

# LA GAZETTE DU MOULIN À NEF



*"Le Jardin de l'Empereur"*

By visual artist Melissa Armstrong, Brooklyn, New York

Photo: Melissa Armstrong

## ART AND COMMUNITY

Moulin à Nef Artists, Writers, Composers Bring Art and Music to the Streets of Auvillar

The landscape in Auvillar has inspired VCCA Fellows to move beyond their studio, and this past year saw several artists who made the village their canvas. Melissa Armstrong delighted villagers with her installation of hundreds of ceramic bells covering the hill behind Le Moulin à Nef. Musician and songwriter Paul Reisler offered a concert en plein air for the community, but also offered impromptu performances on the street where he was joined by several local musicians. It is just this sort of interaction that we so value.

Paul and Melissa were just two of seventeen professional artists, writers and composers in residence in Auvillar in 2012.

Likewise, images of Auvillar have gone out into the world. Craig Cahoon of Washington, DC, was in residence in Auvillar in October 2012. In January 2013, his images of Auvillar were exhibited at Khoury Van Gilder in Washington, DC.



VCCA-France Fellow Paul Reisler (Virginia, US) attracted happy listeners with a free concert in La Halle. Photo by Craig Cahoon.



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## BECOME A VCCA-FRANCE MEMBER

Would you like to be a member of VCCA-France in 2013? The membership fee is 10 euros. Contact Cheryl Fortier ([cfortier@vcca.com](mailto:cfortier@vcca.com)) or Francis Sohier.

## COMMUNAL DINNER

There will be a communal dinner in the fall for members of VCCA-France. Date to be announced.

# PRIX MOULIN À NEF

## FLORENCE CARBONNE: WINNER 2013



Florence Carbonne of Toulouse was awarded the Prix Moulin à Nef for 2013. She will be in residence at VCCA in Virginia from August 26, 2013 – October 2, 2013. Carbonne attended the VCCA France community dinner in Auvillar in October 2012.

For many years, Carbonne's artwork has unfolded in large installations questioning the notion of space and the relationship between the work and the audience. In her installations she exploits the historical, architectural and environmental characteristics of a particular place, as well as the way these characteristics shape /impact the events themselves. With a minimum of resources, her work offers a new take and a perceptible interpretation of place.

*Self-portrait inside her installation at the Pavillon. Next to her light sculpture entitled "Fissure"; 2011, Grissoles, Tarn et Garonne, France. The photo was taken at sunset.*

## WINNER 2012

ODILE CARITEAU, *Montauban, winner of the Prix Moulin à Nef 2012*  
"VCCA does a wonderful job in receiving visitors, and all the visual artists, writers, musicians, and filmmakers in residence welcomed me warmly. I worked and experimented a great deal during the month and took great pleasure in it. The quiet that reigns at Mt. San Angelo, the presence of nature, a well-equipped studio, the conditions of daily life that permit one to be serene and carefree, the warm and devoted staff, the enriching interactions with other artists; all of these things made my residency unforgettable.

**"I consider my experience at VCCA in Amherst a very important milestone in my journey as an artist and I have only one wish: to return."**



*VCCA Director of Artists' Services Sheila Pleasants with Odile Cariteau,*

## AUVILLAR RESIDENCY WINNERS



### AURÉLIEN MORISSE

Originally from the Lot region of France, visual artist Aurélien Morisse was at Moulin à Nef in July 2012 for a one-month residency, which he was awarded through a competition for artists from the Midi-Pyrénées or Aquitaine regions. Of his Auvillar residency, he said it was "a time and place conducive to inspiration, because in addition to the cultural exchange that takes place among the residents, we are freed from daily constraints.

**"The only goal here is to create and express oneself in the soothing, spiritual setting offered by Auvillar."**

### LINDA CARO

Artist Linda Caro (Karolinda) of Villesèque will be in residence at Moulin à Nef in August 2013 through this program. Artists from the Midi-Pyrénées or Aquitaine are encouraged to apply for a residency in Auvillar or in Virginia. Visit [vcca.com/international](http://vcca.com/international) for an application.

# MAISON VIEILHESCAZES



Photos by Pinkney Herbert, Visual Artist (Memphis, Tennessee), Fellow, VCCA-France Board President, and VCCA Board Member

At the very end of 2012, all of the negotiations and puzzle pieces came together and VCCA purchased the lovely Maison Vieilhescazes from the Town of Auvillar. In 2011, VCCA received a gift from a generous donor to purchase the building that we had been renting from the Town of Auvillar to house our Fellows and workshop participants since 2005. VCCA would like to thank all who helped in this complicated process.

