Map (n.)
“...representing a part or a whole of the earth's surface or the heavens, with the various points drawn in proportion and in corresponding positions.” From Latin, mappa, napkin or cloth, upon which maps were drawn. Old French—mapemonde, map of the world.

Fitting that the word map comes from napkin, right? How many novels, songs, good ideas, poems and whole other worlds were born on a napkin, scribbled on in the secret light of dawn, or the neon glow of a dive-bar... mapemonde, a mantra for creation.

Maps are ineffably magical. They transport you to another place, imprint on your memory and offer all you can imagine in a mixed metaphor: Here’s your inner Cessna soaring overhead, a psychic dream ranch, topography you can touch, the right and left brains riding tandem on a banana-seat bicycle. It’s no wonder Yaddo has inspired many a map. Maps tell stories. [CONTINUED ON P. 2]
The Saratoga Lake watershed was loaded with anadromous fish: Shad, herring, trout, oot, striped bass and more—even the occasional whale, voyaged up from the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson, then known to the Mahican as Muhheakunnuk (“great everflowing waters”), to spawn a bounty in spring. The mouths of Kayaderosseras Creek and Fish Creek feeding into Saratoga Lake were especially rife with fish. Many seasonal campsites were unearthed around Saratoga Lake, Lake Lonely and Fish Creek, some dating back to 8,500 BCE.

The Adirondack Northway, Interstate-87, straight shot from the Bronx to Montreal. Got a fast car? Driving north from Saratoga is a dream. The Mahican were organized by matrilineal clans named after creatures—bear, wolf, turtle, turkey. They built “longhouses” with curved roofs covered in bark on hilltops near rivers. They traveled in dugout canoes and named the land after water. Later, they farmed. Women inherited riverside gardens through their mother’s line. They used dogs for protection, to hunt, to herd and haul. They were especially rife with fish. Many seasonal campsites were unearthed around Saratoga Lake, Lake Lonely and Fish Creek, some dating back to 8,500 BCE.

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**Holiday Reads! Brought to you by Yaddo**

**New releases by our authors offer something for everyone on your gift list**

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**ART BOOKS DU JOUR**

*Couch, coffee table, bourbon and a massive stack of art books on a do-nothing afternoon—heaven. Here are a few for your wish-list.*

- Peter Kayafas: *Coney Island Waterdance.* "Like passages from some primal, beautiful ballet—the energy, gesture, and emotion of the narrative rising and falling with the subjects on the waves," this photography collection plumbs the depths of joy. Stories, musings, manifestos, scripts, artworks and more are on offer in *Pope.L, My Kingdom for a Title, 1979–2021,* a celebration of writing as the cornerstone of creative practice.

- New York Paradise Lost: *Bushwick Era Disco* explores burnt-out era Bushwick, now hub of art, fashion, literature and nightlife with photo stories captured by former public-school teacher Meryl Meisler.

- Milton Avery: This comprehensive new volume of the painter's pioneering work includes lush reproductions, interviews and an illustrated chronology.

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**KNOCKOUT NONFICTION**

*Excavating war sites and trauma, Dark Tourist by Hasanthika Sriksena* "shimmers with honesty, vulnerability, and circumspection" (Kirkus), deftly blending reportage, cultural criticism and memoir.

- Pulitzer Prize-winner Debby Applegate’s *tour de force—Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age*—plays hostess to gangsters, politicians, writers, sports stars and more amid the glamour and grit of 1920s New York.

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**FOR YOUNG READERS**

**Snow Day Novels**


- National Book Award Finalist Marnie by Lauren Groff reimagines the life and work of Marie de France, the 12th century poet and nun in an "inspiring tale of Medieval ambition, pleasure and aspiration" (NPR).

- Vince Passaro "writes exquisitely at every turn" (*Kirkus Reviews*) in Crazy Swallow, an epic novel that spans four decades—arguably the most important era of New York City’s trajectory—beginning with boy-meets-girl in 1976 and culminating in the devastation of 9/11.

- Colm Tóibín’s *The Magician* explores the interior life of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Thomas Mann in an "enormously ambitious book, one in which the intimate and the momentous are exquisitely balanced" (The Guardian).

