



## **Member Profile: Audrey Conrad**

### **Why does Aldrich membership matter to you?**

The Aldrich is relatively close to home so it is a place I can go for the afternoon without much fuss. I am always impressed by the quality of shows you produce featuring mid-career (and sometimes well established) contemporary artists. I like MoMA and Mass MoCA too, however getting to them is more of a project (read: commitment of time, etc.). Being a member ensures that I'll have ample notice prior to each show (and I try to see each one).

### **What is your best memory of The Aldrich?**

One of my best memories of The Aldrich was seeing Anselm Kiefer's Velimir Chlebnikov. I had seen his large-scale work previously, but nothing which compared to this. I came back to see it again for a second look before it left. It is currently on long-term exhibit at Mass MoCA and I always pay it a visit when I venture to North Adams, however it doesn't have the same effect as when it was outside behind The Aldrich in its building.



### **What was the most surprising work you've seen at The Aldrich?**

On my first (?) visit to The Aldrich everything was still in the "Old Hundred" building, the new building hadn't been started yet. One of the exhibits was a large (dead) log in a large glass case by Mark Dion. Almost everything in the case was alive: all sorts of plants, fungi, bugs, etc. At that point, I had never considered that art could be something living: it really changed my perspective on what art could be.

### **Have the events of the last years changed the way you think about art?**

I continue to be fascinated by contemporary art. I don't have a background in the arts, it is simply something that I stumbled across many years ago while stuck in Indianapolis for a weekend. At a loss for something to do, I went to the local art museum where I saw a "Sound Sculpture" by Harry Bertoia. At the time, visitors were allowed to "play" the sculpture (now you can't, they have it placed where you can't get near it and even the guards aren't allowed to touch it). I became interested in art per se, and nothing has changed that. Wherever I travel I budget time for visiting art museums of all types.