

Marcella Brenner Faculty Development Grants Spring '16

Marcella Brenner Faculty Development Grants are specifically intended to fund projects that contribute to a faculty member's professional, artistic, or scholarly development. The Faculty Grants Committee Reviews and determines the Brenner Grant awards.

Lauren Adams

Painting

Lauren Adams will be participating in two exciting group shows this summer and fall, at Smack Mellon and Plug Projects. The Smack Mellon show is the *Summer Emerging Artist Exhibition*, a curated group show in Brooklyn, New York from June 18–July 31, 2016. She will be making a site-specific wall painting exploring themes related to the upcoming elections. Plug Projects is an artist-run cultural institution in Kansas City, Kansas. Lauren has also been invited to exhibit her recent paintings at Plug Projects, a well-respected gallery with an exciting program that presents regional and national artists. These exhibitions feature artists who have dedicated their practice to political and socio-cultural themes, and her invitation to participate in these shows indicates an increasing awareness of her work in this national context.

Lauren has been designated the recipient of the 2015-16 Stanley Rosen Memorial Faculty Development Grant. This \$500 award is made possible through an endowment created in 1998 by Madlyn Rosen and the Rosen-Gold Family Philanthropic Fund.

Monica Amor

Art History

Monica will use her funds towards developing *Theories of the Nonobject*, an investigation of the crisis of the sculptural and painterly object in the concrete, neoconcrete, and constructivist practices of artists in Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela. Mónica Amor presents case studies of specific movements, artists, and critics, tracing their role in the significant reconceptualization of the artwork that Brazilian critic and poet Ferreira Gullar heralded in “Theory of the Nonobject,” a seminal essay published in 1959 in the *Suplemento Dominical do Jornal do Brasil*. Based on deep archival research, this distinctive book brings scholarly attention to a group of major art figures, including Lygia Clark, Hélio Oiticica, and Gego, whose work proposed engaged forms of spectatorship that dismissed medium-based understandings of art. This project was awarded \$750.

Laurence Arcadias

Animation

Laurence will be using her funds to present as a guest speaker at the 27th Annual Society of Animation Studies Conference: *The Cosmos of Animation*, which is taking place this year in Singapore at the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University. Her lecture “Animating Fermi - A Collaboration Between Art Students and Astronomers”, describes the experience of co-teaching an animation class with an astronomer: Robin Corbet from the NASA Fermi satellite team. The students in the class are introduced to the basics of astrophysics

and work closely with Fermi scientists to produce short animations inspired by results from the Fermi gamma-ray observatory. This project was awarded \$750.

Linda Bills

Post-Bac

With the Brenner Grant support Linda will be working with Nancy Diessner, a master printmaker, in her private studio in Framingham, MA. Their primary focus will be on photopolymer plates for intaglio printmaking. Though she is somewhat familiar with these plates, Linda wants more one-on-one, hands-on experience for everything involved in the exposure and print processes. They will be working with both drawn and photographic images with a plan of making at least two different plates for each image type as well as experimenting with a variety of print papers. This project was awarded \$1,000.

Susie Brandt

Fiber

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design has invited Susie Brandt to spend the month of July as an artist in residence. As part of the residency she will exhibit new work at Anna Leonowens Gallery located on their main campus near the harbor in Halifax. She will spend two weeks working on site with local students and other interested participants to fabricate rope from cast off clothing and textiles. Using maritime textile techniques like knotting and netting, she will transform the rope into largescale sculptural entities. An array of colored light will be cast through the sculptural arrangement forming colorful wall silhouetted patterns. Those patterns will be painted on the wall using six different colored paints. This project was awarded \$1,000.

Regina DeLuise

Photography

The Brenner Grant will allow Regina to attend a 3-week residency at VCCA, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, this summer from July 1- July 22. This residency comes at a critical point of reconnection with her personal practice as she moves out of the role of Chair of Photography, and back towards faculty and a sabbatical in 2017. The residency will provide focused and uninterrupted time needed to begin to photograph and envision Regina's exhibition at the Benrubi Gallery in NY. This project was awarded \$1,200.

David S. East

Ceramics

David S. East was an artist in residence at the Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, IL. This residency marked the 5th year of an ongoing critical writing project with a collective group "Workshop." "Workshop" is a group of five artists interested in a collaboratively-built critical writing project that addresses how ceramics and the history of craft can more directly engage with issues outside of an insular notion of material specificity (<http://workshopgroup.org/>). This project was awarded \$400.71.

Jennifer Hock

Art History

Jennifer Hock's Brenner Faculty Development funding will allow her to conduct archival research and interviews for her book project, *Freedom Here: Architecture, Urban Renewal, and the Spatial Politics of the Civil Rights Movement in Boston*. The book places Boston's celebrated mid-century architecture—its controversial Brutalist government buildings, innovative low-rise housing projects, and progressive new schools—in the context of the Northern Freedom Movement and argues that architecture and urban design were deeply implicated in the era's debates on racial segregation, black institution-building, and the role of the state in an era of activism and social change. This project was awarded \$1,000.

Kerr Houston

Art History

Kerr Houston's Brenner Grant helped to offset the costs of a research trip to New York City. The trip included a visit to the Morgan Library and Museum to consult a copy of a 1924 dissertation by Clarence Kennedy, whose ideas are the subject of a section in the book he is currently writing; a viewing of MoMA's Joaquín Torres-García retrospective to study his stencil technique for a scholarly article; and several hours at the exhibit *The Illusive Eye* at El Museo del Barrio, a reprisal of the 1965 show *The Responsive Eye*, for a bmoreart essay on the recent wave of reprised exhibitions. This project was awarded \$252.50.