- Carolyn Ferrell’s debut novel *Dear Miss Metropolitan* "reads like a labyrinth, as complex as the trauma it depicts" (*The New York Times*), offering a rendering of stolen girls’ lives, based on the Ariel Castro kidnappings in Cleveland.

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**Good News:**

Last year, the average time spent reading increased by 21%, according to a recent U.S. Labor Department survey (https://www.bls.gov/tus/).

Yaaaas, peeps. Buy more books!
February 28, 1948: Happiness overwhelms me. Twenty-three days at Yaddo. My life is regular, pleasant, healthful on the obvious plane... On the less obvious plane, it restorers my dignity, my self-confidence, if I am to complete what I have never completed, that child of my spirit, my novel, and give it birth.

Dear Miss Amafi:

This is to request permission to enter Yaddo for the month of May, 1948, for the purpose of completing a novel now about one third done. I should like very much to finish in a concentrated period of quiet such as Yaddo would provide. The novel is a psychological one essentially, about two young men who exchange the task of doing a murder.

Sincerely, Patricia Highsmith

Yaddo Admissions judge recommendation: I am inclined to vote for Patricia Highsmith. To judge from the manuscript you sent me, she is a rather interestingly different sort of writer. I should imagine her force was not painstaking naturalism, on the one hand, or magic realism on the other; but something like comic realism with a living of the grotesque or the violent. My own vote would be for her—unless there is a great deal more pressure than there seems to be from really very extraordinary people.

APRIL 10, 1948: My mother awakened me at 9 with a call that I have been admitted to Yaddo. I am thrilled and delighted. Such a relief, like a soldier, to have one’s life planned for the next 10-12 months. My mother pleased, too, and grandma impressed. Grandma read all about Yaddo in the pamphlet. How wide in range is her interests—how much grander a person is she than all her offspring.


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TO HEAR

Michael Harrison’s Seven Sacred Names offers “music of positively intoxicating beauty” (The New Yorker).

The Lazours “John John” and “Fran,” singles released this summer on Spotify, feature the brothers’ resonant harmonies and heart-rending melodies.

Gabriel Kahane’s “To Be American” on Bandcamp is a powerful and lyrically muscular single with a compelling message.

Freedom and ritual converge in Jerome Kitzke’s new album, The Redness of Blood, a thrilling compilation of his work.

Seven Sacred Names by Michael Harrison

TO STREAM

Love at first listen: Joseph Keckler’s NPR Tiny Desk (Home) Concert: 18 minutes and 57 seconds of riveting, swoon-worthy vocals with lyrics that burn down the barn, plus signature LOL moments.

L.A. Opera Digital Shorts, a new series that’s now viewable on YouTube: Librettist Sandra Seaton’s The First Bluebird in the Morning, composed by Carlos Simon, explores the thoughts of an imprisoned man the day before his release; the film features Lloyd Knight, principal dancer for the Martha Graham Dance Company. Composer Missy Mazzoli’s “The West is a Land of Infinite Beginnings” is a meditation on “the American dream,” excerpted from her opera Proving Up which was based on a short story by Karen Russell.

Three 1950s celebrities, including Cary Grant, experiment with LSD in Flying Over Sunset, a new fully original Broadway musical by James Lapine, Tom Kitt and Michael Korie that opens Dec. 13 at Lincoln Center Theater. The show spent five years in development and was set to open right before theaters closed in March of 2020. “This was kind of a unique opportunity,” Lapine told The New York Times, referring to the pandemic pause. “I like having the distance now to rework it a little.” In the meantime, he also wrote a book: Putting It Together: How Stephen Sondheim and I Created Sunday in the Park with George came out this summer.

Singer-songwriter extraordinaire Shaina Taub kicks off the new year with a string of shows at Joe’s Pub, Jan. 11-15, as she gears up for the world premiere of her original musical Suff at The Public Theater this spring, followed by the pre-Broadway run of The Devil Wears Prada, for which she’s writing the score with Sir Elton John. These concerts also mark the launch of her highly anticipated forthcoming album on Atlantic Records, Songs of the Great Hill.

