

La Gazette du Moulin à Nef

From the Director



Will Heub

Suny Monk

What a pleasure to anticipate my return to Auvillar for the sixth time in four years. The journey is now fairly routine, but the welcome by the people of Auvillar is always fresh.

Our project at Moulin à Nef seems new as well. While the residency program for artists, writers, and filmmakers has now been established, we continue to build new programming for visitors who simply want to enjoy the village and its lovely surroundings. This season artists, ceramists and writers from Richmond, Virginia, and painters from San Antonio, Texas, will return to work in the studios, along

with newcomers participating in writing workshops led by VCCA Fellows.

Another new dimension is that over the winter we established Moulin à Nef as an official French non-profit association: VCCA France. We have invited the entire community of Auvillar to celebrate this occasion at a dinner on Thursday, June 14th, at the Moulin à Nef. If you find yourself in Southwest France, please join us. We also invite you to become an official member of our association by joining VCCA France. As a member of our association you will receive invitations to all events at the Moulin à Nef plus the annual newsletter. You will also know that your support will help VCCA France to open its studio doors to professional artists, writers and composers, as well to those hoping to explore and extend their craft through workshops.

We officially opened the Moulin à Nef on May 9th with the arrival of Jeannette MacDougall, our new resident director. The studios will remain busy through the month of October. I look forward to seeing this new season flourish.

A bientôt,

Suny Monk, Executive Director



Le Moulin à Nef

Do you know of groups or individuals who might be interested in using the Moulin à Nef facility in Auvillar? Please put them in touch with us! A brochure and rate card are available upon request: 434-946-7236, vcca@vcca.com. Information also is available at www.vcca.com/france.html. 1-434-946-7236. E-mail: jmacdougall@vcca.com in France or rlawrence@vcca.com in the United States.

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Greetings from the Resident Director



Jeannette MacDougall

After many long months of hard work and some 40 paintings behind me, I closed my Texas studio and packed my belongings with an eagerness to be in Auvillar and settled into my new refuge. Having

been a visiting instructor in le Cebo studio the year before, and charmed by the friendly village and lovely surroundings, I can easily picture a welcome setting waiting there for me. The thrill of receiving so many talented new Fellows and sharing our experiences with a supportive community adds to my anticipation.

Our former resident director, Lucy Anderton, has done all the ground work by giving the program a push into full swing, which leaves me well prepared for the tasks and surprises ahead.

New VCCA Staff

Jeannette MacDougall is a studio artist currently dividing her time between Texas, California and France. Since 1998, she has been on the faculty of the Southwest School of Art and Craft in San Antonio, Texas. MacDougall has a bachelor's degree in painting from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and a master's degree degree in visual arts administration from Parsons School of Art and Design in New York City.

Long-time VCCA Fellow **Roberta Lawrence** is the new Marketing and Program Coordinator for Moulin à Nef. She will promote the facility to groups and market the VCCA initiated Auvillar Writers' Workshops. She is principal of her own firm, Roberta Lawrence Media, which specializes in providing public relations counsel. A fiction writer and journalist, she holds a degree from the State University of New York in Advertising and Communications.

VCCA Fellows in Auvillar 2007

From May 22 to June 19

Nick Carbó, poet, Hollywood, Florida. Nick Carbó is a poet of wit and imagination. He has published three books of poems, the latest being *Andalusian Dawn*. He has been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. His visual poems have been exhibited at Harvard University, the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Gallery.

Denise Duhamel, poet, Hollywood, Florida. The author of *Two and Two*, *Queen for a Day*, and *Kinky*, Denise Duhamel's poems have appeared in the literary magazines *Triquarterly*, *Ploughshares*, and *Harvard Review*, and the anthology *Best American Poetry*. She is a professor at Florida International University in Miami.

Barbara Edelman, writer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Barbara Edelman teaches creative writing and literature at the University of Pittsburgh. Her poetry chapbook, *A Girl in Water*, was published by Parallel Press in 2002. Her poems have appeared in the journals *Cimarron Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *5 AM*, and in the anthologies *A Fine Excess: Contemporary Language at Play*, Sarabande Books, and *More from Parallel Press Poets*, Parallel Press. In addition to poetry, she has published short fiction, drama, and non-fiction.

