

BIOS OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND WRITERS

Jon Bobby Benjamin

Hamiltonian Artists Fellow

Artist Statement: The ghosts of an industrial past linger in our present, leaving a permanent footprint, an afterimage that can never fully be razed or removed. My recent work focuses on these architectural remnants - defunct houses and barns, weathered structures, and disintegrating object-artifacts. It draws on the urban landscape of Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., as well as on the scenery of my hometown, a small working-class coastal city in Massachusetts. I present massive, impersonal decaying structures lifted from these locales as delicate and intimate spaces by recreating them on a minute scale.

William John Bert

William John Bert's work has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *pacificREVIEW*, *Sonora Review*, and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. In 2007, he graduated from the University of Arizona's Creative Writing Program, where he was co-Fiction Editor of the *Sonora Review*. He was a founding board member and now serves as Secretary of the Board of 826DC (formerly Capitol Letters Writing Center) in Washington, D.C. He enjoys house music and sometimes being alone.

Dan Brady

Dan Brady is the poetry editor of *Barrelhouse* and the former editor of *American Poet*, the Journal of the Academy of American Poets. He is also the editor and founder of *Growler* (www.growlerpoetry.org), a website devoted to reviewing debut collections of poetry. His work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Beltway Quarterly*, *Specs*, and *Circumference*. He holds an MA in Arts Management from George Mason University and works in Washington, D.C. as an arts administrator.

Sean Carman

Sean Carman writes regularly for the McSweeney's website and the Huffington Post. He has contributed to three McSweeney's humor anthologies, and he wrote the fake introduction to *Stumbling and Raging: More Politically-Inspired Fiction*, an anthology of politically-oriented fiction edited by Stephen Elliott. He has also written for the Comedy Central website and has contributed stories and articles to *Bridge*, *Hobart*, *The Exquisite Corpse*, and *ReadyMade*, among other publications. In 2009 he was awarded a residency at the Norton Island Writers' Colony. He lives in Washington, D.C., and works as an environmental lawyer.

Rachel Crouch

Chicago native Rachel D. Crouch produces work in varied media using color, texture, movement, and flow. Her pieces are about the impossible and the discovery of promise. Music, life, limits, and change are just a few of the themes prevalent in Crouch's work. Recently, she and her twin sister painted a live mural in eight minutes at the 24th Annual Mayors Arts Awards in Washington, D.C.

Anthony Dihle / Dirty Pictures

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Frederick, MD, Anthony earned his BFA in Graphic Design from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2004. His formal design training is paired with traditional illustration and printmaking, and is heavily influenced by the schizophrenic Providence / DC art and music scene. He is a strong believer in the process of making being as crucial (and satisfying) if not more so than the result of the final piece. Anthony has a DIY methodology and prints his posters in his living room on a former air hockey table using a variety of production methods including silkscreen, letterpress, linocut, xerography, and gytaku.

BIOS OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND WRITERS (*Continued*)

Wade Fletcher

Wade Fletcher lives in Falls Church, VA with his wife and their wonderful new son. He teaches composition, literature, and poetry at two of the George universities: Mason and Washington, and also serves as assistant manager for Fall for the Book, a yearly literary arts festival. He completed his MFA in poetry in 2008 at GMU, where he held the Heritage Writer Fellowship. A former poetry editor for *Phoebe*, he now co-coordinates Cheryl's Gone, a monthly multi-genre reading and performance series in Washington D.C. His chapbook, *Snitch Culture*, was published with *dusie press* in 2007, and recent poems have appeared in *Barrelhouse* and *Versal*.

Leah Frankel

Hamiltonian Artists Fellow

Artist Statement: My work deals with the organization that man has projected onto nature, such as the theoretical study of mathematics and the physical manipulation of natural material into man-made forms and ideas. I make delicate arrangements of natural materials to create seemingly arbitrary but logical structures. I also observe natural phenomena and make studies which invite natural effects to take their course. I choose to collaborate with the earth. Most importantly, I am interested in what will remain and what the natural systems of the earth will destroy.

