

FOR INFORMATION

Lexie Boris
Communications Director
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
154 San Angelo Drive
Amherst, Virginia 24521
434-946-7236
lboris@vcca.com

- Debra Marquart wins the VCCA Wachtmeister Award for 2013
- Wachtmeister Award is given for excellence in the Arts
- Marquart receives fully-funded residency at VCCA + \$1000

VCCA Selects Debra Marquart to Win Wachtmeister Award



(AMHERST, VA) — VCCA is pleased to announce that Debra Marquart has won VCCA's Wachtmeister Award for Excellence in the Arts for 2013. Selected from a highly competitive field of international applicants, Marquart will receive a fully-funded residency at VCCA, reimbursement of travel costs up to \$700, and an honorarium of \$1,000.

A performance poet, Marquart is the author of two poetry collections: *Everything's a Verb* and *From Sweetness*. Her memoir, *The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere*, was published by Counterpoint Books in 2006. It received the "Elle Lettres" award from Elle Magazine and the 2007 PEN USA Creative Nonfiction Award.

Debra Marquart's work has appeared in numerous journals such as *The North American Review*, *Three Penny Review*, *New Letters*, *River City*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Cumberland Poetry Review*, *The Sun Magazine*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Orion*, *Mid-American Review* and *Witness*. Her awards and commendations include the John Guyon Nonfiction Award (Crab Orchard Review), the Mid-American Review Nonfiction Award, The Headwater's Prize from New Rivers Press, the Minnesota Voices Award, the Pearl Poetry Award (Pearl Editions), the Shelby Foote Prize for the Essay from the Faulkner Society, a Pushcart Prize, and a 2008 NEA Creative Writing Fellowship.

An English professor, Marquart teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing & Environment at Iowa State University as well as the Stonecoast Low-Residency MFA program at the University of Southern Maine.

Originally called the VCCA Award for Excellence in the Arts, this award acknowledges the vital role of the arts in our world, the importance of artists who exemplify excellence in their field, and the necessity of time and space for the creative phase of all artistic work. Endowed by VCCA Board member Linda Wachtmeister and administered by the VCCA Fellows Council, the Wachtmeister Award is presented annually to a prominent writer, visual artist or composer whose significant achievement in the arts is widely recognized.

Nestled in Amherst, Virginia, VCCA is one of the nation's largest and best-known artists' communities. As a working retreat for exceptional artists from around the world, VCCA provides them with meals, private rooms and private studios. In 41 years, VCCA has established an international network of thousands of Fellows, with over 400 coming to VCCA each year. You've probably read a book written at VCCA, or enjoyed a symphony or visual arts exhibition that was created here. Work done by these VCCA Fellows garners local and international attention through publications, exhibitions, compositions and performances. They have been honored with just about every prestigious award there is, including the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and the MacArthur "Genius Grant".