



Volume 37
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Feb 2016

INK PEOPLE NEWS

Artist Profile:
Laura Keenados

DreamMaker:
Humboldt Barns

Plus MARZ Music



"Friends" block print by Laura Keenados

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23 5th Street, Eureka, CA 95501 - inkpeople.org - (707) 442-8413



Letter from Libby

Art News from Ink People Executive Director, Libby Maynard

What I really love about the people of Humboldt is their endless creativity. DreamMaker projects are all initiated by community members who have a dream or vision. We help them realize their dreams, but don't do it for them. The skills and organizational support they need to be successful are part and parcel of the DreamMaker Program.

At the January Board meeting we heard another wonderful proposal. The working title is the Humboldt Barns Songwriting Project. There is an article about it in this newsletter (*Page 4*.) If you're interested in getting involved or supporting this project, please contact **Josephine Johnson** josephine.jhnsn@gmail.com.

We have some exciting news!
An anonymous donor has offered us a \$10,000 challenge, so any donation you make until March 31, 2016 will be doubled! Thank you for your support.

The Board members have started planning fundraising events for the Spring and Fall that will showcase some of our amazing DreamMakers. The Fall event is being

co-planned with staff from the Humboldt Area Foundation. If you're interested in helping out or becoming a sponsor, please contact me at libby@inkpeople.org or 707.445.0700.

The California Arts Council is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and will be

publishing a book featuring 40 arts groups that they have funded in California. Ink People will be one of them! What a wonderful honor.

For the fourth year, we are partnering with the Area 1 Agency on Aging to produce Being Here Now, an exhibition of artwork by artists aged 60 and better. It will be up at A1AA in

May and June, with awards presentation during May Arts Alive! For more info, you can contact **Carrie Badeaux**, our Administrative Director, at carrie@inkpeople.org or 707.442.8413.

We are excited about the upcoming year, many new projects will come to fruition in 2016. We wish the same for you.

Peace,
Libby





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Laura Keenados

aka Bad Cat Pomegranate

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Poetry Corner

Alternative Galleries February 2016

Arcata City Hall
CSFECU #20
Eureka City Hall
SHN Engineering
The Vision Center
GHD

Pat Kanzler
Dana Ballard
Allen Cassidy
Dance Scene
Lynne Curtis
Courtney Slider

Do you have a body of work, large or small, taking up valuable room in your house or studio? Join the Alternative Galleries, and hang your art in businesses around town rotating once every three months.

**Free to artists. Great exposure.
Call (707) 442-8413**



***“If you have only two
coins, spend one on
bread, and the other on
hyacinths for your soul.”***

***-Traditional
Arab Proverb***

Ink People members support a wide variety of community art and culture projects like:
Native American language classes, art classes for adults and children, Summer programming for at risk teens, Dancers from Polynesian to fire to ballet, public art, plus free art programs for youth like the MARZ Project digital media lab ... and so very much more!

(707) 442-8413
inkers@inkpeople.org

Student \$25	Advocate \$150
Artist \$35	Patron \$275
Friend \$45	Sponsor \$500
Family \$65	Benefactor \$1,000
NPO / Biz \$75	Lifetime \$2,500

DreamMaker of the Month:

Barns run in my blood.

Summers in Indiana and my grandparents on the family farm in the soft hills of Brown County; the school year in central Indiana on my aunts' and uncles' properties.

In their barns, doing chores, singing, daydreaming, playing Star Wars in the rafters with my cousins.

Barns are play. Barns are work.

They are part safe haven and adventure.

Though I may not have been born in one, I should have.

Barns are home.