It took over a year of work with our attorney, our board members, the Mayor of Auvillar and the Municipal Council, but now VCCA owns all three components of its programming in southwest France: the Cloucado that houses our office and resident director's apartment, the Cebo with its four studios, and now the Maison Vieilhescazes

for housing our Fellows and program participants. These three adjacent buildings and the surrounding acreage comprise the VCCA's property in Auvillar. (For more images of the Maison Vieilhescazes visit the VCCA-France website. Be sure to click on the link to see John Alexander's photo morph of the Vieilhescazes family in front of the building from 1948 to 2010.)

Now begins the task of renovation and weatherization of this lovely eighteenth-century building. Although the planning has begun, it will be a while before the renovations are complete. When the work is done, we hope to expand the season at the Moulin à Nef so that the activity and creativity that our programs bring to the Port can continue during the winter months.

## “LIVING THE MUSICAL LIFE” IN SOUTHWEST FRANCE!

In Auvillar (Tarn-et-Garonne)

6 days, 5 nights

August 28, 2013 - September 2, 2013

We will draw inspiration from the beauty of Southwest France to write lyrics and melodies.

The workshop is in English and open to the public for all levels of ability.

Registration: 1750 € (\$2,195) includes lodging, instruction, most meals and transportation to and from the Toulouse airport or Agen train station.



Photo by John Alexander



*Paul Reisler, composer/songwriter, is founder of the group “Trapezoid” and has played in thousands of concerts. His current group is “Paul Reisler & A Thousand Questions”.*

### HOW TO REGISTER

EMAIL

[abroad@vcca.com](mailto:abroad@vcca.com)

WEBSITE

<http://paulreisler.com/workshops.htm>

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VCCA



Last year VCCA offered its ninth season of international programming at Le Moulin à Nef Studio Center in Auvillar.

More than 140 Fellows have been in residence in Auvillar since the VCCA acquired the property in 2004, and we are delighted to be able to offer the opportunity for a working residency in Southwest France

to our international family of artists. In addition to providing residencies, the VCCA has been able to host several workshops covering topics from watercolors to poetry, from culinary arts to songwriting. These workshops allow participants, who may or may not be VCCA Fellows, to enjoy a focused artistic experience. Marilyn Kallet's ever popular poetry workshop, now in its fourth year, and Paul Reisler's week of songwriting, a first, continue that tradition.

We are also pleased that Professor Agnes Carbrey of James Madison University once again led her young plein air painters. Their work was on display in the Chapelle Ste Catherine the second week of May.

The return of the YSS@ISS program under the direction of Professor Robert Reed in partnership with Yale University Summer Session is a happy sign of the beginning of summer. The fourteen Fellows will be working diligently in the studios at the Moulin à Nef throughout the month of June.

And Etchings Contemporary Music Festival led by John Aylward and Dominique Schafer begins its fifth season with world premieres by eight up and coming composers. We are so happy to have the participation of world class composers Georg Friedrich Haas and Fred Ler Dahl. There will be two public concerts in July featuring the work of these composers.

We are grateful to our VCCA-France members for supporting this work. We owe thanks also to the Mayor of Auvillar and members of the municipal council as well as the residents of Auvillar for allowing us to be part of their village's rich life.

Best wishes,

Gregory Allgire Smith  
Executive Director

## VCCA FELLOWS IN AUVILLAR 2013

**HAYES BIGGS** (7/18 – 8/15), of Bronxville, NY, an accomplished composer, will spend his residency working on a quartet for piano and strings as well as a theatrical adaptation of Keats' poem, *The Eve of St. Agnes*.

**ANDREA CARTER BROWN** (9/30-10/17), is a poet from Los Angeles, CA, who has been published in numerous anthologies and chapbooks. *The Disheveled Bed*, a collection of her work was published in 2006.

**JAMIE CAT CALLEN** (9/4-26), Falmouth, MA, author of *French Women Don't Sleep Alone*, *Bonjour, Happiness!*, *Ooh La La!* and *The Writers Toolbox: Creative Games and Exercises for the "Write" Side of your Brain*. Callan has appeared in the New York Times Modern Love column and she has received many fellowships.

**LINDA CARO** (8/5-15), Villesèq, France. Her work has been shown at the Eglise de Trébaix, Galerie Joffre in Cahors, and in many other exhibitions.

**ANDREA CLEARFIELD** (8/1-27), Philadelphia, PA, has composed works for orchestra, chorus, and chamber ensemble and is currently writing an opera on a Tibetan theme inspired by her fieldwork documenting Tibetan melodies in the Himalayas to a libretto by Jean-Claude van Itallie and Lois Walden.

**ANGELA DAVIS GARDNER** (7/18-8/1), Raleigh, NC, is the author of several critically acclaimed novels. Her current writing project centers around a character of French descent.

