



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Each year, *Provincetown Arts* honors within its pages dozens of artists who inspire through their lives and work. And every year, there are also stories about groups and people who display a special kind of courage—I will call them “pioneers.”

In this issue, we read about American pioneers in the colonial New York of 1757 in our James Jones fiction award winner, “Yet Wilderness Grew in My Heart.” In the Theater section, we celebrate the centennial of the founding of the Provincetown Players, the ground-breaking theater group that helped to establish Provincetown as a center of Modernism in the arts and launch the careers of playwrights Eugene O’Neill and Susan Glaspell. Joan Lebold Cohen tells the story of five Chinese artists who have risked censure, and even their freedom, in order to express themselves through their extraordinary art. And the fight for freedom is clearly depicted in the work of Rowland Scherman, the first photographer of the Peace Corps, who illuminated the turbulent ’60s with his iconic photography.

I suppose pioneering is a way of life on the Cape, part of its heritage—after all, the Pilgrims landed here in 1620 (making their first landfall in the New World, by the way, before they set foot in Plymouth). Which leads me to a question: what is the difference between a pioneer and a pilgrim? Pioneers are travelers and innovators who inspire through example and the effects of their journeys. But for pilgrims, who may also travel thousands of miles, there is another element to the journey—there’s the quality of a sacred voyage, or a journey of the soul.

And this thought brings me to the work of our featured artists, Paul Bowen and John Yau. Bowen—who grew up in Wales, lived in Provincetown for thirty years, and now resides in Vermont—creates sacred spaces in his work, using found objects, including many pieces of salvaged wood he has found while beachcombing along Provincetown shores. His use of indigenous materials is a form of transfiguration, an homage and a legacy for people and place. John Yau, whose parents emigrated from China, experiences his own journey through a unique exploration of words, seeking meaning through an interpretation of language, which he expresses in his extraordinary poetry, fiction, and art criticism.

One story that has particularly touched me this year is Melanie Braverman’s beautifully crafted interview with a journalist who has Alzheimer’s disease. He is seeking something unique that has been lost—memory, which is to say words, history, his own life and legacy. It is excruciating and courageous, and I can’t help but feel there is also something profoundly sacred in being set adrift, ultimately trusting that we will be carried where we need to go. There is great power in the silences and spaces, in the not knowing. This is where journeys begin.

And perhaps it is in our seeking—for the perfect piece of wood, the perfect form, the perfect word—and not in the finding, that we fulfill our destinies. Perhaps this is the place where identity and truth begin.

We are privileged at *Provincetown Arts* to share the stories of so many who inspire us through their journeys, some continuing, others completed but not lost—never lost—in the remembering.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Susanna Ralli  
Senior Editor



# PROVINCETOWN ARTS 2015

## ON THE COVER

John Yau and Paul Bowen, *photographs by Phil Smith*  
Paul Bowen, "O" Shelf (*detail*), 2013, wood and fabric, 28½ by 25 by 7½ inches  
COURTESY OF ALBERT MEROLA GALLERY



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR \_\_\_\_\_ 32

BUZZ \_\_\_\_\_ 33

## COVER FEATURE: PAUL BOWEN

Paul Bowen: Adrift in Time and Place \_\_\_\_\_ 38  
*André van der Wende*

Clam Digger \_\_\_\_\_ 47  
*James Balla*

Paul Bowen: Messer Man \_\_\_\_\_ 53  
*Pamela Mandell*



## ARTISTS

Paul Resika: What the Morning Never Expected \_\_\_\_\_ 55  
*Christopher Busa*

To Possess: The Paintings of Paul Resika \_\_\_\_\_ 58  
*Jennifer Samet*

Danielle Mailer: On Keeping the Tapestry Whole \_\_\_\_\_ 60  
*Susan Rand Brown*

Modern Spirit: The Art of George Morrison \_\_\_\_\_ 64  
*Charles Giuliano*

Zehra Khan: Creature Comforts \_\_\_\_\_ 67  
*Megan Hinton*

Sarah Lutz and the Garden of Earthly Delights \_\_\_\_\_ 70  
*Jan Lhormer*

Ballpark Figures: Baseball in the Worlds of Sharon Horvath \_\_\_\_\_ 72  
*William Corbett*

