

BARN
SWALLOWThe Millay Colony for the Arts
Issue 11 | Winter 2011/Spring 2012

When I Arrived



by Lexa Walsh

at Millay Colony for the Arts for the Family and Artmaking workshop, I was greeted by a number of lovely women. "Would you like to join us for yoga?" asked Abeer Hoque, a writer in residence who was joining the workshop. Others included writer Amanda Beer, artist Cathy Cook and actor/musician Parker Shipp. We were served a delicious evening meal and I learned how to play Bananagrams, before Nina arrived late that first night.

Nina Katchadourian's name had caught my eye when I was doing some on line research for a blog I have about artists' resources. I had been following Nina's work for a long time and met her a few years ago. My partner and I were going to be in New York, so she graciously met us for lunch during a break from her job at the Drawing Center. We have run into each other in San Francisco and Portland a few times since.

Another thing I should mention is that I have an extraordinary family. I am the youngest of fifteen children. No twins. I am also an artist, who has dabbled in that subject over and over in my work but never fully embraced it. So when Nina's name was next to the word family, I knew I had to go.

Over the next days (and more Bananagrams), the group shared endless stories and anecdotes about our families. I thought mine was extraordinary! Each of us had compelling reasons to develop or refine a practice about our families. Nina shared the work of a number of artists working on the subject, as well as her own. Artist Neil Goldberg's work was a catalyst for a video I shot shortly thereafter with my aging parents. Nina and I performed a song she wrote based on Philip Larkin's This Be the Verse. I'm happy to say Nina's workshop brought a new perspective to my practice, and built both personal and professional relationships.



From left to right:
Cathy Cook, Abeer Hoque,
Nina Katchadourian, Lexa Walsh,
Amanda Davidson, Parker Shipp.

MILLAY AT A GLANCE

Winter Shakers

Take a Winter Retreat at The Millay Colony. Alumni and other artists' applications for winter residencies welcome now.

For more information:
[www.millaycolony.org/
winter_shakers](http://www.millaycolony.org/winter_shakers)
Or call 518-392-3103.

Resident Notification

If you applied, you will hear back from us about the status of your application by February 1, 2012.

Workshops

This year we will offer three workshops at The Millay Colony as well as a weekend workshop program in New York City. Full information by March 1 at www.millaycolony.org/workshops. Call 518-392-4144 for details.

Teachers & Writers Residency

Teaching Writer in Residence at Millay Colony to offer writing workshops in regional public schools.

Residency Season

We start the 2012 season on April 1.

2011 Millay Colony Residents

April

Annie Baker, Playwriting; Brooklyn, NY
Adam Baran, Screenwriting; Brooklyn, NY
Katie Vida, Visual Arts; Greenwich, CT
Celina Su, Non-Fiction; NY, NY
Katie Vida, Visual Arts; Greenwich, CT
Tom Zoellner, Non-Fiction; NY, NY

May

Val Britton, Visual Arts; San Francisco, CA
John Colpitts, Composing; NY, NY
Brian Dunn, Visual Arts; Washington, D.C.
Gretchen Henderson, Non-Fiction; Cambridge, MA
Meredith Holch, Fiction; East Hardwick, VT
Caedra Scott-Flaherty, Fiction; Brooklyn, NY

June

Liz Ainslie, Visual Arts; Brooklyn, NY
Amanda Davidson, Fiction; San Francisco, CA
Abeer Hoque, Fiction; Brooklyn, NY
Casey Llewellyn, Playwriting; Brooklyn, NY
Dustin London, Visual Arts; Brooklyn, NY
Jess McCloskey, Visual Arts; NY, NY
Lydia Paar, Fiction; Flagstaff, AZ

July

James Blanchly, Composing; NY, NY
Harriet Clark, Fiction; San Francisco, CA
Julia Dault, Visual Arts; Brooklyn, NY
Heidi Jensen, Visual Arts; Jacksonville, FL
Evie Shockley, Poetry; Jersey City, NJ
Kevin Vaughn, Poetry; Athens, GA
Catherine Wagner, Poetry; Oxford, OH

