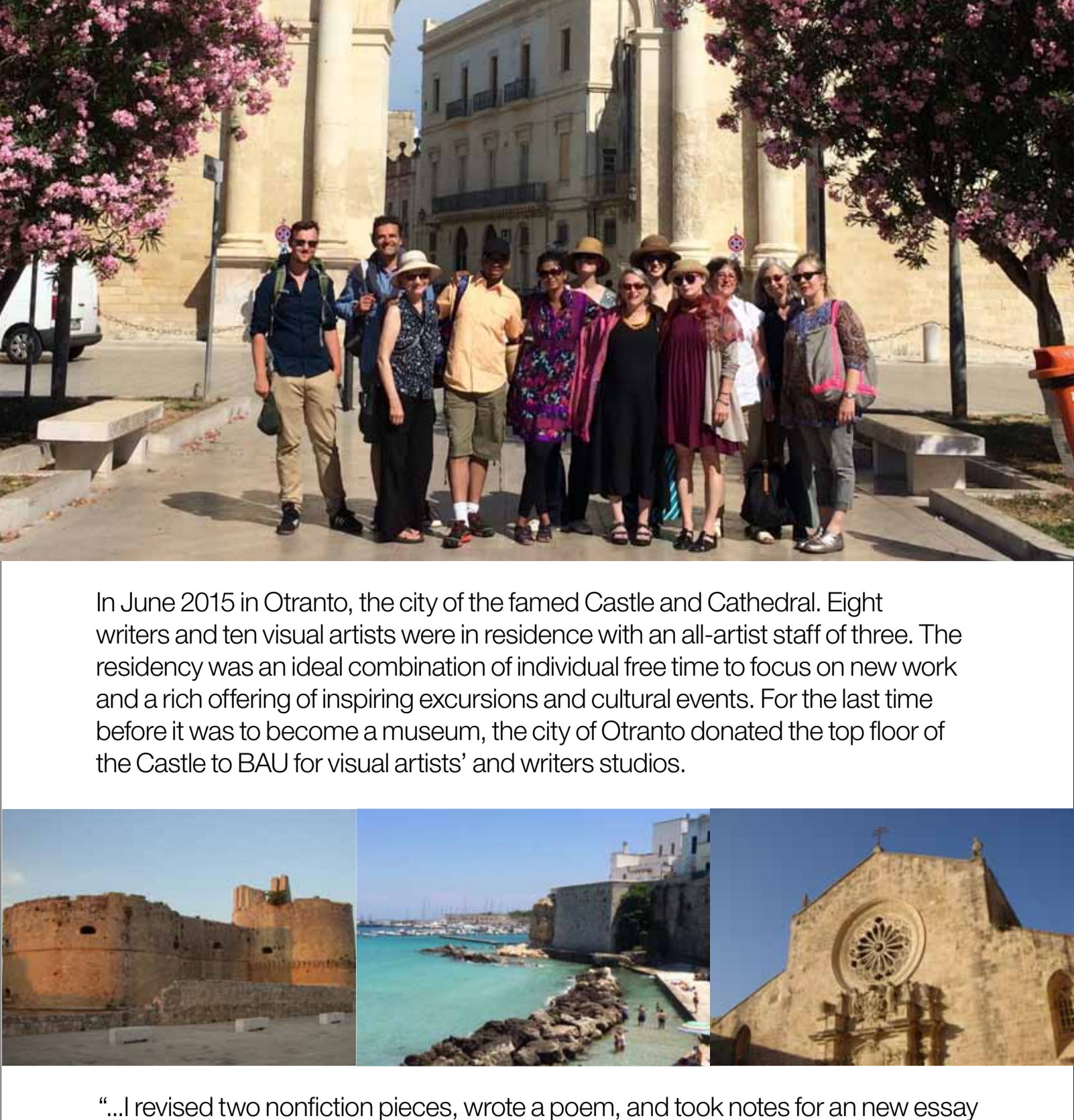


BAU at Otranto Arts and Culture Residency 2015

This newsletter reports on the 12th and final BAU arts residency in Otranto, Italy. We celebrate the highly accomplished Fellows who created new work in literary and visual arts in June 2015. This is also an opportunity to announce the spectacular new BAU residency opening in Puglia in summer 2016. Learn more and apply here: <http://www.bauinstitute.org/index.php?page=puglia-italy>.