Ginger Levant, painter, New York, New York. Ginger Levant's paintings have been exhibited widely in the U.S., Dominican Republic, and France. She teaches at the Parsons School of Design in New York City.

From July 19 to August 16

Jane Goldberg, tap dancer and dance writer, New York, New York. Jane Goldberg is a dancer, dance writer, and avid pupil of tap history. She has sought out the remaining elderly tap greats and documented their lives and work. Twice she has researched tap's relationship to Indian Kathak on a Fulbright Scholarship. Goldberg is working on her memoirs. In 2004, she received the American Tap Dance Foundation's Preservation Award for her contributions to the art of tap dance.

Holen Sabrina Kahn, filmmaker and installation artist, New York, New York. Holen Kahn, who has built an artistic practice driven by site, intervention, and social concerns, is currently at work on an epic about volcanoes, love, discovery, and time. Her large-scale installation on the Rwandan Genocide and the role of the United Nations garnered her a Fellowship at Yale University's Genocide Studies Program.

Marilyn Kallet, poet, Knoxville, Tennessee. Marilyn Kallet is the author of twelve books, including *Circe*, *After Hours: Poems*, from BkMk Press. She is the Lindsay Young Professor in English at the University of Tennessee, where she directed the creative writing program for 17 years. She received her master's degree and Ph.D. in comparative literature from Rutgers University, and the *diplome supérieur* from the *cours de civilisation* at the Sorbonne.

Shay Youngblood, writer, Atlanta, Georgia. Shay Youngblood is the author of the novel *Black Girl in Paris* and a collection of short fiction, *The Big Mama Stories*. Her plays have been widely produced, and she has received numerous grants and awards including a Pushcart Prize for fiction and a 2004 New York Foundation of the Arts Sustained Achievement Award.

From August 20 to September 18

Joshua Marston, writer and filmmaker, New York, New York. Joshua Marston is the writer and director of "Maria Full of Grace" an HBO film that garnered numerous awards, including the Audience Award at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival and an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. Marston received graduate degrees in political science from the University of Chicago and in filmmaking from New York University. He has also directed a number of award-winning short films, including "Bus to Queens."

Rosary O'Neill, playwright, New York, New York. Rosary O'Neill is the author of twelve plays, including "Degas in New Orleans" and "A Louisiana Gentleman," four texts and four novels. She founded the Southern Repertory Theatre, the State Theatre of Louisiana, and the only actor's equity theatre in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has a Ph.D. in theatre history, a master's degree in acting and theatre, and a degree in French literature. She was a Fulbright Senior Drama Specialist from 2001 to 2006.

Ann Ropp, painter, Nuernberg, Germany. Ann Ropp received a master's of fine arts degree from Columbia University and has appeared in *New American Paintings* in 2000 and 2005. She is currently investigating the sex of color.

Jeanne Yeasting, poet, Bellingham, Washington. Jeanne Yeasting received a master's of fine arts degree in poetry from the School of the Arts at Columbia University. Her poems have been published in various literary reviews and anthologies, including *Kalliope* and *March Hares*. Last summer she was a guest researcher at Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris. She teaches creative writing and literature at Western Washington University.

News from 2006

The summer of 2006 found the artists of the Moulin à Nef spending another beautiful season in Auvillar. Opening up the buildings again, I was thankful to be back in a village that feels so close to my heart and looked forward to hosting not only painters, sculptors, photographers and writers but, most excitingly, a group of ceramists that would be the first to really experience the ceramics studio that was designed so well by Susan Saarinen. We had returning artists from 2005 and new artists who completely fell in love with Auvillar and the surrounding countryside. The season was both creative and instructive. I feel we deepened our friendships with the artists in the village. France Alvin, Coline Veyssière, Bruno Riboulot, Robert Losson, Claude Harivel, and Olivier Hallez were always very welcoming and happy to share their work and their food with me and the other artists. And, as always, I am grateful for the help and friendship I was offered by so many people when we did the vernissages and the readings, as well as the patience people showed me as I tried to find the best way of presenting the work of the artists to the village.



