

LA GAZETTE OF THE MOULIN À NEF

FROM THE DIRECTOR...



Suny Monk

This year VCCA is celebrating its 40th anniversary in Virginia, New York, and at the Moulin à Nef Studio Center in Auvillar, where we are also launching our 8th season of international programming.

In September, we'll welcome VCCA board members to our home in France, and we hope that many from the town will join us in celebrating the work of the more than 100 Fellows who have been in residence in Auvillar. That is the aim of all our celebrations—to introduce more people to the crucial work of these professional artists who have devoted their lives to the careful observation and expression of what it means to be human.

But even as we celebrate all VCCA has accomplished, we're readying ourselves for change: I am retiring, and this will be my last year as executive director. Our goal is to have new leadership in place by the end of the year.

My life has been enriched by my work for this organization and my association with our Fellows. I am also grateful to have experienced Auvillar and to have known so many of the townspeople. Introducing our Fellows to this beautiful village has been a pleasure. We built friendships that will last forever.

This will be a banner year for VCCA. I am happy to be a part of it, and I hope you will be too.

My very best to you,

Suny Monk, Executive Director

OPEN TO ALL VCCA-FRANCE COMMUNITY DINNER

Open to all, the VCCA-France community dinner will be held on Sunday evening at the Café du Tourisme in Auvillar. Cost: 13 euros (10 euros for children and members of VCCA-France.)

This year, VCCA Executive Director Suny Monk is joining us! For information or reservations, contact Cheryl Fortier or Francis Sohier.

RESIDENT DIRECTOR 2011



Cheryl Fortier with John Alexander

I am excited to return to Auvillar for my third year as resident director of le Moulin à Nef.

This season you may recognize others as they return to the village: Agnes Carbrey of James Madison University brought a group of her students to Auvillar in May, and Yale Summer Session's intensive drawing and painting program will return for a third year in June. You may see these talented young art students at the cafes, the market, or painting and drawing in the village and the countryside.

On May 14, writer Marilyn Kallet returned to Auvillar to lead her popular poetry workshop. On June 26 - July 4, the Etchings Music Festival will again fill the village with composers. From August 25 to September 1, there will be a new addition to the Auvillar summer series: a workshop on songwriting led by composer Paul Reisler.

All this exciting programming supports the heart of our mission: offering creative space and international experience to professional artists. VCCA Fellows working in many disciplines will join us for residencies from August through October. During their residencies they will hold readings, open studios and community projects. See page 2 to learn a bit more about these artists.

As the season unfolds we will post upcoming events and news at vcca-france.com. My husband John and I look forward to seeing you again soon and welcome you to stop by le Moulin à Nef to say hello.

À bientôt!

Cheryl Fortier, Resident Director

FELLOWS LEAD POETRY WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

In 2010, Fellow Heather Bryant and I led a poetry workshop for the local children in Auvillar. Those who attended wrote in French and also a bit in English. They had a great time writing on a large writing wall.

After a snack in the courtyard, the children looked for natural objects to write about. They ran out onto the grass, finding bugs, trees, rocks and other objects in the natural surroundings. It was gratifying to see how focused and engaged the children were as they wrote detailed descriptions of their findings.

Three hours went by in a flash, and at the end, some of the participants were reluctant to leave. What a great experience!

– Ellen Dreyer, writer, 2010



Village children with Fellows

JMU STUDY ABROAD



VCCA welcomes the students in James Madison University's Study Abroad Program back to Auvillar for a second year. These students engage in intensive painting and rigorous drawing in the landscape and in the studios. There are also excursions to Musée Ingres in Montauban and the Augustins in Toulouse, and time for engagement with village life. Last year, the students especially enjoyed the St. Noé Festival.



JMU students at the St. Noé Festival in 2010

YSS@ISS RETURNS TO AUVILLAR



VCCA is proud to continue its partnership with the Institute for Studio Studies, directed by VCCA Fellow Robert Reed. The Institute's YSS@ISS program, offered through Yale Summer Session, will be in residence for its third year at the Moulin à Nef from June 1-29, 2011.

This year YSS@ISS will host 15 Fellows of varying ages and from different disciplines and institutions. All will rigorously study the dynamics of studio practice in an environment free from the distractions of everyday life. Auvillar is the perfect setting in which to fulfill this mission.

The rigors of the program demand that the Fellows are sequestered for most of their time at the Moulin à Nef, but their experience culminates in a final week of exhibition, lectures, openings and guest participation.