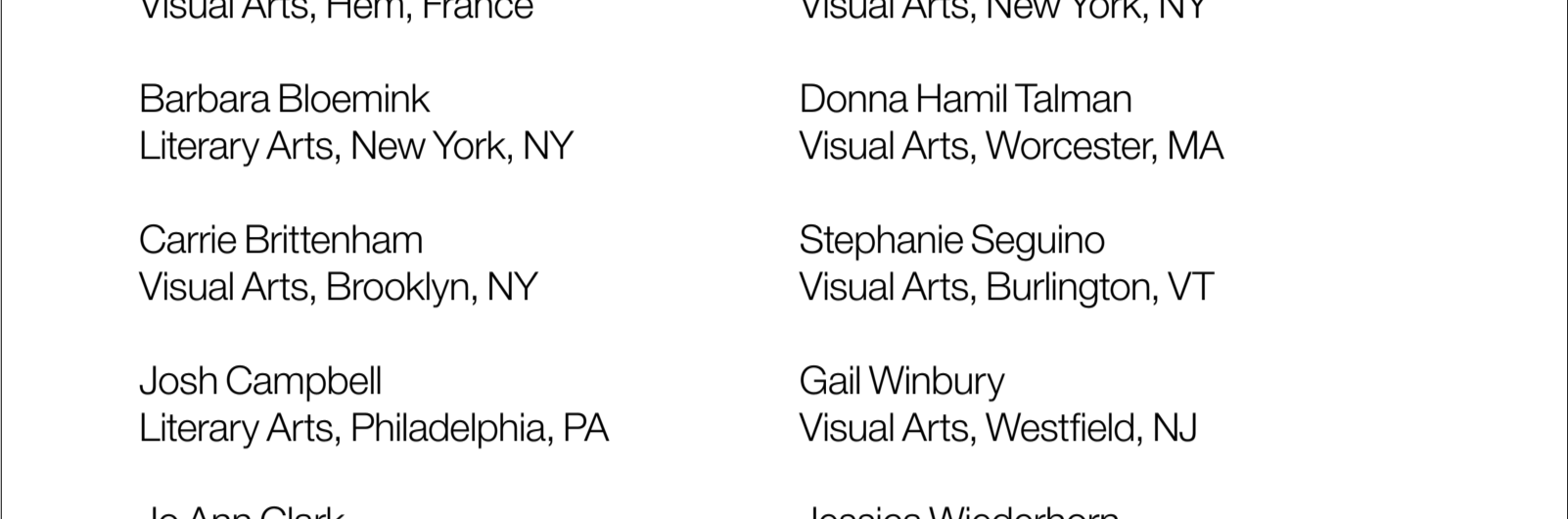


In June 2015 in Otranto, the city of the famed Castle and Cathedral. Eight writers and ten visual artists were in residence with an all-artist staff of three. The residency was an ideal combination of individual free time to focus on new work and a rich offering of inspiring excursions and cultural events. For the last time before it was to become a museum, the city of Otranto donated the top floor of the Castle to BAU for visual artists' and writers studios.



"...I revised two nonfiction pieces, wrote a poem, and took notes for a new essay project... I made friends with some wonderful people, learned about the sorcery tradition in Puglia (to curse someone, pierce a lemon with needles and hide it in a cistern), marveled at frescos and mosaics, and swam in the Adriatic almost every day.... The clear blue Adriatic, the bright white sea cliffs with their caves, the silver olive groves and the wild fennel growing by the side of the road—all of that rests somewhere inside me now and eventually I'll find a way to write about it..."

