



SEARCH GO >

Welcome, Larissa HARRIS. [Update your profile.](#) If you are not Larissa HARRIS, [log out.](#)

[Print](#) / [Email](#)

FOR ARTISTS

● **Information**

- > [NYFA Classifieds](#)
- > [NYFA Source](#)
the resource for artists
- > [NYFA Current](#)
the magazine for artists
- > [NYFA Learning Workshops](#)
- > [Business of Art Articles](#)
- > [Chalkboard](#)
for teaching artists
- > [Resources for Immigrant Artists](#)
- > [Emergency Resources for Artists](#)
- > [NYFA Quarterly Archives](#)

●

Awards

- > [Artists' Fellowships](#)
- > [Strategic Opportunity Stipends \(SOS\)](#)
- > [Urban Artist Initiative](#)

●

Services

- > [Fiscal Sponsorship](#)
- > [Outreach](#)

FOR ORGANIZATIONS

● **Information**

- > [NYFA Classifieds](#)
- > [NYFA Current](#)
the magazine for artists
- > [Technology Resources](#)
- > [Management & Fundraising Resources](#)

●

Awards

- > [NYC Dance Company Grants - BUILD](#)

●

Services

- > [Fiscal Sponsorship](#)
- > [Leaders Circles](#)
- > [Cash Flow Loans](#)

- > [Host an Artists & Audiences Exchange Event](#)

ABOUT NYFA

- > [NYFA's Programs](#)
- > [Contact Us](#)
- > [NYFA Staff](#)
- > [NYFA Board of Directors](#)
- > [Artists' Advisory Committee](#)
- > [NYFA's Supporters](#)
- > [NYFA in the News](#)
- > [NYFA Press Releases](#)
- > [Biennial Report 2005-2006](#)
- > [Audited Financial Statement](#)
- > [NYFA Congratulates Mary Six Rupert](#)
- > [Site Credits & Terms of Use](#)

CONTRIBUTE TO NYFA

- > [NYFA's Donor Services](#)
- > [How NYFA Serves Artists:
Core Programs](#)
- > [The Artist Fund](#)
- > [Structuring Your Gift](#)
- > [Online Fundraising Partnerships](#)
- > [The Gift - NYFA's Donor Newsletter](#)
- > [NYFA's Supporters](#)
- > [Biennial Report 2005-2006](#)
- > [Audited Financial Statement](#)
- > [FlashPop Benefit Party + Art Auction](#)

CONTRIBUTE TO SPONSORSHIP

- > [Contribute to Sponsorship](#)
- > [NYFA Congratulates Mary Six Rupert](#)
- > [Biennial Report 2005-2006](#)
- > [Audited Financial Statement](#)

EMAIL LIST

NYFA QUARTERLY ARCHIVE

- > ARTICLE 1: Trade Publishing's Lay of the Land
- > ARTICLE 2: Two Fables
- > ARTICLE 3: Performing a Better World
- > ARTICLE 4: Homer Avila: Fresh Steps
- > ASK ARTEMISIA: Dr. Art on Corporate Curating and Collecting: The Altoids Curiously Strong Collection

Bonus Coverage: Dr. Art on Burning Bridges

- > DCA PAGES: The View from Here: DCA's Interns Speak Out
- > **CHALKBOARD ARTICLE 1: Artists on Rikers Island**
- > CHALKBOARD ARTICLE 2: Everything Around Everything: Bolivian Teaching Artists in Raleigh

NYFA QUARTERLY - Fall 2001

Chalkboard Article 1

Artists on Rikers Island

Barbara Fisher, Richard Spiegel, Dennis Nurkse, Jenny Romaine, and Candido Tirado

*Chalkboard and the directors of Ten Penny Players invited three teaching artists—a poet, a playwright, and a puppeteer—for a discussion about teaching in Austin H. MacCormick Island Academy, the alternative high school for adolescent men (16-18) who are incarcerated on Rikers Island in New York City. The discussion, moderated by Chalkboard's **Kate Wilson**, took place at NYFA on July 31, 2001.*

The participants speaking in the transcript below are:

Barbara Fisher, co-Director of Ten Penny Players and a printer, artist, and writer.
Dennis Nurkse, Brooklyn's Poet Laureate, who works on Rikers through TPP.
Jenny Romaine, a member of Great Small Works (theater collective), who also teaches on Rikers through TPP.
Richard Spiegel, co-Director of Ten Penny Players, who is a poet and editor of *Streams*.
Candido Tirado, a playwright who works on Rikers through the Manhattan Theatre Club.

What do you find different about working as teaching artists on Rikers Island?

Barbara Fisher: When we're in a prison, we're as locked in as they are. Yes, we can leave; but we are in a prison. We've had artists who, after one or two times, said they couldn't go back.

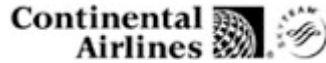
Jenny Romaine: The first thing you encounter at Rikers is a small wooden shed. You have to present sometimes one, sometimes two picture IDs. They check in "the Board of Ed Extended File #76 Island Academy" or whatever. The first time, we missed our classes completely—even though we had gotten there an hour early.

Once you go to clearance, you drive over the bridge and you park your car. Then



Fall 2001, Vol. 17, No. 3
A Better World

155 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10013-1507 T (212) 366 6900 F (212) 366 1778 > [Contact Information](#) > [Site Map](#) > [Site Credits](#) © 1994-2008 NYFA



We greatly thank our supporters.