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DORLAND MOUNTAIN ARTS

Spring 2023



Keep your love of nature for that is the true way to understand art more and more.

----*Vincent Van Gogh*

Dear Friends of [Dorland Mountain Arts](#),

We hope that you all have many opportunities to get outside and enjoy the lovely refresh of Spring! Dorland always comes to mind when we think of the beauty of nature, especially at this time of year. We are so grateful to have your support as we welcome in this new season and tackle the responsibilities involved in preserving the Nature of Dorland. Your donations have helped with fire abatement, trail development, and cottage upkeep... and as you know, maintenance is a never-ending labor of love. Thank you for your ongoing support, we appreciate you!

Happy Spring, from Dorland Mountain Arts!

Interview with Artist Resident, Debra Thomas-Zasadzinski

by Leslie Bevans

On a chill-filled, windy, Saturday, February 18th, 2023. I interviewed Debra Thomas-Zasadzinski, a third-time resident of Dorland Mountain Arts. We were seated at a little table in front of the actively crackling wood stove in Markham. It was a pleasure to spend time with Debra, she exudes positivity and possibility. Her love of life and art, her attention to details and focus give her work an extra touch of magic, a sense of joy...



"Dorland gave me a first sense of my own legitimacy as an artist; that I could come and find focus and fulfill my need to create as a

We welcome your submissions for our Summer Newsletter!

Writers: Send your publishing news, articles, interviews, essays etc. with photos

Artists: Send news with images of your work with captions

Musicians, Composers: Send news and links to YouTube of related work

Residents:

professional. But on a personal level, it has become a part of my story and I feel like I am now a part of the Dorland family of artists." ---Debra Thomas-Zasadzinski

[READ FULL INTERVIEW](#)

An Essay by [Kristen Havens](#)

When I applied for my week at Dorland for mid-February of this year, it was still fall in Los Angeles and I wasn't thinking about the weather. Over twenty years of living in southern California had created a blind spot in how I thought about the seasons, and it wasn't until the day before I had to leave that I checked the app on my phone and saw a series of numbers that I didn't expect—29-degree nights, 55-degree days. Words from my residency contract suddenly sprung to mind: a list of appliances in my kitchen; a wood-burning stove and two space heaters. I double-checked, and indeed, amidst all the wonderful amenities like a coffee maker and a rice cooker, there was no mention of central heating in Horton cottage. I realized that I was driving ninety minutes from home to enjoy unheated solitude during the coldest winter weather we'd had in my twenty years in California...



[READ FULL ESSAY](#)

[Carol Aust](#)

"When I arrived at Dorland, there was a sign that read, 'Welcome to Dorland. The magic can begin!' It really did feel magical, an air of quiet and focus, an understanding that we were all there to create without apology. My painting time was enriched by the hikes, the expansive views, and the Steinway piano in Horton."



[Yolanda Castano](#)

"My everyday desk at home is always too loaded with so many

Send any quotes and memories of life at Dorland

SUBMIT WORK:
events@dorlandartscolony.org

Join us at Dorland!



Markham Cottage

Submit your application for 2023 Residencies.

[Residency Information](#)
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View from Markham Cottage
---Photos by Frank Bevans

[DONATE](#) **Support Creativity**

Dorland's Mission statement is to provide a unique working retreat for visual artists, writers, and musicians inspiring creativity in a secluded, natural setting. The Residency Program provides a secluded working retreat for national and international artists, writers, musicians and composers.



For more information on how you can support Dorland:

contents, meanings, issues, worn-out words. That's why I felt so loose and free during my fruitful stay at Dorland. There I had not a past, no previous signs nor expectations: everything was to be written. And that's the invaluable treasure that an artist needs: that blank page, that freedom. The valley and the sky, protection and support. So apparently easy, and often so difficult to reach. So simple, so precious.



Without those really free conditions, how to create something strong, true and new?"

Michael Jon Fink

In my first residency, many (many) years ago, I had the good fortune of visiting Eileen Dorland at her cottage and playing my music for her. I still have the letters she wrote me, encouraging me in my composing aspirations. After she passed, I was able to do several residencies in her cottage and take advantage of the excellent piano and large music library.



After the fire and a number of years, I've returned to Dorland nearly every summer. With its beautiful surroundings and marvelous Steinway grand piano, the Horton Cottage is the perfect space to compose, play and contemplate music away from the stress and chaos of city life.

Michael Jon Fink - Composer/Performer

Composition Faculty: The Herb Alpert School of Music at the California Institute of the Arts

Enjoy his recorded music on [YouTube!](#)

WHAT GROWS AT DORLAND?

Chaparral Yucca



While hiking one of Dorland's many trails, you will see Chaparral Yucca standing out among a variety of other plants. A monocarpic evergreen, the plant lives between 4 and 8 years, blooms, fruits, and dies. And what an interestingly tragic and beautiful romance it has. Its little lover / buddy, the Yucca Moth, (*Tegeticula maculata*), lives only about a year before crossing the rainbow bridge. Now, before you rush to judgement about the little moth, please fully understand that this moth wants nothing to do with your clothing! Only you (and actual Clothes Moths) consider your best sport-coat to be tasteful.



...

Chaparral Yucca has many aliases (Lord's Candle, Spanish Sword, Spanish Bayonet, Whipple's Yucca, Quiote Yucca, common yucca, and more.) Meanwhile, no matter what its family name, the Chaparral Yucca continues to be its beautiful self, something that tends to happen to all of us during our stay at Dorland Mountain Arts.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE](#)



www.dorlandartscolony.org ~ info@dorlandartscolony.org
Mailing Address: PO Box 6 Temecula, CA 92593
Physical Address: 36701 Hwy 79 South Temecula, CA 92592
951-302-3837

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