- Josephine Johnson



Old Arcata Barn Photo Courtesy of the Library of Congress

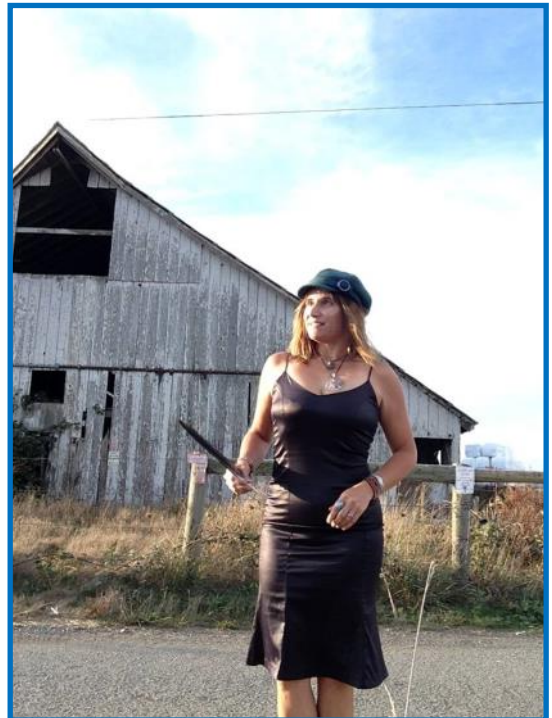
Humboldt Barns Songwriting Project

I'll always remember the first glimpse I got of the barns in Humboldt. Fall 2004, and it was the first day of my English MA program at Humboldt State. I took the bus from Eureka to Arcata, the long route, via Manila, Samoa, and through the Arcata Bottoms. With the sun rising over the ridge, fog lifting from the marsh and pastures—there they were. These incredible structures. Huge barns, bigger than any I had ever seen. I made note of the route so that I could later return on my bike for a longer look. Since then—twelve years ago—I've made many rides through the Bottoms, and many other roads in Humboldt, just to look at and experience these great redwood structures in this beautiful, fertile land.

The Humboldt Barns Songwriting project explores in greater depth the stories and origins of twelve Humboldt County barns. By researching the barns' histories, and interviewing current owners, I am constructing individual stories of these structures. I'm photographing them and writing brief essays as well to accompany the culminating, multi-media presentation. It's songwriting. It's creative, boundary-pushing non-fiction. It's performance. It's adventure. And most importantly, it will expand on and help keep alive a part of Humboldt's agricultural history.

With my field recording team, we'll

explore some of the sounds of the structures; the creak of rusty hinges, footfalls on rafters and boards, latches opening and closing. These will be incorporated into some of the songs' final recordings and soundscapes. We'll even record one or two songs in the barns, to preserve these sounds so that others may know the resonance of old-growth redwood and Doug Fir. The final project will be presented in December 2016 at the Westhaven Center for the Arts where I am the 2016 Musician in Residence. I look forward to learning more about these incredible barns, translating their stories into songs, and sharing them with the community.



Josephine Johnson and a Barn, Self Portrait

MARZ Project Catches Youth on the Edge

Throughout its 37 year history, the *Ink People Center for the Arts* has made countless creative connections. Connections between teachers and students, artists and patrons, makers and tools, voices and audiences. In 1997, *Ink People* staffers and artist mentors convened a group of representatives from local youth oriented social service organizations to determine which youth in Humboldt were in the most need of creative connections.

It is no surprise that they found the ones most in need were the teenagers and young adults on the edges. Those on the edge of dropping out of school, on the edge of the foster care system, in danger of running away, of being homeless, in juvenile hall, or falling through the cracks. What the *Ink People* had to offer these young people was a safe place; a place woven through with creative connections. The MARZ

Project was that place before it even had an official name. MARZ was and is an art studio where artist mentors work one on one with at risk youth.

Founding Artists included Donvieve teaching visual studio arts. An accomplished artist herself, Donvieve had also been working with youth in the schools through the Ink People's *Fresh Arts Youth Project* since 1992. Gregg Moore taught music. He is most known these days for his performing group *Bandemonium*, a high spirited, highly inclusive, eclectic community band. Barbara A. Domanchuk, of the *Young Media Makers Big Screen Showcase* youth film festival headed up video projects, and Annie Reid taught graphic design.

Through the years, the concept of *MARZ* evolved. As some mentors moved on to



other projects, new artists joined the team and brought with them their unique skills and talents. One time collaborator from the RAVEN Project, Anna Theilman, called it “*Magic Action Reface Zone*,” to reflect the infinite potential for growth she saw in the youth who came to MARZ. (... and because she apparently *really* wanted the acronym to be “MARZ.”)

Many MARZ alumni have gone on to professional careers in media or the arts. Success stories include a touring musician and music teacher, a graphic designer for the local paper, a television engineer, and countless youth who simply didn’t fall off the edge when they could have because someone cared enough to give them a voice.