Too American by Gabriel Kahane

CAROL LIPNIK’S impeccably crafted songs and astonishing four-octave vocals radiate enchantment. Her latest repertoire More Imperfect Offerings with Lee Feldman on piano and special guest Amy Allison will be live at NYC hotspot Pangea on Dec. 9. Lipnik was the featured vocalist for Mythologies playing at the Paul Taylor Dance Company Sam Scripps Studio Theater. She has two forthcoming album release shows this spring (mermaidalley.com).

Shadow // Yaddo podcast Season 2 (see p. 12)!

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HOT TICKETS

Cheers to the return of live performance and theater starring our Yaddo friends!
TO SEE

Graphic punch, strategic layering, backstories and secret histories abound in Mark Thomas Gibson’s new solo exhibition Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood at M+B in Los Angeles, through Dec. 4.

Carrie Moyer and Sheila Pepe: Tabernacle for Trying Times highlights the artists’ individual styles and techniques as well as their pioneering collaborative works on craft, feminism, queer activism and more at the Museum of Arts and Design through Feb. 13.

Deborah Zlotsky’s Gemini, a solo exhibition of new abstract paintings and drawing inspired by early Renaissance, Surrealist and Pop traditions as well as the body and aging, is on view at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts, through Dec. 4.

From left: Michael Potts, Alison Kobayashi, Mark Thomas Gibson.

TURN OF EVENTS

Yaddo is back! After a year apart, we were delighted to see friends in person at several terrific events that renewed our sense of community and celebrated the perseverance of our all-star Yaddo artists.

Russell Banks. The festival featured a diverse selection of workshops and readings that were free and open to the public.

This year, brought several new events as well, including our Artist Forum: We challenged our artists to reflect on the question, “Can art transform the way we see climate change?” Amitava Kumar, Jenny Offill in conversation with Camille George and Mark Wunderlich. In October, Yaddo president, Elaina Richardson, presented the keynote address at the inaugural Saratoga Book Festival in Saratoga Springs, New York, and a wonderful evening of poetry with Patricia Spears Jones, Ru Freeman, Jenny Offill, Radiant Fugitive; Nawaaz Ahmed’s “dazzling, heartrending debut” Radiant Fugitives; Amitava Kumar, and Jenny Offill in conversation with Amrita Chakravartti to celebrate the publication of her latest novel, A Time Outside This Time.

David Driskell. Icons of Nature and History offers the first comprehensive examination of the paintings, collages, prints, and drawings of the celebrated American artist, art historian and teacher, featuring over 50 works on view at The Phillips Collection (celebrating its centennial this year!), in Washington, D.C., through Jan. 9.

ADOC. Woman with Flowers, 1979, by David Driskell, Arkivville, Arkansas.

The Pandemic undeniably brought many challenges, but nevertheless, Yaddo was able to reach more of our creative community than we ever have before!
Yaddo is a retreat for artists located on a 400-acre estate in Saratoga Springs, New York. Its mission is to nurture the creative process by providing an opportunity for artists to work without interruption in a supportive environment. Yaddo offers residencies to artists from all nations and backgrounds working in the following disciplines: choreography, film, literature, musical composition, the visual arts, performance, and video. They are selected by panels of other professional artists without regard to financial means. Residencies last from two weeks to two months and include room, board, and a studio. Yaddo’s extensive grounds and buildings were designated a National Historic Landmark in 2013.

Our podcast is totally awesome thanks to all of YOU

Shadow // Yaddo hosted by Elaina Richardson Season 2 launched this September. We are extraordinarily grateful to all who’ve contributed. Thank you!

Our “Little-Engine-That-Could” podcast is generating such enthusiasm.

Yaddo

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LISTEN, LIKE, SHARE

Have a look at recent highlights

• A 5-star rating on Apple Podcasts
• Top 3 most listened to episodes are:
  • Episode 9: Falling Down is Funny, with David Sedaris and Pat Towers
  • Episode 10: Brave New World, with Zia Haider Rahman, Brian Christian, Katherine Rosman, Elizabeth Holmes.
  • Season 2 Episode 2: Artist Reunion, with Lauren Groff, Sheila Heti and Sarah Manguo
• We have listeners on every continent
• Our top 5 international listening locations in order are:
  • United Kingdom
  • Canada
  • Belgium
  • Ireland
  • Sweden
• We have more than 8,000 total listens since launch
• We continue to grow with an average month over month growth rate of 10%