Ulric Joseph

Foundation

Partnering with Brazilian filmmaker Rafael Abreu-Canedo, Ulric Joseph will be using his grant funds to work on a documentary about the life of Riley Hawkins and his wonderful organization which helps kids in West Baltimore. This is a very impoverished neighborhood and too often focus is placed on the "bad" that comes from these communities and not the good. Their goal is to put together a feature length documentary, the proceeds of which will go towards helping this organization survive even after Riley. Riley still drives the shuttle at MICA and is the backbone of this community whose story needs to be told. This project was awarded \$1,000.

Nate Larson

Photography

Nate used Brenner Funds to attend the 2016 Society for Photographic Education Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. During the conference, his publisher held a book signing for his newly released *Geolocation* monograph. After the conference, Nate conducted photographic fieldwork towards the series *New American Landscapes* at the Hoover Dam, Red Rocks Canyon, the Grand Canyon, and the Meteor Crater. The larger project is photographic meditations on the man-altered American landscape and seeks to understand human experience within that at this moment in our nation's history. This project was awarded \$317.

Christine Manganaro

Humanistic Studies

In May, Christine will spend two weeks in Honolulu reading material in collections at the University of Hawai'i Archives and at the Hawai'i State Archives. As a historian of science and the U.S., Christine's work focuses on scientific expertise in American cultural and intellectual history, particularly the function of racial ideology in American settler colonialism. Her book examines how the creation of archives of social scientific information about race and assimilation advanced the U.S. colonial project in Hawai'i. These archives' contents supported the production and teaching of an authoritative history authored by academics, whose liberal multicultural narrative—which persists in Hawai'i and elsewhere—naturalized American control of the islands as a form of integration rather than colonization. This project was awarded \$1,000.

Aaron McIntosh

Fiber

Fiber faculty member Aaron McIntosh's current project, *Invasive*, is gathering stories of Southern LGBTQ and adding them to cloth kudzu leaves to create a giant vine of visibility to exhibit in 2018. Many stories are gathered at community centers across the South, but the other half of the project involves documenting the narratives of Southern LGBTQ that exist in special queer-focused archives across the country. March 15-20, McIntosh visited the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles--the largest queer archive in the world--to research and document the personal archives of several noted Southern LGBTQ individuals like Civil Rights-

era activist Edgar Sandifer, as well as radical groups such as the lesbian Feminary Collective. Scanned images from these archives have now been added to the *Invasive* project. The Brenner Grant provided partial reimbursement for travel, accommodations and research expenses accrued during this trip. This project was awarded \$900.

John Peacock

Humanistic Studies | Rinehart School of Sculpture

John Peacock will be using his funds to advance his research for a *Tribal College Journal* article he's writing about whether Native American oral traditions and Euro-American literature are mainly processed by right and left hemispheres of the brain. As part of this research he attended a March 2016, neuroscience seminar "Contemplation and Beyond: Phenomenology, Neuroscience, and the Spiritual" led by psychiatrist and cultural critic Ian McGilchrist, author of *The Master and His Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World*, at Duquesne University's Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center in Pittsburgh. This project was awarded \$500.

Valeska Populoh

Fiber

While on sabbatical, Valeska will be working on a performance about the Chesapeake Bay bioregion, ecology and local histories. The work will include costume/walk-about performance, installation, puppetry and toy theater elements. To support the development of this piece, Valeska will study with renowned teacher Dody DiSanto at the The Center for Movement Theater in Washington DC, enrolling in an intensive course called "Neutral Mask." Puppetry and physical theater work rely on clarity of movement and gesture, and the course will allow Valeska to delve into this methodology of performance looking at "the state of neutrality as a vehicle for expression and as a foundation and point of reference for building ...character." This project was awarded \$500.

Renée Rendine

General Fine Art

School 33 in Baltimore, MD, invited Renée to participate in a three-person exhibition and performance event entitled "Shape Shifters". In her installation, *murmuration*, Renée continually constructs and deconstructs--appropriating, shifting, and reshaping--the materials that make up her environment. Ultimately the residue created by her actions serves as a physical document of her movements. Curator Melissa Webb states, "These are fluid, experiential spaces that exist in a performer-activated state, as well as in a state of stillness-holding the energy created by the performer's actions." This project was awarded \$1,000.

Ruth E. Toulson

Humanistic Studies

Ruth E. Toulson was awarded a Marcella Brenner Faculty Development grant in order to attend "The Materiality of Mourning," an interdisciplinary workshop at the University of Warwick, England (19th - 20th May 2016). Her paper, "Grave Goods: The Disquieting Contents of Singaporean Burial Plots", examines the treatment of objects—fragments of bone, chips of gravestone, and splinters of casket wood—recovered from destroyed graves. This research draws on ethnographic fieldwork in Singapore during a period when the state ordered the destruction of multiple cemeteries, the focus of her forthcoming book. This project was awarded \$800.

Eva Wylie

Printmaking

Eva will use the funding to create *Down the Line*, a site-specific wall installation at Spacecamp in Baltimore, MD (June 11-July 1, 2016). Her work juxtaposes organic imagery with images that

intimate how humanity and its detritus merge into the natural world. The opportunity to work on a large-scale installation with all the resources of Baltimore Print Studio will provide new opportunities to explore scale and spontaneity while installing the exhibition. This project was awarded \$1,000.