



summer arts  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

*Imagine*



# *Transforming Lives Through Art*

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS,  
CSU SUMMER ARTS HAS BEEN A  
LIFE-ALTERING EXPERIENCE FOR  
STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES.

Summer Arts is a unique arts summer school and festival of the California State University. We offer master classes in the visual, performing, literary, and media arts to CSU students and others. World-class guest artists with a passion for their craft teach and mentor, often working one-on-one with each student.



## *What we do*

### **For students . . .**

we provide an immersive learning environment where nothing interferes with creative practice . . . a place where emerging artists are allowed to live and breathe art 24 hours a day . . . where they are invited to look at themselves in relation to art and focus on their own identity . . . an experience that accelerates their development and establishes life-long bonds with peers and professional mentors. We forge paths to creative futures.

### **For communities . . .**

we bring visual, performing, literary, and media arts to local and extended neighborhoods to help audiences gain new aesthetic sensibilities, discover other ways of knowing the world, and form new perspectives on what it means to be human. By bringing this level and breadth of artistic programming to the community, Summer Arts opens hearts and minds and creates dialog between the diverse populations we serve.

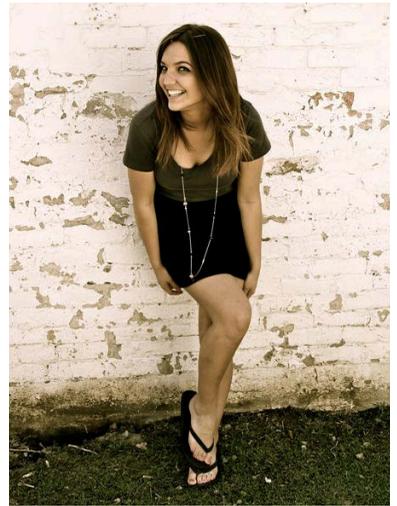
*“Moving, beautiful, unforgettable, unique, astounding, heartfelt. . . if I could do something like this for the rest of my life, I would. I am truly moved.”*

*The Steppenwolf School at Summer Arts student, 2002*



# Welcome SUMMER arts CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY





# *I was a recipient of a scholarship to the Summer Arts program*

WITH THE STEPPENWOLF WEST ENSEMBLE INTENSIVE—A UNIQUE AND SPECIAL EXPERIENCE FOR ME.

The ensemble work was no piece of cake. It was definitely rewarding, but in fact it was quite hard work. We were pushed to go beyond ourselves, to surprise ourselves and trust the ensemble as a group. We grew immensely, and became so willing to create without reservation. It was as though I was an onion being asked to shed a layer. I wanted to resist and not lose a layer of comfort, but when I did, I found four more layers I never knew I had inside me.

Summer Arts is an artist's haven—a place where you can literally dive into your art form without any outside distractions, with the support of people as passionate as you are, from morning till night. It was such an enriching, challenging, touching, rewarding summer that transcended the world of theatre. Since my time studying with Steppenwolf, not a day has gone by in which I haven't been motivated to continue on my journey in my own community.

**Natalie Devine**

Student, *Ensemble Intensive with Steppenwolf Classes West*



# Visual Arts

Summer Arts offers instruction across a broad spectrum of the visual arts. From drawing and painting to public art, sculpture, comic books, digital art, sound art, photography, and printmaking, students explore a variety of forms that challenge and motivate them.

Guest artists who have shared their talents with Summer Arts participants include Lita Albuquerque, Julian Schnabel, Dale Chihuly, and Ed Kashi.

“This has been one of the most exciting, inspiring, fulfilling and rewarding experiences of my life. I have had so much fun, learned an incredible amount of skills and information, made extensive professional contacts, and will leave with a tremendous group of new friends.”