These days the MARZ Project continues its mission as the *Media & Arts Resource Zone*. The recording studio, fine arts supplies, and digital graphic arts are available Tuesdays through Fridays after school. Cory Goldman of the *Striped Pig String Band* teaches instrument lessons and audio production two afternoons a week. Volunteer videography mentors work with youth on a project by project basis using the MARZ cameras and equipment.

Anyone ages 12 to 22 can drop into the MARZ studio inside the Ink People at 23 5th Street, Eureka. Of course, this creative safety-net is entirely free for youth, but it does cost. If you’d like to support the MARZ Project, visit inkpeople.org to donate or call (707) 442-8413.

DreamMaker Project

HIGH WATER MARK

Stories from the
'64 Flood



In November of 1964, the West Coast was inundated by heavy rain from Central California north to Oregon and Washington and East to Idaho creating epic and catastrophic flooding.

In the making of this film over 60 people were interviewed about their experiences. The Film makers have included archival photos, video and 16 mm footage to bring the stories to life. This film salutes the problem solvers and creative thinkers who were the working class heroes of the 1964 flood.

DVD & Blu-ray

**Buy the disc at
inkpeople.org**

Produced by Jete-Miro Productions, A DreamMaker Project of The Ink People Center for the Arts.

INKER ARTIST PROFILE: LAURA KEENADOS AKA BAD CAT POMEGRANATE

On the cover this month find “Friends” a block print by featured artist, Laura Keenados. Ink News sat with the Inker to talk about art and inspiration.

Q: What is your favorite art medium to work in, and why?

A: I don't do so well with picking favorites. I really like ink drawing, mixed media collage, and figure drawing in charcoal. I feel comfortable in these media. With ink drawing I can do just about anything from lighthearted and whimsical to controlled and serious. Mixed media collage is like a puzzle, creating a moment in time from random happenstance and materials. Figure drawing brings me back to focus and fundamental practice, which keeps

my skills sharp(ish).

Q: When did you first figure out that art was important to you?

A: Creativity was huge in my childhood. However, I didn't really "get it" that it was important till I was older. I didn't realize I was actually halfway decent at it till late high school and college.

Q: Who are your art mentors?

A: Kit Davenport and Denton Crawford were both huge in my college art life. Kit has such a direct, from-personal-experience way of teaching, and her wealth of knowledge equals her kindness and playfulness. She helped me to love what I do and encouraged me to not take anything too seriously, ya know? I had Denton at HSU, and he taught me not to be such a delicate snowflake, helped me check my ego, and as a result, I actually like critiques now. I mean, don't get me wrong, I learned serious art skills and methods from him, but so much of being an artist is knowing when to try harder and when you gotta pick your battles. Life is too short to make crappy art.

Q: Finish this sentence: My art is my...

A: Soul. (Original, I know. Hah!)

Q: What advice would you offer



Laura Keenados and some tools

someone just beginning their exploration of their own artistic self?
A: Practice practice practice! Make art every day. It doesn't matter if it's a doodle or a haiku. One artist I admire greatly once told me she draws every day, and ever since then, I've made it a priority to do something artistic daily. Over time you'll notice it's actually getting better. If you have the opportunity, start with the fundamentals. Work your way through that, and you'll find that you can then be free to create what's really in your head, because you have the appropriate tools in your skill set.



"Kitty Cloud Nap" by Laura Keenados, ink on paper

Q: Where can we find more of your work?

<https://www.instagram.com/badcatpomegranate/>

Inspiring Girls Call for Art Entries

NORTH STAR QUEST CAMP FOR GIRLS ASKS:

HAS AN AMAZING WOMAN OR GIRL INSPIRED YOU OR TOUCHED YOUR LIFE? WE WANT TO SHOWCASE ART OF ALL KINDS FROM ANYONE: CAMPER, STAFF, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

The details:

***DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD**

***OPENING RECEPTION ARTS ALIVE MARCH 5, 6-9 PM**

***@KINETIC MUSEUM EUREKA 110 3RD ST, DOOR G (FOR GLORY!)
(IN ALLEY ACROSS FROM THE FRONT OF THE CO-OP)**

***EMAIL BLUE.LAROO@GMAIL.COM OR CALL NSQ (707) 633-4522**

Classes & Workshops

Karuk Language Classes with Julian Lang

Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ink People Offices

23 5th Street, Eureka

Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

United Indian Health Services

1600 Weeot Way, Arcata

Writers' Critique Group

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Ink People Offices

23 5th Street, Eureka

Life Drawing Group \$5 fee with Clinton Alley

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Cheri Blackerby Gallery

3rd & C streets, Eureka

Call 707-442-0309 to join.

