

## BAU Otranto 2014

2014 marked the 11th year of the BAU Otranto June residency. 14 Residents in visual arts, writing and performance enjoyed uninterrupted time for the creation of new work in the historic city of Otranto in Puglia, Italy.



Artist Residents were free to make their own schedule of studio practice balanced with group dinners and outings that they enjoyed together. They lived in independent apartments in the heart of the walled town on the Adriatic Sea. This unique setting enabled undisturbed creativity, while still offering interaction with the local community of Otranto and the neighboring towns. Writers generally worked at home in apartments with sea views. Visual artists used the Aragonese Castle of Otranto as their studio.

"Otranto gives me a feeling of simplicity and of calm blue space. Time does not so much slow down there as expand. Somehow, without feeling pressure or stress, I am able to get stunning amounts of creative work done while fully immersing myself in the landscape, the amazing food, and the energy of my fellow writers, artists and friends. It's a bit of a miracle."



"During my first residency, in 2009, I essentially wrote my first published novel. And during my most recent residency, in 2014, I was able to conceive and lay the groundwork for my next book. It was a project that seemed very complicated before I arrived in Otranto. But once I came and fell into the rhythm of the magical place, my work revealed itself to be simple and direct."

"I could not be more grateful for this enchanted town, for the castle, the views from the beautiful apartments, the anchovies, and the people who make up this wonderful program."  
—Hilary Rey, author



### The 2014 Otranto Resident Fellows:

Christine Coenon, Visual artist, Paris, France  
 Kristina Maria Darling, Poet, Buffalo, NY  
 Chika Kato, Visual artist, Japan and Germany  
 Bodo Korsig, Visual artist, Trier, Germany  
 Sophie Leddick, Performance artist, Santa Barbara, CA  
 Gus Moran, Visual artist, Fairfield, CT  
 Christine Palamidessi, Visual artist, Cambridge, MA  
 May Peterson, Visual artist, Los Angeles, CA

Heloisa Pomfret, Visual artist, Bloomfield Hill, MI  
 Hilary Rey, Writer, New York, NY  
 Sarita Sarvate, Writer, Albany, CA  
 Raphael Simon, Writer, Pasadena, CA  
 Elisabeth Sher, Visual artist, Oakland, CA  
 Margaret Stohl, Writer, Santa Monica, CA

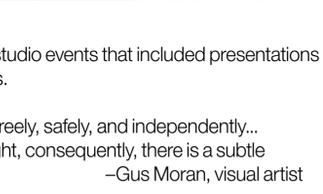
### Resident Program Director

Dagmar Frinta, Visual artist, Altamont, NY



"Opening my shutters each morning and looking out at the blue blue bay began each magical day in Otranto. If this wasn't enough, walking through the narrow streets as the shop keepers put out their brightly colored wares inspired my work in the Castello studio: cannon balls of all sizes, marble stairs, creaky wooden windows allowing gusts of wind to temper the heat allowed for creative focus every day."

Elizabeth Sher, Video artist



### Open Studios

The artists shared their work in open studio events that included presentations of visual art, readings and performances.

"BAU created space for artists to work freely, safely, and independently... This region of Italy is drenched in sunlight, consequently, there is a subtle change in the way I am using color."

—Gus Moran, visual artist



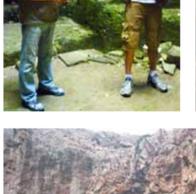
"What was most inspirational for me was the town itself--it's presence, its history, its location and saturation with the Byzantine and Greek cultures, the color of the Leccese stone buildings, the pace of the Otranto lifestyle, and the particular way primary color was revealed all around me."

—Christine Palamidessi, visual artist



### Field Trips

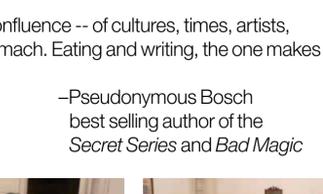
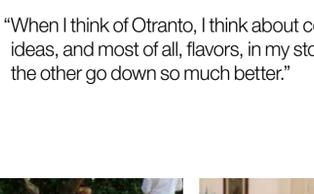
Fellows organized field trips, and dinners. This year BAU visited the Baroque city of Lecce, and the frescos in Santa Caterina D'Alessandria in Galatina.



Fellows took walks to local sites such as the Ipogeo of Torre Pinta, a Neolithic burial chamber, where they witnessed the solstice. They enjoyed organic food grown at the Masseria di Sant'Angelo where they saw a concert sung in Griko, the ancient pre-greek language.

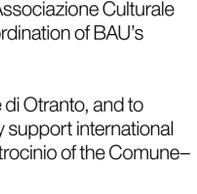
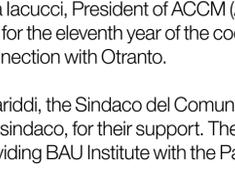


The fellows took trips to Porto Badisco, the Baia dei Turchi, the Baia dell'Orte on the Adriatic coast, a Bauxite quarry and to the Valle delle Memorie and the Idrusa Valley in the surrounding countryside. They made the annual pilgrimage to the Massa della Vecchia prehistoric megaliths, Dolmen and Menhir. Dott Codacci Pisanelli gave his insightful tour of the Cathedral mosaics.



"When I think of Otranto, I think about confluence -- of cultures, times, artists, ideas, and most of all, flavors, in my stomach. Eating and writing, the one makes the other go down so much better."

—Pseudonymous Bosch, best selling author of the Secret Series and Bad Magic



### Mille Grazie

We are grateful to, Marthe Keller, President and Iona Kleinhaut, Vice President and The BAU Institute Board of Directors for their vision and leadership.

Our deep thanks to Paola Iacucci, President of ACCM (Associazione Culturale Civiltà Del Mediterraneo), for the eleventh year of the coordination of BAU's program and cultural connection with Otranto.

Mille grazie to Luciano Cariddi, the Sindaco del Comune di Otranto, and to Lavinia Puzzone the Vicesindaco, for their support. They support international cultural exchange by providing BAU Institute with the Patrocinio of the Comune—the keys to the castle!



Special thanks to Dagmar Frinta, The Otranto Program Director, for providing essential support, assistance and information with patience and grace.

Additional appreciation goes to Barbara Anglisz, BAU Administrator in New York and to Dino Paciello, Ground Operator in Otranto. We are grateful to Bradford Ensminger of Bradforde Design.

Most of all, thank you to the Fellows who provided their photos, and for creating the dynamic 11th year of BAU in Otranto!

### Please Donate

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For assistance email Bianca at: [Info@bauinstitute.org](mailto:Info@bauinstitute.org). Thank you!



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