video) from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University and an MFA in Fine Arts (Social Practice) from California College of the Arts. She currently lives and works in Antigua, Guatemala. In 2010, Anne Devine was awarded a residency in Giza, Egypt where she worked on site at the Great Pyramid Complex and Saqqara Pyramid Complex. She continues her collaborative project with artist Tinka Bechert in Berlin, where upcoming exhibition reflecting on TRIANGULATIONS and their work in Egypt is underway for October 2011.

Any reflections since your residency: I am very fortunate to have been given the opportunity by ASITW to come to New Orleans to live work and explore during my residency. Lucianne and Joe Carmichael, the staff of ASITW, and former ASITW residents encouraged, supported, and expanded my work. My time spent at ASITW, with the people of New Orleans, and in surrounding environments of New Orleans and St Bernard Parish continues to inspire me. I am honored to be included in this gallery exhibit and share in the celebration of A Studio in The Woods.



RAFAEL SANTOS, PHOTOGRAPHER, ARGENTINA

Rafael Santos is an environmental artist from Argentina whose working objective is to link the artistic way of thinking and creating with the development of active and transformative projects, by developing sensitive research and processes that deal with social and environmental concerns. Working in this realm since 1991, his primary focus points to the social-ecological communities that have developed over time beside rivers and coastal zones both rural and urban, and to the deep collaboration with local people, other artists, scientists and environmental groups working in the same realm locally, nationally and internationally.

Recent exhibits include WHAT IS CRIME? - A Photography exhibition at the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies at Kings College London, The Independent, and 198 Gallery in London, UK.

Any reflections since your residency: Since my residency in 2009 two major environmental events occurred in the area of the Mississippi Delta: the BP oil spill of 2010 and the river floodings of 2011. The DELTA FACTS audiovisual I will submit to the retrospective intends to go forward with my residency output in connection with those events.



DAVID SULLIVAN, NEW MEDIA ARTIST, NEW ORLEANS, LA

David Sullivan creates prints, computer programs and animations combining analog and digital techniques. His work was in the Southern Open 2010 at the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette, Louisiana, and in "Hot Up Here" at the Contemporary Art Center in New Orleans. Internationally, he has shown at Ars Electronica in Linz, Austria, File in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and in Antarctica.

Recent exhibits include a solo show of animations at Lawndale Arts Center in Houston, Tx from Oct – Jan 2011, work in Automata in NOLA and in Currents 2011 in Santa Fe, NM.

Any reflections since your residency: I miss my time in the forest



TORY TEPP, INSTALLATION ARTIST AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, LOS ANGELES, CA

Currently engaging in a peripatetic, public art practice, Tory has an MFA in public Practice from Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles and holds a BFA in Painting from Parsons, the New School for design. Tory will be engaging in a funded residency this fall through the Goldwell Museum in Nevada, where he will be developing a project in the desert. The "Mountain of Light", will be fabricated as a mobile yurt intended to serve as, and be developed by travelers as an esoteric and geographical outlook.

2010



KAREN RICH BEALL, SCULPTOR, LEBANON, PA

Karen Rich Beall has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the country and has a public art commission at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Beall received her MFA from the University of Tennessee and her BFA from the University of Florida. She lives and works in Lebanon, PA and is represented by Solomon Projects in Atlanta. Recent exhibits include "Something along the lines of Rock 'n' Roll", Atlanta, GA and work in an upcoming two-person show at Suzanne H. Arnold Art Gallery, Annville, PA in 2012

WILLIAM CORDOVA, MIXED MEDIA, LIMA, PERU

Born and Raised in Lima, Peru lives/works New York/Miami. Cordova's work is a reflection of displacement and the interpretation of the oral, written, and visual languages that define our own existence and resistance. Recent exhibits include, *yawar mallku* (abduction, royalty y exile), *La Conservera, Murcia, Spain* (January-August 2011) *The Record*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA (April-August 2011) *S-Files*, Museo del Barrio, New York, NY (June-December 2011) *sin titulo*, Saltworks Gallery, Atlanta, GA (September-October 2011)

Any reflections since your residency: Meeting the Carmichaels and dedicated staffers Ama and Cammie was a really nice experience for me. Meeting local choreographer / dancer Monique Moss was an incredibly rewarding and humbling experience. Monique and I collaborated in many projects while at Studio in the Woods. Getting to meet and befriend artist Damion Hunte was equally great for me. Damion's knowledge of New Orleans history, his prolific studio practice and dedication to his craft was refreshing to experience.



ERIC DALLIMORE, INSTALLATION ARTIST, DENVER, CO

Website: www.ericdallimore.com

Bio: Eric Dallimore is an artist and environmentalist, who is also active in photography, film, sculpture, printmaking, and social and ecological criticism. As an art activist, he uses his artwork to engage conversations and evoke necessary change in our current ecological arrangement.

Eric continues to show and create his artwork throughout Denver, San Francisco, Chicago and his native New Orleans, including the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Any reflections since your residency: I still have a hard time summing up the beautiful solitude, the necessary support, and the inspiration I received and experienced at ASITW.

It is truly a magical world y'all have created and continually nurture.



SHARIFA RHODES-PITTS, WRITER AND INSTALLATION ARTIST, TIVOLI, NY

Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts is a writer whose work has appeared in *Transition*, *The New York Times*, and *The Boston Globe*. She has received awards from the Independent Press Association, the Rona Jaffe Foundation and the Lannan Foundation. Originally from Houston, Texas, she graduated in 2000 from Harvard University and was a Fulbright Scholar in the United Kingdom. Sharifa is writing a trilogy on African-Americans and utopia; her first book, *Harlem is Nowhere*, was published in 2011 by Little, Brown & Company.

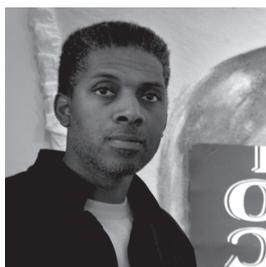
2011



SUZANNE BENNETT, PAINTER, BEACON, NY

Website: www.suzannebennett.com

Bio: Suzanne Bennett received her BFA from UC Santa Cruz and her MFA from Brooklyn College. She has shown her work in New York, California, and New Orleans, LA. She currently resides in Brooklyn, NY



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