Lucy Anderton

Now that 2007 has broken open over us, there will be a new resident director at the Moulin à Nef. It was a very sad choice for me, but my decision not to return in 2007 as the resident director was financially based. It was just too expensive to try and keep an apartment in the U.S. while working in France. While

I am a writer, I have also spent time teaching writing in universities,

and I decided to further pursue my teaching career. It was this decision that led to the hiring of Jeannette MacDougall, whom I know will do a wonderful job, bringing her own unique touch to the position. However, it is also funny how life works. My own life has since encountered many profound changes, and, as some of you know, I found myself returning to Auvillar at the beginning of this year separately from the Moulin à Nef. I never thought that I would find myself more at home in Auvillar than the U.S., but it turns out that the call of this village is strong in my heart. I do not know how long I shall stay, but the village is now a part of my life, and I am



From left to right: Robert Losson, Susan Newbold, Christine Lord, Nancy Mitchell, Priscilla Randall, Marjan Wackers and Lucy Anderton in June 2006.

thankful that so many people here have so generously embraced me in both good and difficult times. It is with this thought that I hand over the key of the Moulin à Nef to Jeannette, as I know that you will welcome her as you have welcomed me: with open hearts and lovely kindnesses. I thank you for everything. — Lucy Anderton



Sculpture by Eric Nelson, from Middlebury, Vermont, in residence in September 2006.

Workshops

***June 21 2007 to June 27, 2007**
Poetry workshop with Denise Duhamel and Nick Carbó (VCCA).

June 25 to June 29, 2007
Southwest School of Arts and Crafts.
Painting workshop with Jeannette MacDougall.

July 1 to July 9, 2007
Painting workshop with Mary McDonnell.

***July 11 to July 17, 2007**
Fiction writing workshop with Helen Benedict and Stephen O'Connor (VCCA).

***October 6 to October 15, 2007**
Visual Arts Center of Richmond work-

shops in ceramics, photography, fiction, and watercolors.

*All workshops are conducted in English. Space is available in workshops marked with *. Contact Jeannette MacDougall at Moulin à Nef for details. 05-63-95-72-91 or jmacdougall@vcca.com*

The Pleasures of Auvillar

The Strenuous Delight Of Climbing The Hill Into The Village: Be warned, future Fellows: it's half a kilometer, and it's close to sheer. You will work muscles. You will pause as if only to look, and lo, the changing view—roadside, skyline, river, landscape—will be worth it. Pilgrims of the chemin de St. Jacques will pant by you, and you will grunt in camaraderie. Day by day, you will be coaxed into a deeper contemplative slowness, you will huff to the rustic summit, to shop, or for the view, or because it is there, and the rhythm of it will enter you: a clean, sweet, ceremonial high.

In The Backyard By A Hedgerow: I'm sure I'm not the only writer who has come, or will come, hoping to learn about Auvillar's most famous poet, the 12th-century troubadour Marcabrun. I'd brought one of his poems, and I made a sonnet of the start of it, and one of my last day's goals was to find a hedgerow (he had set the poem by a hedgerow) and play him a farewell tune on my pennywhistle. But first there was the essay touch-up, a long poem idea I just had to get to; then

the sky kept spritzing into rain, and I was scampering back and forth between the backyard drying line and the house.

So instead, I climbed to the back of the backyard, and played to the bushes.

So it wasn't quite a hedgerow, but all in all, it did very nicely.

Heading back down to see if my clothes were done yet, it struck me that I was walking through a small orchard. How much else had I missed, right under my nose? "Look!" I shouted to my housemates, their three faces leaning over the veranda, where they had gathered to make fun of me, fussing and fretting over my damp laundry. And the sky was spitting at it again, but there were still a few hours of hope and daylight; I left it jiggling in the wind. And I skipped to where the grass gave way to concrete, and to the watchers in my sky I held up the ragtag glories of my bright new haul.



Derek Kannemeyer

— *Writer Derek Kannemeyer was in residence at the Moulin à Nef in August 2006.*

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THE CREATIVE RETREAT AT MT. SAN ANGELO

E-mail: vcca@vcca.com

In the United States

The VCCA
154 San Angelo Drive
Amherst, VA 24521 USA

Telephone: (434) 946-7236

Fax: (434) 946-7239

In France

Le Moulin à Nef
18, Esplanade du Port
Le Port
82340 AUVILLAR
France
05 63 95 72 91
jmacdougall@vcca.com

Websites

www.vcca.com
www.auvillar.com
www.auvillar.net