**EUGENE GLORIA** (9/23-10/24), Greencastle, IN, is the Arts & Sciences Distinguished Visiting Writer at Bowling Green State University. With three published poetry collections, he will be working on a new collection while in Auvillar.

**ARIEL GOUT** (9/4-16), is a native of France who studied Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts. She currently works and lives in Berlin, Germany. She will be working on a series of ink and thread drawings coupled with ceramics work.

**SUSAN HILLYARD** (10/14-24), a fine-art photographer from Santa Cruz, California, will be capturing images of historic structures using her digital camera and her iPhone.

**BRYANT HOLSENBECK** (8/19-9/2), Durham, NC. "With her ability as an artist to transform, Holsenbeck has built a career out of making beautiful pieces out of things people have tossed aside. All the while, she has made people think about the impact of our use-and-toss culture and inspired many to see our environment in a whole new light".--Miriam Saul

**WENDY LEWIS** (8/24-9/22) is a visual artist from Union City, NJ. Her recent work has been concerned with the historic origins and exploring the cultural impact of immigrants on a region.

**ANNE MILLS MCCAULEY** (9/7- 9/26), Marshall, MI. Her drawings, prints, and artists' books have been featured in over 100 exhibitions domestically, and overseas. She'll be working on a series of drawings exploring the relationship of order and disorder.

**BETTY JOYCE NASH** (9/23-10/10), Richmond, VA. A native of South Carolina, Betty has published several short stories and is currently devoting her energy to her novel.

**SUSAN VITUCCI** (9/9-19), New York, NY, may be best known as librettist, puppet designer, and performer of the puppet operetta *Love's Fowl*. She is a playwright and lyricist who will be working on a piece about an anosmic parfumeur set in southern France.





Photo by John Alexander

As a new season at le Moulin à Nef is about to begin and I look back on 2012, it is my honor to thank all of you who have supported our program in Auvillar. 2012 brought a diverse and outstanding group of artists to VCCA France. They forged strong friendships amongst themselves, as well as with local artists and people from the village.

Some of the highlights included a rich cultural exchange between VCCA Fellows and French artists Aurélien Morisse from Payrignac and Odile Cariteau from Montauban. Other opportunities for exchange between artists took place when Fellows attended exhibits, visited local studios and when artists from the Auvillar area came to events at le Moulin à Nef.

The ceramic studio was put to use again when sculptor Melissa Armstrong created 200 ceramic bells to construct a magical garden installation

behind the Maison Vieillescazes. Songwriter Paul Reisler connected with local musicians and singers who then participated in a vibrant Sunday afternoon concert in the village. Fellow Linda Shrank along with myself and Sabine van den Bergh of Auvillar worked with the artists of l'Atelier à Deux Mains at Centre Henri Cros on a few occasions. It was a very moving experience for all that culminated in a wonderful exhibit at le Moulin à Nef.

VCCA Fellows arrive in Auvillar anticipating fresh inspiration and leave with a suitcase full of ideas for future work and a strong hope that they will someday return to VCCA's jewel in the Southwest of France. Auvillar travels with them to many corners of the world where it is often portrayed in exhibits, readings, music and films.

My husband John Alexander and I look forward to being in Auvillar once again and would like to thank those of you who have offered us your support and friendship in the past 4 years and have made us feel that your village is our home away from home.

À bientôt!

Cheryl Fortier  
Resident Director

## ARTISTS FROM THE MIDI-PYRÉNÉES OR ACQUITAINE REGIONS

To apply for a residency in Auvillar or in Virginia

visit: [vcca.com/international](http://vcca.com/international)

*"Le Jardin de l'Empereur" an art installation at Moulin à Nef in 2012 by visual artist Melissa Armstrong (Brooklyn, New York). Photo: Melissa Armstrong*





# THE ETCHINGS FESTIVAL

OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

2 FREE CONCERTS

FRIDAY, JULY 12 • SATURDAY, JULY 13

ALL CONCERTS AT 8 PM - CHAPELLE ST. CATHERINE DU PORT

FEATURING PREMIERES BY

Helga Parra Arias • Alican Camci • Matias Hanke • Jeffrey Holmes • Derek Hurst • Emily Koh  
Wei-Chie Lin • Aaron Holloway-Nahum • Theocharis Papatrechas • Jose Serrano • Andrew Watts

AND PERFORMANCES BY FESTIVAL GUEST AND RESIDENT COMPOSERS

Georg Friedrich Haas • Fred Lerdahl • John Aylward • Dominique Schafer

*Festival organized in partnership with VCCA.*

*For more information, go to [vcca.com/main/international](http://vcca.com/main/international) - and click on "Etchings Festival"*



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