BECOME A MEMBER OF VCCA-FRANCE FOR JUST \$25 A YEAR

CONTACT: JESS GRIFFITH JGRIFFITH@VCCA.COM

FALLING IN LOVE WITH AUVILLAR



Rob Tarbell in Moulin à Nef studio

I dove into life in Auvillar despite my limited French vocabulary. It was the Fête du Port that showed the spirit of the village: To see all ages on the dance floor, to eat grilled sardines the first night, followed by steaks or duck the next night—not what you find at a typical festival in the states! But the unexpected highlight of the fête for me was taking part in the fishing derby. I wasn't expecting to fish for the smallest fish I've ever seen, short of being bait! I came in last place, bringing in far fewer fish than the youngest fishermen and derby winner, but I had a ball and proudly shared my consolation bottle of wine with the other fellows.

My creative time at Moulin à Nef produced far more and different results than I expected or planned, in a good way. In addition to my studio work, I met Douglas Boyce, a composer from Washington, D.C. We discovered many common threads in our vastly different work and are collaborating on a show of companion pieces based on our experiences in Auvillar.

My time in Auvillar was as invaluable and productive as it was surprising. I can't wait to go back!

— Rob Tarbell, visual artist, 2010

VCCA FELLOWS IN AUVILLAR 2011

BARBARA CROOKER (October 3-13) of Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, has published poems in many literary magazines and anthologies, and in her three full-length books. She is currently working on a series of poems based on the paintings of Henri Matisse.

KATHERINE DESJARDINS (July 15-29) lives in Chicago, Illinois. She was born in New York City and trained at the School of the Museum of Fine arts, Boston/Tufts University, and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, Italy, where she lived for 10 years. In Auvillar she will be working on pieces for a Boston show.

DONNA KELLY EASTMAN (Sept. 7-20), composer, has received international awards from the Roodepoort International Eisteddfod in South Africa, the Florilège Vocal de Tours in France, the Delius Competition in the US, and the International Composers' Guild.

KRISTIN HERZOG (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) lives in Washington, D.C. She is a painter working in watercolor and acrylic. She is currently working on a series of abstract watercolor paintings called Power, in which she is exploring how power is communicated visually, and how we use our power to conquer our fears and express our purpose.

MARIETTA HOFERER (August 1-18) was born in Germany and has studied art in London, Berlin, and New York City, where she now lives. This summer she will work on a series of small works on paper with pencil and tape (scotch) that will be influenced by the Mediterranean light and the long history of the village.

LEE HYLA (July 15 - 29) lives in Chicago, Illinois. He has written for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Kronos Quartet (with Allen Ginsberg), and many other celebrated performers. In Auvillar he will be composing a piece for Grammy-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird.

GALE JAMIESON (Sept. 25 - Oct. 23) originally from Baltimore, Maryland, currently resides in southern Pennsylvania. Her work has been exhibited extensively in the Mid-Atlantic region and featured in several publications. She also has completed apprenticeships in woodcarving, custom architectural millwork and reproduction antiques.

MICHAEL KUKLA (August 1-18) Was born in Prague, Czech Republic, and now lives and works in New York City. He currently has his first solo show at DM Contemporary in Manhattan. In Auvillar he will be continuing a series on organic hexagonal structure and decomposition. This monochrome series includes drawings and paintings on paper.

ISABEL MANALO (August 1-18) lives in Washington, D.C. She is working on a series of mix-media collage works on paper depicting mutated animal forms, trees, and landscapes made of cut-up photographs, paper, and paint. This work will be part of a solo show she is having at Addison Ripley Fine Art in Washington, D.C.

SANDELL MORSE (Aug. 29 - Sept. 20) lives in York, Maine. She has published short stories and nonfiction in many literary magazines and anthologies.

She is currently working on a memoir about growing up with, and then many years later, caring for her very difficult but charming father.

LYNNE POTTS (July 21 - August 11) lives in Boston, Massachusetts. She is the poetry editor for AGNI Magazine.

JENNIFER ROMINE (September 5-22) is a writer/filmmaker from New York City. Her work has been honored at The Berlin International Film Festival, Sundance and the Festival des Femmes, Creutuil, France. She is currently working on a feature film about an expatriate literary couple in Morocco during the 1950s and a memoir, *You Only Live Once If At All*.

CANYON SAM (July 10-16) of San Francisco, California, is the author of *Sky Train: Tibetan Women on the Edge of History*, an award-winning work blending memoir and oral history. The book's forward was written by the Dalai Lama. In Auvillar, Ms. Sam will work on her adaptation of the book into a screenplay.

A. H. WALD (Sept. 26 - Oct. 16) is originally from Boston and has lived in Rabat, Morocco, for the past 11 years. Her short stories have been published in numerous journals, including *Southern Review*, *Image*, and *North American Review*. Her work has also appeared in two short story anthologies. She is currently working on a novel.

YU-WEN WU (September 12-29) is a Boston-based artist. She has exhibited in universities, galleries and museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and was awarded an exhibition in the 10Artist/10Visions exhibition at the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Massachusetts.



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For more information, go to vcca.com/main/international - and click on "Etchings Festival"



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