—Kate Angus,
first published in:
<http://blog.bestamericanpoetry.com>



The 2015 BAU-Otranto Fellows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Grace Anieza Ali
Literary Arts, New York, NY | Christine Malvasi
Literary Arts, Brooklyn, NY |
| Kate Angus
Literary Arts, New York, NY | Katherine McDougal
Visual Arts, Decatur, GA |
| Christophe Boulanger
Visual Arts, Hem, France | Jacqueline Sferra Rada
Visual Arts, New York, NY |
| Barbara Bloemink
Literary Arts, New York, NY | Donna Hamil Talman
Visual Arts, Worcester, MA |
| Carrie Brittenham
Visual Arts, Brooklyn, NY | Stephanie Seguino
Visual Arts, Burlington, VT |
| Josh Campbell
Literary Arts, Philadelphia, PA | Gail Winbury
Visual Arts, Westfield, NJ |
| Jo Ann Clark
Literary Arts, Sleepy Hollow, NY | Jessica Wiederhorn
Time-Based Arts, Brooklyn, NY |
| Sally Eckhoff
Visual Arts, Stuyvesant Falls, NY | Ken Wiederhorn
Time-Based Arts, Brooklyn, NY |
| Caryn Friedlander
Visual Arts, Bellingham, WA | Resident Staff
Marthe Keller, Director,
Visual Artist, New York, NY |
| Samuel Guerin
Visual Arts, Amherst, MA | Dagmar Frinta, Program Director
Visual artist, Altamont, NY |
| Paulette Long
Visual Arts, San Francisco, CA | Jill Brandwein, Assistant Program
Director, Visual Artist, Rome, Italy |



Open Studios

The artists shared their work in open studio events in the Castle. Poet, JoAnn Clark hosted several well attended poetry and play readings. Two Visiting Artists were invited to the residency. Photographer, Dorothy Handelman made a wonderful record of the artists and writers and her experience in the region. The painter, Mary Judge was much appreciated for her focused and incisive individual critiques given to all who met with her.



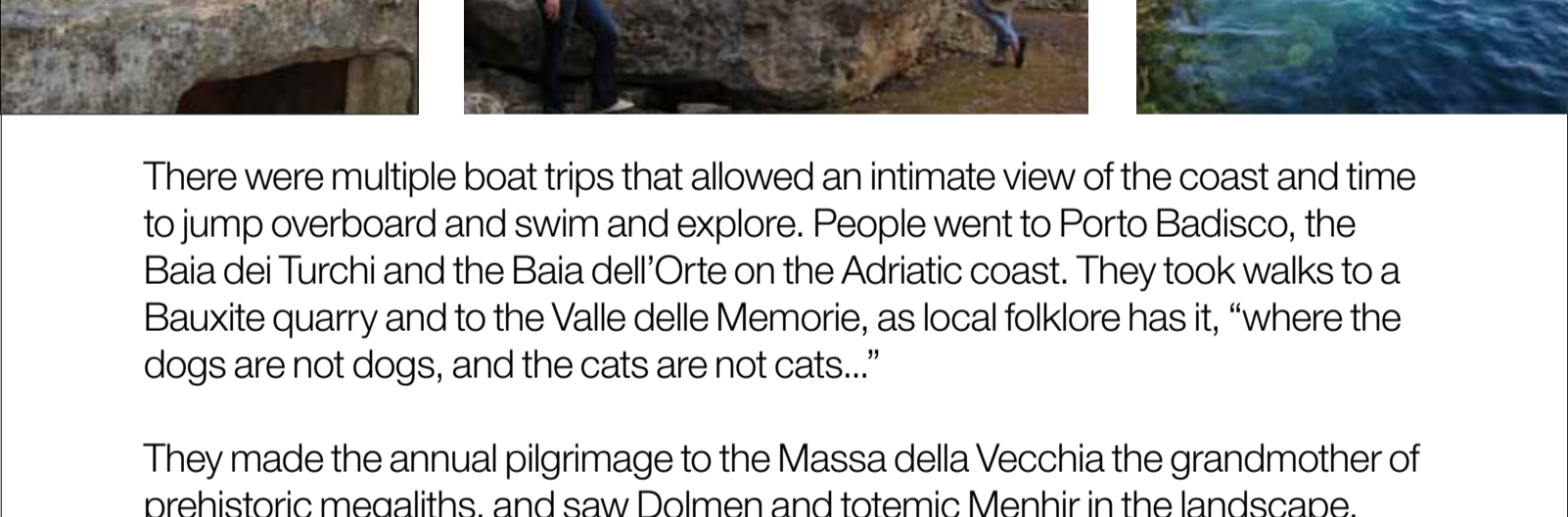
"I want to tell you how much [the] Magic Castle meant to me. Painting in that little sun-blasted cave was so fun, so magic... I enjoyed the shared studio too. Everybody treated me with enough respect and kindness to make me super comfortable, and I made some lifelong friends as a result... I got to love the sound of [Marthe's] laughter. And of course [her] art chat is inimitable... I think of shuffling up that hill every morning... thinking I was tired but realizing I wanted nothing at all, no books or coffee or food, just my studio and the beautiful sight of those ancient stairs polished by so many feet. ...what a happy and productive time I had! – Sally Eckhoff