*Building Reactive Sculpture student, 2010*

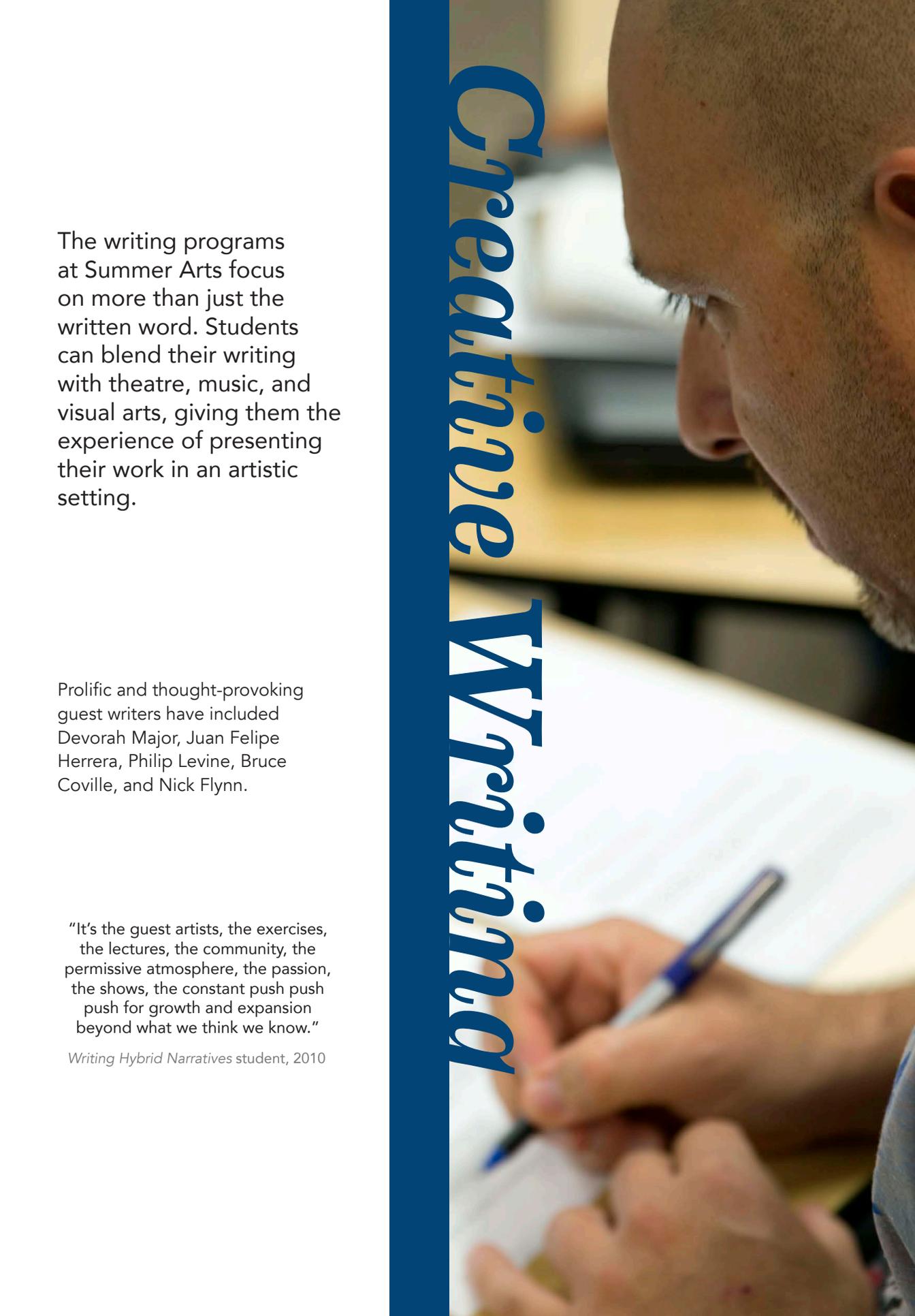
The writing programs at Summer Arts focus on more than just the written word. Students can blend their writing with theatre, music, and visual arts, giving them the experience of presenting their work in an artistic setting.

Prolific and thought-provoking guest writers have included Devorah Major, Juan Felipe Herrera, Philip Levine, Bruce Coville, and Nick Flynn.

"It's the guest artists, the exercises, the lectures, the community, the permissive atmosphere, the passion, the shows, the constant push push push for growth and expansion beyond what we think we know."

*Writing Hybrid Narratives student, 2010*

# Creative Writing





# Media

Media includes the diverse art forms of film, video, digital arts, animation, electronic scoring, editing, and related emergent and cutting-edge technologies. Filmmaking students at Summer Arts have made music videos for high-profile artists such as Bobby McFerrin, John Wesley Harding, and Kristen Hersch. Students have also written, produced, directed, and crewed live television broadcasts of original programming.

Numerous guest artists have shared their expertise with our students including Ondi Timoner, Terry Zwigoff, Cece Hall, Vilmos Zsigmond, and artists from DreamWorks Animation.

"All of our instructors and guest artists were brilliant and inspiring! I feel like I've learned more in the past two weeks than I have in my entire college experience so far. I can't wait for next year!"

*DreamWorks Animation student, 2013*



# *Dance*

The dance program at Summer Arts draws students from throughout the world to study ballet, jazz, modern, and other dance forms. Dancing for up to twelve hours a day for two weeks is exhausting, but students tell us the incredible growth they experience is worth it.

Some of the graceful and powerful dance artists who have worked with Summer Arts students include Diavolo, Gregory Hines, Donald Byrd/The Group, Mia Michaels, and The Joffrey Ballet.

*"Just everything these past two weeks has exceeded my other experiences! I am about the luckiest person to have had such a mind-boggling, mind-opening experience."*

*Dance Technique & Composition with  
the Joe Goode Performance Group student, 2003*





# *So when did it finally hit me that Summer Arts was more than worth it?*

When I attended the senior recital of Elaine, a composition student at CSU Fresno, who attended Summer Arts. She came to us with lots of talent, but had struggled to find her own compositional voice.

During Summer Arts, she worked intensively with pianist Guy Livingston on extending the musical possibilities of the piano. She began composing music using devices she learned during the summer, and my colleagues and I encouraged her

to continue along this path. At her senior recital, she performed a piece using the devices Guy had shown her, including the bowing (yes bowing!) of piano strings.

Her work had me transfixed and I realized she had finally found her personal compositional voice—creating a true work of art. Her piece was voted by the CSUF faculty to be featured in a special year-end honors concert—recognition of the progress she made as a direct result of Summer Arts.

**Ben Boone, Coordinator**

*Composer-Performer Collaboration, 2008*

Educator, scholar, composer, and saxophonist Benjamin Boone teaches music theory and composition at California State University, Fresno.



# Music

World music, classical, jazz, contemporary, choral, opera, new compositions, and rock are just a few of the musical styles Summer Arts has offered through the years. Often, there are collaborative efforts between music and other art forms such as music videos, musical theatre, dance, computer-generated electronic songs, and hip-hop performance art.

A few of the dynamic guest musicians include the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Shelly Berg, The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, the Kronos Quartet, and Eliot Fisk.

"I learned so much and have months' worth of new ideas to work on when I'm home. I built several lasting friendships with other students. Additionally, I built important contacts with the visiting artists. I loved every minute and feel so lucky to have had two heavenly weeks taking my skills as a guitarist to the next level."

*American Classical Guitar student, 2013*

Theatre study at Summer Arts stimulates creativity that will remain with students long after their Summer Arts experience ends. Participants can study acting, directing, performance art, clowning, technical theatre (including costuming, makeup, stage design, and lighting design), collaborative theatre, musical theatre, puppetry, and countless other aspects of the discipline.

Numerous theatre guest artists have graced the stages and studios of Summer Arts including: Edward Albee, Joanna Merlin, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Anne Bogart, and The Actors' Gang.

"I am blown away by how far my skills and understanding have advanced – whole new levels of ability, confidence, exposure and knowledge. This has been one of the most valuable educational experiences I have EVER had."

*Solo Performance student, 2012*

# Theatre





# *International Programs*

Since 1995, Summer Arts has collaborated with CSU International Programs to offer courses in venues abroad. This allows students to study in unique settings with local guest artists and absorb new cultural perspectives. Courses held outside the United States include *Capturing the Light—Painting in Greece*; *Drawing and Painting in Florence, Italy*; *Indigenous World Theatre* in Brisbane, Australia; and *International Chamber Music* in Florence, Italy.

Summer Arts is committed to featuring the best artists from throughout the world. As master teachers and performers, The Moscow Art Theatre, Italy's Centro Culturale Teatro Camuno, and Zimbabwe's Amakhosi Theatre Company, have inspired students and delighted audiences. Other international guest artists have included O Vertigo Danse from Canada, and Australian Aboriginal artists Don Bemrose and Nadine McDonald.

"I was immersed in the culture, the art, the environment, and the vibe of this city. I could better appreciate what I was learning as I touched it, saw it, and was in its presence."

*The Art History of Florence student, 2009*



# The Presenting Programs

## **Student Showcases**

Each course presents a public culminating event featuring student work. Guest artists will often participate in the student culminations, bridging the gap between student and teacher.

Summer Arts students welcome this opportunity to showcase their talents and new skills for the community and for their colleagues. The great audience turnout proves that these events are a treat for the public, too.

## **Guest Artist Public Events**

As part of their residency with Summer Arts, most guest artists will make a public presentation. This can be a lecture, reading, exhibit, or performance. Summer Arts offers these events at low cost to the public in order to bring the arts to as many community members as possible.

Memorable performances have included the Dave Brubeck Orchestra in collaboration with Murray Louis Dance performing *Take 5*, San Jose Taiko, San Francisco Mime Troupe, and Diavolo Dance Theatre.

*"The ability to see our guest artists perform the skills we're being taught was the greatest impact for me. Seeing their craft in a performance level really sparked my drive to push myself to my full ability even more."*

*Writing the Memoir student, 2013*

# Our Mission

TO TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN ARTS EDUCATION, EXHIBITION, AND PERFORMANCE.

## Who We Serve

Summer Arts is a California State University (CSU) systemwide program. As such, we focus on supporting the artistic and academic needs of our students, faculty, and arts administrators. However, we are pleased to offer admission and scholarships to California community college students planning to transfer to a CSU campus, to adult learners, and to all students and community artists beyond the CSU and California.

## What We Do

CSU Summer Arts' in-residence program is transformative education at its best. The immersive summer school builds the student's professional skill set and increases capacity for future work, while escalating the student artists' and teachers' abilities to reflect, gain new insights, self-challenge, foster passion, and make life-changing shifts in perspective.

## What We Believe

Whether participating as an artist, performer, or audience member, we believe the arts nurture the human spirit and foster citizenry. It is through diversity in the arts that we develop aesthetic sensibility and discover other ways of knowing the unique worlds around us. Through the arts, we are able to gain new perspectives on what it means to be human.

## What We Value

We strive to develop life-long behaviors, principles, and values that sustain creative character:

- Courage and passion to create
- Resilience demonstrated by the ability to try, fail, and persist
- Work balanced with play; the roles of process and product
- Drive to curiosity, problem finding, and problem solving
- Respect and ethical behavior; individuation balanced with socialization
- Diversity in expression

*"Summer Arts is full of magic and wonderful experiences happen."*

*Guitar/Music Composition student, 2008*



*“This was the absolute  
best experience of  
my life so far.”*

*The Glass Skin student, 2008*



# Why Give?

“A culture populated by a people whose imagination is impoverished has a static future. In such a culture there will be little change because there will be little sense of possibility.”

Eliot Eisner, world-renowned arts educator



## At Summer Arts

we believe in a world of possibility, a world in which no student is denied access to Summer Arts programming because they can't afford enrollment fees or housing.

Almost 80 percent of students who apply for Summer Arts each year are in need of scholarship assistance. Many are first-generation college students. Many come from low-income households. Many work full-time and suffer the loss of income while at Summer Arts.

## At Summer Arts

we believe access to affordable, first-hand art experiences creates positive change in communities by enhancing cultural imagination and developing empathetic awareness.

Many of the diverse social and ethnic groups we serve do not have affordable access to the arts in their communities, and have limited access to arts education.

# *Your Gift Creates Possibilities!*



**Your investment in Summer Arts is all about passion: your passion for the arts, the students' passion to create, and our passion to build a creative future for all Californians. IMAGINE . . . WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER!**

## **Build Endowment**

An endowment of \$5,000,000 would give Summer Arts a sustainable annual income of \$250,000 to \$300,000, to fund full or partial scholarships for up to 500 students.

## **Support Scholarships**

Annual fund contributions allow us to fund student scholarships today as we build an endowment for the future. Our annual goal of \$100,000 would provide partial support for up to 150 students.

## **Increase Community Outreach**

CSU Summer Arts offers 30 to 50 low-cost art and performance events each season to the local community. Our annual goal of \$30,000 would cover the cost of an event, including transportation for underserved populations, and sending artists and students to schools and community organizations.

**Make your gift today at [www.csusummerarts.org](http://www.csusummerarts.org)**



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