Matt Gajewski

Matt Gajewski was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1984. In 2002, he moved to Miami, Florida, where he earned a degree in music engineering from the University of Miami. In college, Matt created a radio program called Pure Imagination which featured his darkly comic short stories and improvised narratives set to music by Miami-based composers. Pure Imagination has aired on Miami's 90.5 WVUM-FM since 2005, and selected stories from its third and fourth seasons were recently compiled into an illustrated book with drawings by artist Zach Danesh.

Jen Girdish

Jen Girdish is a newly-minted MFA from Lesley University, where she worked with Post Road Magazine. She is the project lead for the 826 DC student anthology. Her nonfiction has appeared in The Washington Post, the AV Club, the Washington City Paper, Venus Magazine, and has an essay forthcoming in Salon.

Calvin Godfrey

Calvin Godfrey descended to earth in a meteorite. Young Godfrey crawled mysteriously from the depths, and was adopted by a doctor and politically savvy nurse in a hamlet known as Los Feliz. In fall of 2001, he enrolled at Cornell University. He spent his junior year at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland studying pasta, beer, and the theater. He graduated from Cornell in 2005 with distinction in all subjects. Somehow, he ended up in Daytona Beach, Florida. He learned how to shoot guns and write daily news stories. By the spring of 2006, he had moved to the Magic City. He took up work as a staff writer for a weekly publication known as the *Miami New Times*. During his time there, he saw many strange and terrible things. The weight of this weirdness drove him back to the frigid north, where he can now be found patrolling Central Park—communing with the birds and squirrels there as an Urban Park Ranger.

BIOS OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND WRITERS (*Continued*)

Eleanor Graves

Eleanor Graves' poems play with the tension between words and image: words tell us what we can't see; images show us what we can't put into words. How do they work together without cancelling each other out? Professionally and as a volunteer, Eleanor has been teaching poetry, literature, and composition to people of all ages since coming to the Washington, D.C., area in 2003. She received an MFA in poetry from George Mason University in 2006. She is a recipient of the Mary Rinehart Award in Poetry as well as the GMU Thesis Fellowship the same year. Her poems have appeared in *Phoebe*, *Practice*, and *Hayden's Ferry Review*. Eleanor also teaches yoga in the workplace at various businesses, non-profits, and government agencies in Washington DC.

Giorgia Luisa Horrell

Giorgia Luisa Horrell is a collagist and illustrator currently living in Washington, DC. She was born in 1984 in Los Angeles, California – where she lived before moving to San Francisco. She received her BFA in Visual Arts at the University of San Francisco in 2006. Her works are a development of her captivation and childlike fascination with her surrounding environments. She has shown in several group shows in San Francisco and fairs in Los Angeles.

Joe Hall

Joe Hall is the founder of the Washington, D.C., area reading series Cheryl's Gone. In 2010, his first book of poems, *Pigafetta Is My Wife*, will be put out by Black Ocean Press. Individual poems have appeared in *Versal*, *Phoebe*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Cimarron Review*, and others. His words have also seen gallery action through the filter of Alyssa Pheobus' (tremendous) prints.

Alison Hanold

Alison Hanold is a documentary filmmaker and the Associate Director of the Center for Social Media in Washington, D.C. She is also the VP of Membership for Women in Film and Video DC and is pursuing a masters in Arts Management from American University.

Christian Howard

Christian Howard was born in Buffalo, NY. Growing up he spent much of his childhood writing form letters to companies soliciting free merchandise. To date he has received crates of soft drinks; a trip to the Bahamas; free clothing; a signed letter from Socks, Bill Clinton's cat, and coupons for everything from free cases of wine to a one month supply of Snapple. A graduate of the University of Miami, he is currently a student in the MFA in Creative Writing program at Cornell University. Christian is working on a collection of short stories incorporating themes of race, migration, and transmutation among other things.