Landscapes of Love: Sideo Fromboluti and Nora Speyer's Art-Filled Nature \_\_\_\_\_ 74  
*Donald Kuspit*

Vivian Bower: Limitation Is Her Salvation \_\_\_\_\_ 76  
*Christopher Busa*

Touching the Beach \_\_\_\_\_ 78  
*Jay Critchley*

Mimi Gross: Rapt Rapport, Sincere Observation, and Family Tradition \_\_\_\_\_ 80  
*Christopher Busa*

George Hirose: Darkness Is Large \_\_\_\_\_ 83  
*Christopher Busa*

Art and Politics in China \_\_\_\_\_ 86  
*Joan Lebold Cohen*

Light—Palette—Action: \_\_\_\_\_ 89  
Maurice Freedman, American Modernist Painter (1904–1985)  
*Mary Sherman*

Donald Beal's Memory Landscapes \_\_\_\_\_ 91  
*Anna Dempsey*

Copyright and the Arts \_\_\_\_\_ 93  
*Michael E. Jones*

Christopher Sousa: Artist Profile \_\_\_\_\_ 95  
*Taylor M. Polites*

Photographing the Sixties \_\_\_\_\_ 98  
*Rowland Scherman*



## COVER FEATURE: JOHN YAU

John Yau: The Art of Asking Questions \_\_\_\_\_ 102  
*Christopher Busa*

About John Yau \_\_\_\_\_ 107  
*Barry Schwabsky*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## WRITERS

- J. Michael Lennon and the Selected Letters of Norman Mailer** \_\_\_\_\_ 110  
*Christopher Busa*
- Joan Lebold Cohen: Building a Bridge to Contemporary Chinese Art** \_\_\_\_\_ 112  
*E. J. Kahn III*
- Writing Is What I Most Want to Do: An Interview with Ann Patchett** \_\_\_\_\_ 114  
*Margaret Murphy*
- The Miami-Provincetown Literary Connection** \_\_\_\_\_ 117  
*Raymond Elman*
- Memory Is the Political Correctness of the Heart:** \_\_\_\_\_ 119  
 A Conversation About Writing with Greg O'Brien  
*Melanie Braverman*

## POETRY

- Foreword** by Michael Klein \_\_\_\_\_ 121  
*Andrea Cohen, Mark Conway, Joan Larkin, Tony Leuzzi, Ada Limón, Matthew Lippman, Martha Rhodes, Liz Rosenberg, Hugh Seidman, Bruce Smith, Bruce Snider, Chase Twichell*

## FICTION

- JAMES JONES AWARD WINNER: Yet Wilderness Grew in My Heart** \_\_\_\_\_ 130  
*Cam Terwilliger*

## BOOK REVIEWS

- Eugene O'Neill: A Life in Four Acts** \_\_\_\_\_ 134  
 BY ROBERT M. DOWLING, REVIEWED BY DENISE DOHERTY PAPPAS
- An Italian Wife** \_\_\_\_\_ 136  
 BY ANN HOOD, REVIEWED BY TAYLOR M. POLITES
- The Letter I** \_\_\_\_\_ 137  
 BY DENNIS RHODES, REVIEWED BY JEFF WALT
- brown girl dreaming** \_\_\_\_\_ 138  
 BY JACQUELINE WOODSON, REVIEWED BY CECILIA GALANTE
- Faithful and Virtuous Night** \_\_\_\_\_ 139  
 BY LOUISE GLÜCK, REVIEWED BY DANIEL TOBIN

## THEATER

- George Cram "Jig" Cook: An American Original** \_\_\_\_\_ 140  
*Susan Rand Brown*
- Neith Boyce and the Great Provincetown Summer of 1915** \_\_\_\_\_ 142  
*Carol DeBoer-Langworthy*
- Tennessee Williams: His Long Farewell to Provincetown** \_\_\_\_\_ 145  
*Leona Rust Egan*