Field Trips

Fellows participated in field trips, and dinners. They visited the Baroque city of Lecce, and they loved seeing the frescos in Santa Caterina D'Alessandria in Galatina.



They witnessed the summer solstice in the Ipogeo di Torre Pinta, a Neolithic burial chamber.



They savored organic food grown at the Masseria di Sant Angelo and heard music performed in Griko, the ancient pre-greek language. They were awed by the power of the women vocalists, contemporary women deeply connected to their roots.

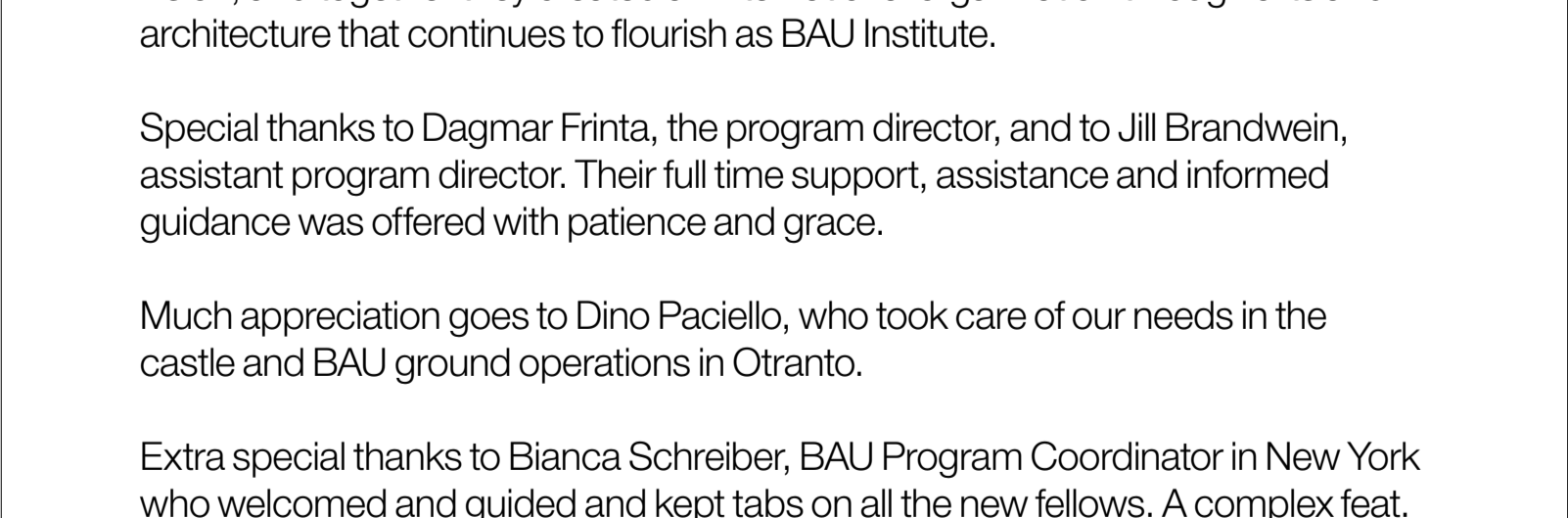


"In the south of Italy, at the tip of the boot, the age-old olive trees resist stony land and hot weather. On the side of the road stand the most beautiful ones, crumbling, twisted, hooked on life. They have seen everything, experienced everything, they are the ancestors. One no longer knows if ...they are vegetable or mineral. I chose to uproot them... to make them dance to the rhythm of the Taranta, local healing ritual mixing music, trance and devotion. I wanted to put the pieces back together, to repair, to patch, to graft them a heart, a pump of colors. They are les tortr boyaux –well spirits." –Christophe Boulanger



There were multiple boat trips that allowed an intimate view of the coast and time to jump overboard and swim and explore. People went to Porto Badisco, the Baia dei Turchi and the Baia dell'Orte on the Adriatic coast. They took walks to a Bauxite quarry and to the Valle delle Memorie, as local folklore has it, "where the dogs are not dogs, and the cats are not cats..."

They made the annual pilgrimage to the Massa della Vecchia the grandmother of prehistoric megaliths, and saw Dolmen and totemic Menhir in the landscape.



Dott Codacci Pisanelli gave his insightful tour of the Cathedral mosaics and the Byzantine church of San Pietro.



Cooking Class

The cooking class offered by chef, Natalia Beltrami was a popular event and fiori di zucca were in season! Natalia regaled us with tales of being chef to the great Otrantian actor and filmmaker, Carmelo Bene, while preparing magnificent local cuisine.



