

## JOAN HUTTON LANDIS SUMMER READING SERIES - CALENDAR 2017

**LOCATION:** BigTown Gallery Rochester, VT.

**TIME:** Doors open at 5:00 pm, "first come, best seat." All Readings begin at 5:30 pm.

**COST:** Programming is supported by our non-profit BIGTOWN PROJECTS INC. - this series is free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

**CONTACT:** info@bigtowngallery.com.

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### **JUNE 11: ROSAMOND PURCELL**

About the reading: Rosamond will be reading from her book *Owls Head, On the Nature of Lost Things*, a meditation on her 20-year friendship with William Buckminster, an eccentric collector of other people's castoffs.

About Rosamond: "Rosamond Wolff Purcell is a leading American photographer whose strangely beautiful, often unsettling images of objects from the natural and man-made world have earned her international acclaim. Her collaborations with such diverse intellects as paleontologist and science historian Stephen Jay Gould, magician Ricky Jay, and Shakespeare scholar Michael Witmore testify to both the depth and breadth of her interests: the murky boundary between art and science, the mystery of decomposition and metamorphosis, and the universal human need to collect and classify. Her numerous books include *Book Nest*, *Illuminations*, *A Glorious Enterprise: The Museum of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, and *Owls Head: On the Nature of Lost Things*, a lyrical account of Purcell's 20-year photographic "excavation" of a Maine junk yard. Her work has been exhibited at many major museums throughout the United States and Europe, and is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the National Academy of Science, and the Victoria and Albert in London. Her remarkable installation, *Museum Wormianum*, a re-creation of and commentary on the "wonder cabinet" of 17th century Danish natural philosopher Olaus Worm, was featured at the Santa Monica Museum of Art and the Natural History Museum of Denmark, among others. The daughter of Robert Wolff, an eminent Harvard historian and collector of Victorian literature, Purcell is a life-long resident of the Boston area." - From *An Art that Nature Makes*, [www.anartthatnaturemakes.com](http://www.anartthatnaturemakes.com)

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### **JUNE 25: ROBIN MACARTHUR & ANNIE KIM**

About the reading: Annie Kim will read poems from *Into the Cyclorama*, winner of the Michael Waters Poetry Prize and finalist for the 2016 Foreword INDIE Poetry Book of the Year. As poet David Baker writes: "Kim's complex narrative skill depicts a self, a family, and the myriad 'hidden strings' of cultural identity formed by this poet's panoramic and symphonic sense of history." Robin MacArthur will be reading from her collection of short stories.

About Robin: Robin MacArthur lives on the hillside farm where she was born in Marlboro, Vermont. Her debut collection of short stories, *HALF WILD*, was the winner of the PEN New England award for fiction, a finalist for the New England Book Award, a Barnes and Noble Discover pick, and an Indies Introduce selection for debut fiction. Robin is also the editor of *CONTEMPORARY VERMONT FICTION: AN ANTHOLOGY* and one-half of the indie folk duo Red Heart the Ticker, which has been featured on A Prairie Home Companion and NPR's Morning Edition. She is the recipient of two Creation Grants from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. When not writing, Robin spends her time prying rocks out of unruly garden soil, picking blackberries and raspberries outside her back door, and traipsing through woods with her big-hearted and half-wild children. Her forthcoming novel, *HEART SPRING MOUNTAIN*, will be published by Ecco (HarperCollins) in January of 2018.

About Annie: Annie Kim's debut poetry collection, *Into the Cyclorama*, won the 2015 Michael Waters Poetry Prize and is a finalist for the 2016 Foreword INDIE Poetry Book of the Year. Her poems have appeared, or are forthcoming, in *The Kenyon Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Pleiades*, *Mudlark*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and elsewhere. A graduate of Warren Wilson's MFA Program, Kim is the recipient of fellowships from the Virginia Center for Creative Arts and the Hambidge Center. She serves as an editor for *DMQ Review* and works at the University of Virginia School of Law as the Assistant Dean for Public Service.

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### **JULY 9: RUSSELL C. LEONG, accompanied on guitar by Gary Vu**

About the reading: American Book Award storyteller and poet Russell C. Leong reads from his newest visual work: *Mothsutra*, a meditation on New York's Asian fast food delivery men, which debuted at the Bowery Poetry Club in NYC and the Black Box Theatre (University of Hong Kong). He also reads poems on love, Buddhism, and diasporic Chinese identity. The reading is accompanied by Leong's visual images that are part of the book. For more information about *Mothsutra* please visit, [www.mothsutra.com](http://www.mothsutra.com).

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About Russell: Russell C. Leong worked as an editor and professor at UCLA and Hunter College for 40 years. His work (Phoenix Eyes and Other Stories), etc. have been published in English and Chinese in Taipei, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hong Kong, and in the U.S. He was one of 50 poets featured on the PBS special and book entitled "The United States of Poetry." Currently, he is chief editor of CUNY FORUM, for the City University of New York's Asian American Research Institute.

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### **JULY 23: MAJOR JACKSON & DIDI JACKSON**

About Major: "Major Jackson is an American poet, professor and the author of three collections of poetry: HOLDING COMPANY (W.W. Norton, 2010) and HOOPS (W.W. Norton, 2006), both finalists for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature-Poetry and LEAVING SATURN (University of Georgia, 2002), winner of the 2001 Cave Canem Poetry Prize and finalist for a National Book Critics Award Circle. He is also a recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award and has been honored by the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress. Jackson is the Richard Dennis Green and Gold Professor at University of Vermont and a core faculty member of the Bennington Writing Seminars. He served as a creative arts fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, as the Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence at University of Massachusetts-Lowell and currently serves as the Poetry Editor of the Harvard Review." - from his website, [www.majorjackson.com](http://www.majorjackson.com)

About Didi: "Didi Jackson's poems have appeared in Ploughshares, Green Mountains Review, The Common, and Water-Stone Review among other publications. Her manuscript, Almost Animal, (now Killing Jar) was a finalist for the Alice James Book Award, the Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Prize by Persea Books, and Autumn House Press. It was a semi-finalist for the Crab Orchard Open Book Prize, the Saturnalia Books Poetry Prize, and the University of Wisconsin Press Brittingham and Felix Pollack Prizes. Her chapbook, Slag and Fortune, was published by Floating Wolf Quarterly in 2013. Currently, she teaches Poetry and the Visual Arts, 20th c. Poetry of War and Witness, and Creative Writing at the University of Vermont." - from her website, [www.didijackson.com](http://www.didijackson.com)

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### **\*AUGUST 13: PAULA MARCOUX**

**\*25.00 per person, at door.**

About the event: Marcoux's straightforward instructions and inspired musings on cooking with fire are paired with a mouthwatering demonstration that will have you building primitive bread ovens and turning pork on a homemade spit. Gather all your friends around our fire and join in on the feast! Evening to include "Cooking With Fire" demonstration and discussion with Paula Marcoux.

About Paula: "Paula Marcoux is a food historian who consults with museums, film producers, publishers, and individuals. Her training is in archaeology and cooking, and she enjoys applying the knowledge of past cooks and artisans to today's food experience. She builds wood-fired ovens both experimentally and for keeps, and has worked on a broad range of projects." - from her website, [www.themagnificentleaven.com](http://www.themagnificentleaven.com)

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### **SEPTEMBER 3: MARK BOWEN**

About Mark: "Mark Bowen is a recovering physicist, recovering rock climber, and the author of three books. He lives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont." - from his website, [www.mark-bowen.com](http://www.mark-bowen.com)