



November 4, 2025

Dear family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, apprentices, mentors & allies of Bruce:

Fall greetings. Wishing you all a Happy Halloween, Daring Day of the Dead, Extolled Election Day and Thoughtful days of Thanksgiving!

It's that time of year when Peoples around the world (from the Celts to the Mixtecs) say the veil between the worlds of the living and dead is at its thinnest. A good time to remember* and honor those who came before us – to add their photos to our altars, their stories to our repertoires, because “el amor nunca muere.” ([Las Cafeteras](#))

*This week remembering [Ole Lundberg](#), esteemed architect and dear Timber Cove neighbor.

I'm sure I don't have to remind you of all the dimensions of loss we're experiencing: humanitarian crises, political upheaval, and climate chaos. Untold numbers of people, long-held institutions, and entire species join the *ofrenda* to the dead this year (some only “very nearly dead,” as Miracle Max would say).

Yet as always, artists resist, provoke, connect us to beauty, and give us a medium through which to feel our feelings. Hurrah for the arts! Check out the [Fall of Freedom](#) events of Nov 21 - 22.

Last chance - Museum of Sonoma County



This wonderful survey show of Bruce's career as an artist, featuring several large-scale pieces and a range of other sculpture and furniture from over fifty years, is winding down this month at the Museum of Sonoma County. [Bruce Johnson: Sculptor](#) will be on exhibit through November 30. Be sure to see it before it's gone!

Thank you, Jacob Katz, for guiding a September tour of the Johnson home and studio for museum patrons, and to Tim Schmidt for a fabulous meal. A good day was had by all!

For those of you who know or are curious about the [Poetry House](#), mark your calendars! Elizabeth Herron, former poet laureate of Sonoma County and Bruce's collaborator on this exquisite work, will be reading from “The Poet's House” at the Museum on November 18th at 5:30 pm.

There will also be a talk and walk through the show with guest curator Catherine Daley and Museum curator Jen Bethke on November 22nd at 3 pm. More information about both of these Museum events can be found on the Museum [“Events” page](#).

In other news... Sculpture Jam is headed to SLO! The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art will be featuring a Bruce Johnson piece as part of a revolving public art exhibit outside the museum. Installation in January! Visit [Public Art SLOMA](#) for more details.

Artists in Residence

It is my pleasure to share that our “Form and Energy Artist Residency Pilot Program” is solidly underway! Here are a few stories from the first short trial stays:

Writers Lynne Ruppel and Sheira Kahn spent a long weekend “basking” in the creative spirit and natural beauty of the place. Sheira is working on “a TV series called ‘The Purple State,’ a story of people finding harmony on three levels: within themselves, in love relationships, and between two territories, which have been split into red and blue. It explores how to choose love and get along in divisive times.” Sound relevant?

And Lynne, of her project, wrote: “One morning... I decided to take all of my printed out chapters to the poetry house and simply read them – not for the purpose of editing, but to experience and enjoy what was on those pages. It was just me, the poetry house, my papers and a pen, with the breeze and sunlight wafting through the open doors. I stayed there for hours, completely uninterrupted, and emerged with a renewed passion for my work...” We love hearing this.

Craftsmen Kailas Rajan and [Galen Melcher](#) rented the shop for a week and made voluptuous modern furniture from old pieces they had and wood found on site. In an earlier visit Galen captured this cosmic photo—>



Teacher and young sculptor [Mika Taga](#) spent two weeks at the Johnson place reflecting on place and aesthetics, testing materials, and preparing for a longer residency next summer. Less than two weeks before arriving from New York, Mika made a remarkable discovery:

“This morning, I discovered that your father made a piece I used to play on in Mitchell Park when I lived in Palo Alto about twenty years ago. [\[After the Fire\]](#) This piece inhabits my subconscious and has quietly influenced my work since I started shaping. The memory of climbing and hiding in that form is incarnated in me. I aspire to create forms that allow for the profound play and exploration that your father's piece offered me. I can't believe he made this piece, which was my first memory of sculpture and form that left a clear energetic imprint, and that stayed dormant in my hands and body until I started shaping wood 15 years later. I cannot adequately express how grateful I am for this opportunity.”

Thank you for sharing this beautiful story, Mika. And thank you, Jeremy and Genaro, for your professional restoration of this special piece in Palo Alto *just a few weeks ago!*

Landscape architect and plein air painter [Terri McFarland](#) just finished a two-week residency. She drew and painted and “watched the waves erode the coast for some deep time connection.” Here is an excerpt of a poem she wrote after “sleeping in the bed of the builder of the poet's house”:

*You live a life full of things you don't remember.
It's not your fault –
You'd go mad if you could.
A poem can help.
Set one word down
One after the other
Carefully.
Like a trail of breadcrumbs
That leads you to a candy house
Your brain is an endless string
Loop it into a cozy thing
To wrap around yourself.*

May we all crochet our endless strings into lives of love and meaning.

For more information about the Form and Energy Artist Residency Pilot Program, feel free to email formandenergysculpture@gmail.com and/or check out this [application packet](#).

In gratitude,
Kendra



Watercolor by Terri and Bruce blowing a kelp bugle, both at Stump Beach



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