

## Faculty Research Grants for Academic Year '16 Funding

Faculty Research Grants are designed to support larger-scale initiatives than those currently supported via the Brenner and Lucas funds, both of which are capped at \$2000 per request per competition. Instead, requests for Faculty Research Grants may run up to \$5000 and hence represent an opportunity to support a larger-scale initiative. In that spirit, the grants are designed to support significant expenses or the granting of significant time in the form of a course release (beginning in AY17). Appropriate initiatives may include artistic and scholarly projects (or part thereof), research travel and stay (for academic or creative work), and bodies of work with significant material expenses. The motivation for developing this new category of funding for faculty work is that certain types of projects require more support, either monetarily or temporally, than the existing funds can provide. Faculty Research Grants are decided in conjunction with Faculty Grants Committee and the Provost.

Annet Couwenberg  
*Fiber*

Annet Couwenberg's project *White Gold Under Our Plates: Dutch Damask Tablecloths* will use the funds to research Damask, its peculiar motifs, structures, and related technologies to produce four large Damasks. Studying and comparing the old and new technologies in Damask weaving will amplify her ongoing critical investigation into the integrated practice of crafting in the physical and digital realm. The hybridization of the digital and physical, integration of design, and craft skill is a unique way of rectifying contemporary making practice with traditional craft, paramount in Textiles. In a time where there is increasing impact and a quickening of the pace of change around digital technology, this project will deepen her knowledge and questioning of how these technologies contribute an entirely new set of tools in combination with the historical jacquard loom. This project was awarded \$5,000.

Mat Karas  
*Ceramics*

Mat Karas will be traveling to Skælskør, Denmark, a country deeply rooted in fine traditional crafts, to complete a one-month studio residency at the Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center, for a focused period of development of new surfaces and forms. Mat will be researching and developing pottery based works using historical techniques, including press molding and wood firing, and intersecting these with contemporary fabrication processes, such as CAD and CNC milling. The result will be the fabrication of objects that tightly weave new and old technology, such as a series of dishes based on 18th century French faïence plates, but with ancient Chinese ash glazes, supporting his research on the relationship between technology and history in ceramics. This project was awarded \$5,000.

Jennifer Cole Phillips  
*Graphic Design MFA*

Jennifer will be researching a new book about tools for visual invention and form making. Numerous texts have been published in the last decade about how to generate concepts through brainstorming, yet design thinkers have paid scant attention to the visual side of design processes. Central to her book is a chapter called *Formstorming in the City*. Using the magnificent city of Rome as a source, she will observe, frame, and filter subjects using prompts engineered to deepen visual thinking and deliver fresh formal invention. These prompts will examine such phenomena

as urban edges and boundaries; macro and micro views; conflicts between humans and nature; and concepts of rhythm, rupture, order, and decay. Through visual examples and verbal prompts, the text will inspire designers to use photography, drawing, writing, collage, and other observational practices to explore their own urban environments, where the trained eye can discover universal structures within the local fabric. This project was awarded \$5,000.

#### Shyla Rao

##### *Art Education*

Funding from this grant will support data collection for a book project *Social Action Matters* to be co-authored by Dr. Shyla Rao, MICA, and Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Kutztown University. The content of this book is timely in the field, as the demographics of students in the U.S. are changing and the teachers are not. Teachers need strategies for engaging with learners who have had different experiences as them. This text will help teachers understand related theories with practical examples that engage with issues of socioeconomic status, race, gender, ageism, and sexual orientation. This project was awarded \$3,681.

#### Sarah-Neel Smith

##### *Art History*

Sarah-Neel Smith will travel to Istanbul and Ankara to gather materials for her book, *Art, Democracy, and the Culture of Dissent in 1950s Turkey*, which tracks the rise and fall of the modern Turkish art world between 1950 and 1960, a period when the country first experimented with multi-party democracy. The book illuminates key debates of the early Cold War, including the formation of aesthetic discourses in relation to concepts of democracy and totalitarianism and the development of political, economic, and cultural internationalisms. Smith will conduct research in local archives and museums, and hold interviews with individuals who helped shape the Turkish art world at mid-century. This project was awarded \$5,000.

#### Ruth E. Toulson

##### *Humanistic Studies*

Ruth E. Toulson was awarded a Faculty Research Grant to support her new book project, *Design for Death: Sustainable Disposition in the 21st Century Metropolis*. Her research will take her to New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Jerusalem, and Istanbul, cities which, despite their differences—in religious practice, in attitudes to the body, and in forms of governance—face a common problem: they are running out of space for the dead. In each city, given rapidly depleting cemetery space, increasing urban populations, and the acute environmental toll of both burial and cremation, alternative funerary practices are inevitable. However, little scholarship has focused on what form these practices should take. This project was awarded \$5,000.