## ARCHITECTURE

- from Building Provincetown:** \_\_\_\_\_ 149  
 A Guide to Its Social and Cultural History, Told Through Its Architecture  
*David W. Dunlap and the People of Provincetown*

## FILM

- Arms and the Man:** \_\_\_\_\_ 152  
 Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love *American Sniper*  
*Howard Karren*

## COMMERCIAL STREET

- Psychological Androgyny and the Search for Sexual Identity** \_\_\_\_\_ 157  
*Michael Sperber, MD*
- Jack Kahn and the Camelot on South Pamet Road** \_\_\_\_\_ 159  
*Walter Bingham*
- Running in Time to the Sea: Excerpts from a Memoir in Progress** \_\_\_\_\_ 160  
*Arya F. Jenkins*

## MEMORIALS

- \_\_\_\_\_ 163  
*David Armstrong, George Bryant, John Grillo, Nicoletta Poli, Sally Nerber, Leonora "Noa" Hall Williams, Mark Strand, Selina Trieff, Conrad Malicoat*

# PROVINCETOWN ARTS

A publication of Provincetown Arts Press, Inc.,  
 a nonprofit press for artists and poets

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER CHRISTOPHER BUSA

SENIOR EDITOR SUSANNA RALLI

ART DIRECTOR IRENE LIPTON

MARKETING DIRECTOR INGRID AUE

ADVERTISING SALES HEATHER BRUCE

PRODUCTION EDITOR ANNIE SLONIKER

PUBLISHERS EMERITUS

MARGARET CARROLL-BERGMAN 1998–2004

RAYMOND ELMAN 1985–89



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUSAN RAND BROWN	CHRISTOPHER BUSA, CLERK
DAVID COWAN	ALEXANDRA CROMWELL
RAYMOND ELMAN	PAUL ENDICH, TREASURER
E. J. (TERRY) KAHN III, PRESIDENT	MARGARET MURPHY
DEAN PAPPAS, MD	DENISE PAPPAS, VICE PRESIDENT
PETER SAUNDERS	

## BOARD OF ADVISORS

MARY ABELL	CHARLES BERGMAN
MARGARET CARROLL-BERGMAN	STEPHEN BORKOWSKI
ANTHONY DONIGER, ESQ.	BILL JENSEN
FRED LEEBRON	ANNE-MARIE LEVINE
JENNIFER LIESE	MARY MAXWELL
GAIL MAZUR	RICHARD MCCANN
SUSAN MITCHELL	TAYLOR M. POLITES
MIRA SCHOR	PHILLIP H. WILLKIE

Published annually in midsummer since 1985, *Provincetown Arts* focuses broadly on artists, performers, and writers who inhabit or visit the tip of Cape Cod, and seeks to stimulate creative activity and enhance public awareness of the cultural life of the nation's oldest continuous artists' colony. Drawing upon a century-long tradition rich in art, theater, and writing, *Provincetown Arts* publishes essays, fiction, interviews, journals, performance pieces, poetry, profiles, reporting, reviews, and visual features, with a view toward demonstrating that a community of artists, functioning outside the urban centers, is a utopian dream with an ongoing vitality.

© 2015 by Provincetown Arts, Inc.  
 All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part expressly forbidden without permission from the publisher.

Most of *Provincetown Arts* is freelance written. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome and will be considered between September and December. Enclose SASE for writers' guidelines. The best guide for content and length is a study of past issues.

Member: Council of Literary Magazines and Presses

Address all correspondence to:  
*Provincetown Arts*  
 650 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657  
 Tel: (508) 487-3167 • Fax: (508) 487-3559  
 E-mail: cbusa@comcast.net  
 www.provincetownarts.org

Subscriptions are \$15 per annual issue  
 Back issues available • Order form on page 170  
 New advertisers: please request media kit

*Provincetown Arts* is indexed in the *Humanities International Complete*.

PRINTED IN USA

NATIONAL AND CANADA DISTRIBUTION:  
 Ingram Periodicals, Nashville, TN

ISSN: 1053-5012

Printed by RPI Printing in Fall River, MA.