August

Ching-In Chen, Poetry; Milwaukee, WI
Claire Donato, Fiction; Brooklyn, NY
Cristian Flores-Garcia, Poetry; Hemet, CA
Carl Ferrero, Visual Arts; Brooklyn, NY
Diane Moser, Composing; Upper Montclair, NJ
Fiona Templeton, Playwriting; NY, NY

September

Kim Church, Fiction; Raleigh, NC
Sara Cornwell, Fiction; Pittsburgh, PA
Dale Klein, Visual Arts; Cambridge, MA
Qian Li, Composing; Philadelphia, PA
Martha Oatis; Poetry; Jamaica Plains, MA
Jason Platt, Playwriting; Brooklyn, NY
Mark Tardy, Poetry; Chicago, IL

October

Jared Buckheister, Visual Arts; NY, NY
Alexis Clements, Playwriting; Brooklyn, NY
Nancy Coughlin, Non-Fiction; Butte, MT
Lauren Scanlon, Visual Arts; Altoona, PA
Erin Thurlow, Visual Arts; Vancouver, BC
Chris Momenee, Screenwriting; NY, NY

November

Louisa Armbrust, Visual Arts; Brooklyn, NY
Beka Goedde, Visual Arts; Brooklyn, NY
Sheba Karim, Fiction; NY, NY
Charlotte Holmes, Fiction; State College, PA
Elizabeth Lara, Poetry; NY, NY
Evan Johnson, Composing; Arlington, MA



ROTTEN PLACE FOR CURRENCY TO GROW

by Cathy Wagner, 2011 Resident

Riding Branch

Sun and tree elaborate
 A wild shadow-movie on notebook.
 When I see you again, how slowly will you, in the, in me? Slow.
 Fairy catchment. Green severance.
 Whether you care for me, I'd like to know.
 And if you irritate me, I still want you
 To go in love with me.
 I have not checked the news since left Ohio.
 Am entire personal and wee.
 I don't know what's become of news addiction
 But in the woods I don't
 Know Sudan highlands massacre
 From tree.
 Bloody hell.
 "A voice stains the canary birds."

A Gesture that Points Also Refracts

"I just invented Indo-European."
 Texture: consisting of or related to text; the state of being text. Cave-droppings. At the center, a stone-hole soup.
 Call your mother; call your sister; call your father. Call your friend.
 Pen logo says OM or WO.
 "Here is the revisionment."
 "The unmoney is structured like a language."
 "Money is structured like a language."
 Give that thought some currency.
 Across embedded networks swings
 the thought, a baby clinging
 to its underside, tight fists in hair.

Make a Machine for Mastering Self

Nothing but this funnel! and what pours into it.
 - You want more?
 - I could wish to partake of others'
 experience.
 - That is why there are books and talk.
 - Oh want to feel love not just on me but in me.
 "I assume you've heard of me?"—in
 deep startled voice.

SWAG!

We love our new t-shirts! Millay alum Chris Kardambikis designed the bright barn graphic for our party last year, and we just couldn't let this stunner retreat into ephemera. Enter the wearable canvas!

Many of you may know that Edna (with the help of hubby) did indeed build the barn from a Sears Roebuck kit in the 1920s. The structure has been lovingly and soundly renovated a few times over the years, but the metaphor has stayed the same. It is indeed, the house that Edna built!

Visit www.millaycolony.org/news for the merch section to purchase t's and also issues of EDNA, our annual journal of art made in residence here. Issue I is sold out, but issues II and III are still available. Poetry, prose, scripts, and full color inserts of all sorts of creations fill the pages.



A Note from the Residency Director

It's the end of October and through my office window

I can see the first snow flakes of the season swirling around Chef Donna's garden. It's been a truly fabulous year here at Millay Colony, with so many gifted writers, artists, and composers having stayed with us and enjoying the magic of colony life.