Michael Dax Iacovone

Hamiltonian Artists Fellow

Artist Statement

- I am interested in urban landscapes.
- I am interested in formulas.
- I am interested in rules.
- I am interested in mapping.
- I am interested in experiencing spaces.
- I am interested in experiencing familiar spaces through unconventional means.
- I am interested in demystifying the role of the artist by revealing the processes.
- I am interested in redefining documentary photography, by bridging it with fine art photography.

BIOS OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND WRITERS (*Continued*)

Matt Klam

Matt Klam is the author of the short story collection *Sam The Cat*, a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book of the Year, a New York Times Notable Book, and an Esquire Best Book of the Year. A correspondent for *GQ Magazine* and a contributing writer to The New York Times Magazine, Klam is a recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, a Whiting Writers' Award, a National Endowment of the Arts grant, and a PEN/Robert Bingham Award. He is working on a new book of fiction and a story for GQ on the Jewish Haredi in Israel.

Magnolia Laurie

Hamiltonian Artists Fellow

Artist Statement: In my paintings, vast, often desolate, spaces are depicted. Referencing the arctic or the desert, they are invented environments posing the question: where do we go from here? Structures appear within the landscape, some proposing a possible system of communication, others referring to a vulnerable and perhaps futile attempt to create shelter. The structures and systems created are illogical; they are delicate and makeshift in a way that may not endure their own weight, let alone the impending disruptions. Yet, they are made, and to me they reference the sustained need to try, to build, to create, even in the face of complete futility. My paintings are of invented architecture and imagined ruins, they represent the instinctive, sometimes manic, and desperate act of building, and within them I am thinking about the cyclical rise and fall of civilizations

Gerald Maa

Gerald Maa has translations appearing or forthcoming in *Poetry Northwest*, *Circumference*, and Chinese Writers on Writing, as well as an essay forthcoming in *Studies in Romanticism*. He has earned a translation grant from the International Center for Writing and Translation, a Florence Tan Moeson fellowship from the Library of Congress, and work study scholarships from the Bread Loaf Conference. An editor of *The Asian American Literary Review*, he lives in Washington, D.C. and teaches at the University of Maryland.

Ian MacLean Davis

Hamiltonian Artists Fellow

Ian MacLean Davis holds his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Mount Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute, College of Art. His works have been exhibited in Washington DC, Los Angeles, CA & Baltimore, MD. His artwork is collected internationally. He is currently represented by Hamiltonian Gallery, Washington, D.C.

Malcolm Majer

Malcolm Majer is a practicing furniture designer/maker with a studio in Baltimore, MD. He received a B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2005. His work has been exhibited in Baltimore, Brooklyn, Providence and Richmond. He has worked as a craftsman professionally for five years, and he currently runs a studio where he designs and builds furniture and architectural metal work.

BIOS OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND WRITERS (*Continued*)

Katherine Mann

Hamiltonian Artists Fellow

Katherine Mann received her Bachelor of Arts from Brown University and her Master of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art. She has held solo exhibitions at Hong Zhuang gallery in Yilan, Taiwan; Guandu National Park in Taipei, Taiwan, Pressiton gallery in Miami, FL, and the Scott Center gallery in Westminster, MD. She is the recipient of a Fulbright grant and the Toby Devan Lewis Prize, and is a fellow in the Washington, DC So-Hamiltonian Fellows program. Mann describes her work as an immersive fantasy world interspersed with moments of poetry, mutation, growth and decay.

Mark Polanzak

Mark Polanzak's fiction has appeared in *Pindeldyboz*, *Adirondack Review*, *Third Coast*, and *The American Scholar*. He has written for and edited several magazines in Boston. He recently completed his first novel. Mark lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and is interested in sports and death.

Bryan Rojsuontikul

Hamiltonian Artists Fellow

Bryan Rojsuontikul was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in the central and northern Virginia area. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from George Mason University where he studied Art and Visual Technology with a concentration in Sculpture. He is primarily known for his duct tape works and installations that show influences of Minimalism, Abstract Expressionism, The Washington Color School, and Hard Edge Painting where he creates psychological color fields considered Hard Edge Sculpting.