Banquets and group dinners

BAU hosted several banquets and Fellows entertained each other in their unique apartments. The group reveled and danced to the pizzica taranta music played by our musician friends at the farewell dinner hosted by BAU on the Director's terrace.

Mille Grazie

We are grateful to The BAU Institute Board of Directors for their vision and leadership. But most of all, thanks to the 2015 Fellows for making the 12th year of BAU in Otranto an unforgettable creative experience.

We recognize the Co-Founders of BAU, Paola Iacucci and Marthe Keller, in the final year of their joint participation in the Otranto program. They shared a vision, and together they created an international organization through arts and architecture that continues to flourish as BAU Institute.

Special thanks to Dagmar Frinta, the program director, and to Jill Brandwein, assistant program director. Their full time support, assistance and informed guidance was offered with patience and grace.

Much appreciation goes to Dino Paciello, who took care of our needs in the castle and BAU ground operations in Otranto.

Extra special thanks to Bianca Schreiber, BAU Program Coordinator in New York who welcomed and guided and kept tabs on all the new fellows. A complex feat.

Grazie to Luciano Cariddi, the Sindaco del Comune di Otranto, and to Lavinia Puziovio the Vicesindaco, for her support. The city sustained a long international cultural exchange by providing BAU Institute with the Patrocinio of the Comune—the keys to the castle of Otranto over so many years.

Please Support BAU institute

BAU Institute is a 501(c)(3) non profit arts organization.
Your gift supports an artist's vision!
Donate online at: www.bauinstitute.org
or Mail Checks to: BAU Institute, 133 Wooster St, 7F, New York, NY 10012
Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

For assistance email Bianca at: Info@bauinstitute.org.
Thank you!

BAU Institute | Puglia, Italy, Cassis, France and NY, USA | www.bauinstitute.org | info@bauinstitute.org

Like us on FaceBook