Models needed.

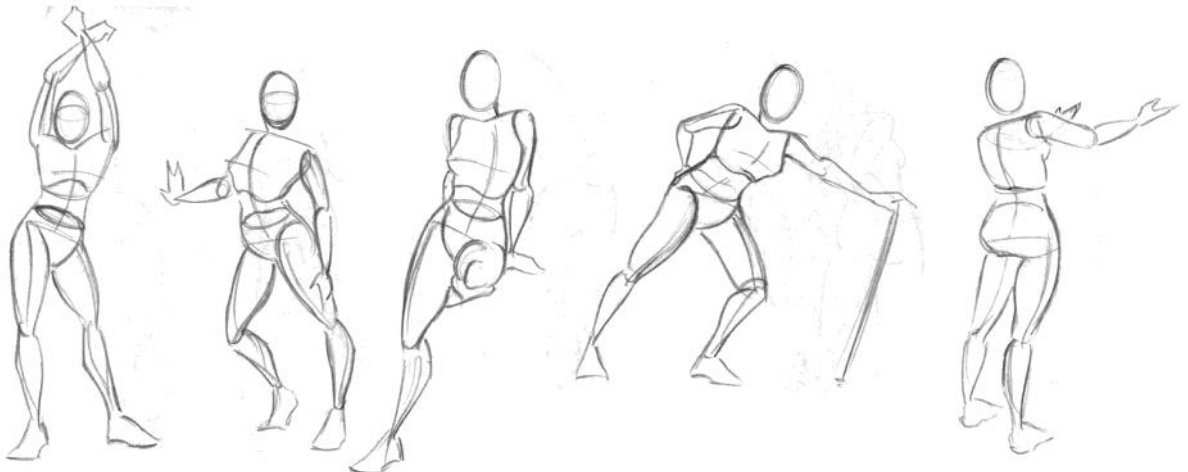
The MARZ Project

(Media & Arts Resource Zone)

FREE for Teens

Make music, movies, graphics and more

Tu-Fr 3p-6p @ 23 5th St. Eureka



My Grandfather Always Understood

My Grandfather always understood the Chinese
spoken to him with the hands and gestures,
the eyes and tongues of Los Angeles'
Chinatown where he went to sharpen knives
and ended up with his wit on the tip
exclaiming to the cooks in Italian
that he thought they were wonderful.

And the Chinese always understood my grandfather
(not his Italian) but his hands
that had so many cuts in them
from the pulleys and grindstones
and the knives he tested, sharper
than his fingers, fatter than any peasants
of Italy or farm in Europe or near Naples.
Mine are like that too too fat for steel strings
don't know enough for classical
can't make guitar talk in Italian or Chinese
much less the blues but the browns of tobacco
still stain them where the nails are chewed off.
They're soft, not tough like Tony's whose spoke
easily as me saying "These are human, listen."

Leonard Cirino

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Executive Director

Libby Maynard

Administrative Director

Carrie Badeaux

Ink People News Editor

Joe Shermis

Ink People News Art Director

Kati Texas

Brenda Tuxford Gallery Coordinators

Margaret Uemura

Robert Sataua

Alternative Gallery Coordinator

Angie Valetutto

Bookkeeper

Jacqueline Dandeneau

Technology Manager

Zach Weaver

Data Systems Manager

Karen Asbury

MARZ Project Afterschool program

Cory Goldman

Kati Texas

Andy Ruddock

(707) 442-8413

fax (707) 444-8722

inkpeople.org

inkers@inkpeople.org

The Ink People
23 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

The Ink People Center for the Arts
is made possible by our members,
our scores of volunteers,
and our
funders:

