

APRIL 26 2014

THE INAUGURATION OF  
**MARIKO SILVER**  
10TH PRESIDENT OF BENNINGTON COLLEGE

# TODAY WE ASK:

Are there shifts in **PERSPECTIVE** that can enable us  
better to explore and understand the complexity of the  
world around us?

## FRIDAY, APRIL 25

- 2:00–8:00 pm WELCOME CENTER  
Cricket Hill Barn
- 4:00–6:00 pm BENNINGTON MODERNISM GALLERY RECEPTION  
Bennington Museum, 75 Main Street, Bennington
- 8:30–9:30 pm BELARUSIAN DREAM THEATER—FOUR PLAYS  
Margot Tenney Theater; conversation to follow in CAPA faculty lounge

## SATURDAY, APRIL 26

- 7:30–11:30 am WELCOME CENTER  
Cricket Hill Barn
- 8:00–9:30 am LAND-READING TOUR  
Depart from Jennings Music Building
- 10:30–11:30 am INVESTITURE OF THE 10TH PRESIDENT  
Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA
- 11:30 am RECESSIONAL  
Depart from Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA
- Noon–1:30 pm LUNCH  
Commons Dining Hall and Student Center
- 1:30–3:30 pm CHILDREN'S ARTS, CRAFTS, AND PLAY PROGRAM  
Up Café
- 1:45–2:45 pm **PERSPECTIVE: AN AFTERNOON OF PROGRAMS – SESSION A**
- ARE WE ALONE?  
Tishman Lecture Hall
- BUTOH MOVEMENT WORKSHOP: FLUID HUG-HUG  
VAPA E303
- CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN A RURAL CONTEXT  
Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA
- THE LEGACY OF U.S. INTERVENTION:  
LESSONS FROM AFGHANASTAN, IRAQ, AND PAKISTAN  
CAPA Symposium
- THE INFLATABLE SPACE PROJECT  
Cricket Hill Lawn

3:00–4:00 pm

## PERSPECTIVE: AN AFTERNOON OF PROGRAMS – SESSION B

- GENDER AND GENRE  
Deane Carriage Barn
- THE SHIFT: THE TECHNO-HUMAN CONDITION  
Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA
- SOLVING THE IMPOSSIBLE  
CAPA Symposium
- THE SURPRISE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR  
Tishman Lecture Hall
- INFLATABLE SPACE PROJECT  
Cricket Hill Lawn
- 4:30–5:15 pm IMAGINING BENNINGTON'S FUTURE:  
CAPSTONE CONVERSATION WITH MARIKO SILVER  
with music by Sage City Symphony  
“Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 1” by Joan Tower '61  
Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA
- 7:00 pm COFFEE AND DESSERT IN STUDENT HOUSES  
Student Houses: Bingham, Fels, Perkins, and Woolley
- 8:00 pm THE THREAD: STORYTELLING  
DownCaf
- 8:30 pm STARGAZING  
Rebecca B. Stickney Observatory
- 8:30 pm INAUGURATION DANCE CONCERT  
Martha Hill Dance Theater, VAPA
- 8:40–midnight BRIAN CAMPION BAND and OPEN MIC  
Student Center

## SUNDAY, APRIL 27

- 9:00 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
to benefit the North Bennington Fire Department  
with music by the Bennington Children's Chorus  
Commons Dining Hall

## ONGOING PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS

- OUR BENNINGTON: INTERACTIVE HISTORY TOUR  
map available in Commons Lounge
- FIELD WORK TERM ARTIFACTS  
Commons Lounge

“Let’s take **SERIOUSLY** for a

moment the idea that an utterly unprecedented

shift is underway, one that recasts not just our

behaviors but also our core assumptions,”

## PERSPECTIVE: AN AFTERNOON OF PROGRAMS

### SESSION A

#### ARE WE ALONE?

A unique part of being human is our ability to dream things beyond what we know, and to seek answers to the very boldest of questions we can ask. Where did we come from? What is our destiny? Are we alone? These questions spark our imaginations in a fundamental way. We’ve all looked at the stars in the sky and wondered if someone on a distant world was doing the same. Join us for a visual, musical, and scientific journey of exploration for life in the universe with **Laurie Leshin**, member of the Mars Curiosity Rover team and president-elect of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and faculty member and composer/percussionist **Susie Ibarra**, whose latest work with singer/songwriter **Mirah**, “We Float,” is inspired by first explorations in space. Introduced by astronomer and faculty member **Hugh Crowl**.

The ensemble will perform Movement No. 1 of “We Float” and three compositions by Susie Ibarra— “For the Birds,” “The City,” with lyrics by poet Yusef Komunyakaa, and “Siesta.”

Music: **Mirah** (soprano voice), **Tom Bogdan** (tenor voice), **Matthew Gold** (percussion), **Joana Genova** (violin), and Susie Ibarra (drumset/percussion).

Chorus: **Katherine Colbert ’15**, **Liam Dailey ’14**, **Elissa Daniels ’14**, **Alex Diaz ’13**, **Olivia Gerber ’15**, **Dominic Romano ’15**, **Singer Morra ’16**, **Emily Vaias ’17**, **Sara Wilson ’15**, **Dane Whitman ’16** under the direction of Bennington faculty members Tom Bogdan and **Kerry Ryer-Parke**.

#### CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN A RURAL CONTEXT

ArtPlace America, a collaboration of leading national and regional foundations, banks, and federal agencies, was founded to accelerate “creative placemaking”—that is, putting art at the heart of a portfolio of strategies to revitalize communities in ways nothing else quite can. Commonly associated with urban areas—every neighborhood on their “America’s Top 12 ArtPlaces” is located in a city—the work being done in small towns and rural areas is often overshadowed. Please join **Jamie Bennett**, executive director of ArtPlace America, in conversation with alumna **Judy Grunberg ’55**, founder of PS21 in Chatham, New York; **Matthew Perry**, cofounder of Vermont Arts Exchange; and faculty member **Dina Janis**, artistic director/executive director of the Dorset Theatre Festival.

#### THE LEGACY OF U.S. INTERVENTION: LESSONS FROM AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, AND PAKISTAN.

Since 2005, faculty member **Noah Coburn** has spent much of his time conducting research in Afghanistan. Just back from monitoring the recent presidential elections, Coburn will share his thoughts on the future of Afghanistan, the effect of the upcoming troop withdrawal, and the legacy of international intervention. Joining him are students **Ben Simpson ’16** and **Ali Faateh Khwaja ’14**. Simpson, a veteran combat medic from the 82nd Airborne who served in Iraq, will reflect on his experience in the U.S. Army and on his studies of U.S. foreign policy since 9/11. Khwaja, who has worked for the Pakistani newspaper Dawn, The New York Times, and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, will discuss how the war on terror has affected Pakistani politics and culture. Join Coburn, Simpson, and Khwaja in this roundtable conversation to discuss 13 years of war and intervention in the region, and how careful thought and analysis might better prepare us to avoid future conflicts.

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## BUTOH MOVEMENT WORKSHOP: FLUID HUG-HUG

“The name Fluid Hug-Hug reflects how I strive to work with people. I believe a person needs to be fluid in order to exchange with different people. Like water, this fluidity makes it easier to be around individuals from different backgrounds,” says regular visiting faculty member **Kota Yamazaki**. Please join Yamazaki and his collaborator and wife, **Mina Nishimura**, for an introduction to butoh—a Japanese movement-based art form that explores the ambiguities, complications, darkness, and joy of being human. Yamazaki explains, “By accepting both what’s surrounding you and what’s happening inside yourself, using imagination and establishing a sense of presence, your body will keep transforming and inviting dance.”

## INFLATABLE SPACE PROJECT

Designed to be transitory, transportable, and transforming, this experimental space was developed by the Field Research of Closed Cells class to be a structure that feels completely new and unknown. The design organically arose from studies of form, membrane properties, and dialogue. Digital modeling and pattern-making were employed to push the boundaries of the chosen materials which are sturdy, reusable, and ultimately recyclable. The industrial fan used to inflate the space is repurposed from the Dickinson Science Center. Sculpture technician **John Umphlett MFA '99**, faculty member **Guy Snover '06**, and students **Fae Blackmer '15**, **Douglas Campo '16**, **Adrien de Mones '14**, **Alec Gear '15**, **Elizabeth Gombert '15**, **Alexander (Sandy) Curth '16**, **Maren Johnson '15**, **Kevser Kesici '16**, **Lily Moore '16**, **Kevin Mulvey '16**, **Harlan Steed '16**.

## SESSION B

### THE SHIFT: THE TECHNO-HUMAN CONDITION

“Let’s take seriously for a moment the idea that an utterly unprecedented shift is underway, one that recasts not just our behaviors but also our core assumptions,” says **Sven Birkerts**, director of the Bennington College Writing Seminars. While science policy expert **Dan Sarewitz** wonders, “How can human intentionality and rationality—those paragons of the Enlightenment project—be meaningfully expressed when accelerating technological evolution and complexity make a mockery of conventional notions of comprehensibility?” Please join Birkerts and Sarewitz as they consider how humans are transforming cognitively, imaginatively, socially, even physically, as technology wraps, embeds, and intersects with our physical and conscious worlds.

### GENDER & GENRE

Dancer **Monique Jenkinson '92**’s work explores femininity, glamour, physicality, difficulty, and process. Both as herself and as her award-winning drag queen alter-ego, Fauxnique, Jenkinson’s work moves outside and between recognizable genres. She says, “I have not ‘fallen into’ the spaces between disciplines, but have intentionally placed myself there—drawing on physicality (classical ballet and post-modern improvisation), theatricality (camp, the ridiculous, and the absurd), and theory (queer and feminist).” Please join us for a performance of Jenkinson’s work followed by open conversation led by faculty member Erika Mijlin about our mutable and evolving notions of gender and genre.

## THE SURPRISE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

For **Laura Callanan**, “social entrepreneur” is more than a buzzword: it describes the artists and arts organizations she most admires. Yet, in conversations about social innovation, artists are frequently missing. Please join Callanan and her longtime friend, **James Houghton P'17**, founding artistic director of Signature Theatre in New York and director of the drama division at The Juilliard School, as they discuss how artists use their vision and creativity to transform people and communities and why the the world should embrace artists as the bold entrepreneurs they are.

## SOLVING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Faculty member **Susan Sgorbati '72, MFA '86** believes that “groups with the right kind of capacities for problem-solving and empathy can design structures that will solve complex problems.” Please join Sgorbati; her students; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (New England) staff members **Nancy Grantham**, public affairs director and chief of staff for the regional administrator, and **Dan Abrams**, lead region coordinator for the office of the administrator and special assistant to the regional administrator; **Shira Sternberg '05**, entrepreneur, who previously worked with the EPA; and **Bill Scully '94**, developer and hydropower advocate. They will participate in a conversation about the role college students and citizens can play in climate-change action and their role in the North Bennington street lamp LED project.

## INFLATABLE SPACE PROJECT

See Session A description.

## CAPSTONE CONVERSATION

### IMAGINING BENNINGTON'S FUTURE

Futurist and strategist **Andrew Blau** will interview **President Mariko Silver** as she discusses her vision for Bennington’s best future.

““ I have not ‘fallen into’ the spaces between disciplines, but have **INTENTIONALLY** placed myself there. ””

## OTHER PROGRAMS

### BELARUSIAN DREAM THEATER—FOUR PLAYS

Belarus has been called the “last dictatorship in Europe.” Join us for a night of dark and comic plays as Bennington presents four new short plays from the Belarusian Dream Theater Project (BDTP) and another also set in Eastern Europe, by **Cristian Panaite '05**. Developed through a worldwide competition by Ensemble Free Theater Norway as an international theater action supporting freedom of expression in Belarus, BDTP consists of 25 plays that are being presented over the course of two months by 17 partner theaters in Europe, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. Theater director **Jean Randich** created a course at Bennington to investigate and stage these plays.

Conversation immediately following with faculty member and director Jean Randich and three playwrights:

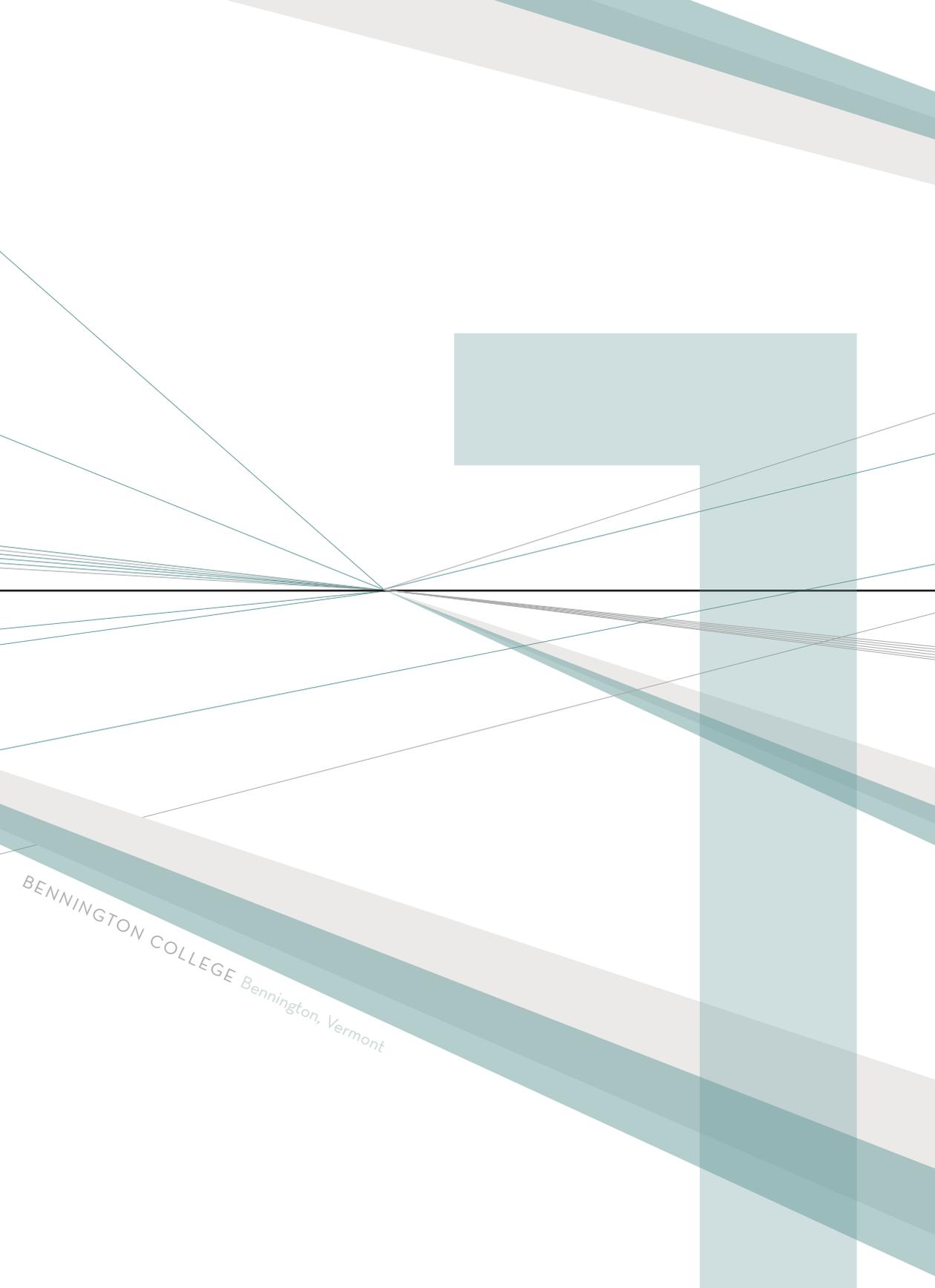
**Cristian Panaite '05**; **Aurin Squire**, whose play *Article 119-1* will be performed; and retired faculty member **Danny Michaelson**, whose play *Oz Revisited* was one of the BDTP selections presented at Bennington College and worldwide on March 25, 2014.

### OUR BENNINGTON: INTERACTIVE HISTORY TOUR

Explore moments in Bennington's history and the campus through a self-guided walking and web tour featuring some of our most illustrious students, faculty, and members of the extended Bennington community: **Carol Channing '42**, **William Kilpatrick**, **Martha Graham** and **Louis Horst**, **Theodore Roethke**, **Robert Woodworth**, **Peter Drucker**, **David Smith** and **Andrea Dworkin '68**, **Martha Hill**, **Betty Ford**, **Helen Frankenthaler '49**, **Ralph Ellison**, **Buckminster Fuller**. Designed by faculty member **Robert Ransick**, library director **Oceana Wilson**, public services coordinator **Laura Payne**, and students **Sam Leigh '14** and **Haley McGough '15**. Location: campus, your cell phone, or computer.

### LAND-READING

“We ‘make’ all places by our own interpretation of the information we take in—but most people are not accustomed to absorbing and interpreting the vast amount of information that can be directly sensed,” says faculty member and ecologist **Kerry Woods**. Known for his deep understanding of the College's natural world, Kerry is also keenly interested in the many uses humans have made of this patch of several hundred acres and the surrounding landscape. Please join Woods in exercising observation skills to “read” as much history (natural, cultural) and context as we can through direct observation of what's there. (Walking shoes recommended.)



BENNINGTON COLLEGE Bennington, Vermont