Mike Scalise

Mike Scalise's essays and articles have appeared or are forthcoming in *AGNI*, *Ninth Letter*, *Post Road*, *The Rumpus*, *Hot Metal Bridge*, and elsewhere. He has won scholarships from the Bread Loaf and Southampton Writers' Conferences, and in fall 2009 he was Philip Roth Writer-in-Residence at Bucknell University. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Amanda Shepherd

Amanda Shepherd is a fashion designer, custom clothier and freelance graphic designer living and working in Baltimore, Maryland. She received a B.F.A. in Graphic Design from Kansas State University, after which she practiced graphic design professionally for 5 years, working for several advertising firms. In 2009, she entered an intensive 1-year degree program for at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, which led to her being selected to design and construct clothing for a volunteer project with Tim Gunn, host of Project Runway. She currently splits her time between classes in New York and her Baltimore studio.

Danika Stegeman

Danika Stegeman graduated from George Mason University's Creative Writing MFA program in May 2009 and co-edits the journal *Rooms Outlast Us*. She currently lives and works in Bethesda, MD. Her work has appeared in *Denver Quarterly*, *Cimarron Review*, and *Juked*.

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Tatiana Suarez

Tatiana Suarez (b. 1983) is a Brooklyn-based Miami native. This emerging artist is an alumni of the University of Miami's Graphic Design program, and also works as a freelance illustrator. Her charming style is distinctive -- first, the trademark eyes that draw the viewer into a beautiful and surreal world. Suarez takes full advantage of the oil paint's ability to create creamy, soft images on canvas. Rich with symbols that stem from her Brazilian and El Salvadorian heritage, subjects appear as if they are under water, frozen in lovely stillness. The doe-eyed figures look childlike, but also exude sexual overtones, ornamented with plants, insects and other unsettling accompaniments. Beauty is presented concurrently with exotic -- even creepy -- creatures to create enchanted narratives.

Lam Vuong

Lam Vuong was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi, to Vietnamese refugees. His photography, karaoke-works, performances, watercolors, and installations deal with the nuances of loneliness and confusion in dating and Asian American culture. Heading towards California, he started his MFA at CalArts last fall.

Casey Wiley

Casey Wiley, 2009 Emerging Writer Fellow at Penn State Altoona, is a 2009 Creative Nonfiction MFA graduate of George Mason University. His nonfiction and fiction has been published, or is forthcoming, in *Pindledyboz*, *Emerson Review*, *Monkeybicycle*, *Word Riot*, *Fringe*, among others, and was selected for a Finalist for Glimmertrain's Short Story Award for New Writers. He is working on a book about Social Humor, comedy and why he's not very funny.

Ben Savage Garden

Once upon a time, in a crescent center along the coral sea, Little Baby Ivy (LBI) and Little Baby Connie (LBC) exchanged some words about a popular female rap group. LBC noticed LBI's dazzling heart earrings and peacock good looks, and thought, "She could be my best friend. For life. They traveled together to lands of children with tattooed eyeliner and metallic teeth, painting rainbows and flamingos wherever they could. So you can imagine what happened when those minds drifted to Argentina, and found the perfect third mind for their compound molecule. Little Baby Andres (LBA) was a furry critter with a wild soul, and a desire to nibble on candies--any kind, really. When LBA, LBI and LBC were together, it was like the best ketchup, and the best mustard, and the finest ground beef all happened to gravitate to the center of the earth, and, because of the flavor pressure, they'd all burst into delicious little nuggets; delectable palate pleasers raining from the sky one by one into every person's and animal's mouth. These three artists, based out of New York and Philadelphia, have combined their passion for photography, video, silkscreening, and drawing to form Ben Savage Garden. Individually, their work has been featured in publications, installations, and shows around Miami, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.