Looking back on the last several months, there are already many fond memories of time spent w/the 'ressies', including the following:

The look of shock on the faces of the April residents as they arrive to a foot of snow still on the ground, that was some spring greeting!

Later that month, Katie Vida created a huge puppet-like sculpture outside, bringing color to the background of bare trees.

In May, composer John Colpitts treated everyone to drum solo mini-concert, much to the delight of Caroline Crumpacker's daughter Coco, mesmerized as John blasted away. John later took on the job of coordinating the music for our July open house, 'Cavorting at the Colony', and bringing up from NYC the amazing musical duo Christy & Emily. During the June residency, I walked into the Main Building in the mornings to see our crew in a variety of yoga poses. They had their own yoga classes.

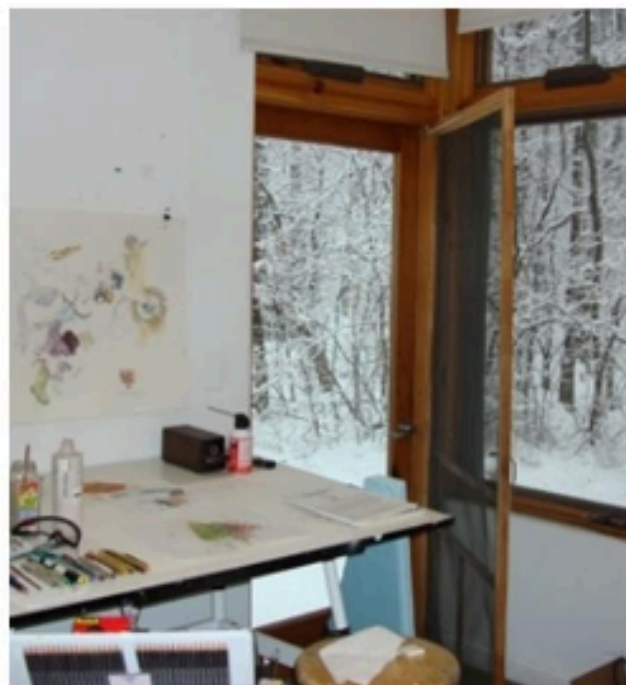
That same month, Abeer Hoque, Casey Llwellyn, and the other residents, appeared to be greatly enjoying themselves as they created a collaborative movie. Abeer at the end of the month gave out gorgeous photos she had taken in her travels in India.

As fall came around Martha Oatis cooked up a storm in the kitchen with apples brought in from the local farm. She made apple butter, apple crisp, apple chutney & apple cake. During her month here, she officially graduated with a degree in Chinese medicine. Yay, Martha!

Now as the October residents get ready to leave in a few days, Erin Thurlow and Jared Buckmeister just gave a parting gift by fixing a broken desk in one of the writer's studios, thank you guys! There is still one more residency session & I'm hoping that early snow now on the ground does not portend a big storm for our last group of residents.

Whatever happens though, the adventure will continue here at Millay Colony with all of us in it together!

Calliope Nicholas



Millay Studio in Winter

Party Pictures!



LEFT
Poets Evie Shockley & Cathy Wagner
July Residents

BELOW
Table Art by July Residents
Julia Dault & Heidi Jensen



ABOVE
Festive sunset

RIGHT
Board Member Spencer Short (L)
with Advising Artists Council Chair
Mark Wunderlich (R)





The Millay Colony for the Arts
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The Millay Colony for the Arts was founded in 1973 as an artists' residency program located on the former property of poet Edna St. Vincent Millay in Austerlitz, NY. Our mission is to nurture and promote the vitality of the arts by providing writers, visual artists and composers with a rural retreat that encourages creative intensity and exploration in the context of an artistic community.

www.millaycolony.org
<http://millaycolony.blogspot.com/>
518-392-3101
