

Marcella Brenner Grants for Faculty Development and Research

Fall 2019

Marcella Brenner Grants for Faculty Development and Research funds projects that contribute to the faculty member's professional, artistic, or scholarly research and development. The Faculty Grants Committee meets to review Marcella Brenner Grants applications and recommends to the Provost a ranked slate of proposals for grant awards on the basis of the evaluation criteria. The Fall 2019 Brenner Grants for Faculty Development and Research grant program received 35 applications, of which 10 were awarded. The following proposals have received funding.

Participation in Exhibition SALLY in Brooklyn, New York

Lauren Frances Adams

Painting

Painting faculty member Lauren Frances Adams will participate in *SALLY*, an interdisciplinary exhibition conceived by artist/collaborators JoAnne McFarland and Sasha Chavchavadze. This collaborative project brings together a diverse group of artists, writers, and performers intrigued by the narratives of women whose destinies are inextricably interwoven with those they knew, and whose lives have often been erased or forgotten. The sprawling three-month group show features several works by Adams in two of the three exhibition venues in Brooklyn, New York. Funding for this project supports artwork transportation and delivery as well as framing work for the exhibition. This project was awarded \$1,362.06 in funds.

Another Horizon

Stephanie Barber

Film and Video|Mount Royal School of Art

Another Horizon is a short 16mm film about the horizon. The piece is a long, slow pan across a collage of images of horizons from books and magazines. The photographs, from varied countries, biomes and seasons attach at the horizon, creating a consistent line and impossible, fantastic ecosystem. The horizon and its always 'away' presence has been a metaphor throughout cultures and time for orientation, the future and a union of the heavens and the earth. The sound track, written by Barber, is a poetic meditation on the philosophical and spiritual implications of this constant visual and metaphorical phenomena. This project was awarded \$1,864.00 in funds.

Dreaming Unification Painting Series

Mina Cheon

Art History, Theory, and Criticism|First Year Experience (FYE)|Humanistic Studies

In her dream world, artist Mina Cheon's North Korean art persona "Kim Il Soon" paints the Korean national third flag, the Unification Flag, in a new body of work known as the *Dreaming Unification Painting Series*. For the past decade, Kim Il Soon has been painting in the social realist propaganda style, hot pink drip abstract expressionism, and Yves Klein's IKB dip conceptual paintings. As she masters Western art styles and dreams for liberation within the canvas as well as from the North Korean regime, the new series is "protest for peace" paintings done with stencils, graffiti, and sumi ink—an intercultural invention called Sumi-Graffiti. The work will be exhibited at her next solo exhibit at Ethan Cohen Gallery (NY). This project was awarded \$1,412.55 in funds.

Flora at the Studios at MASS MoCA

Andrea Sherrill Evans

Drawing | First Year Experience (FYE) | General Fine Arts

Andrea Sherrill Evans requested funding to support the creation of new work for her project, *Flora*, at the Studios at MASS MoCA residency during the summer of 2020. *Flora* interweaves Evans' research into the human influence on natural ecosystems within geographically distinct regions of the US by employing a drawing practice using art-making media sourced directly from the varied places the imagery represents. In this work, the impact of a warming climate, the spread of invasive plant species, and the loss of ecologically diverse habitats is rendered visible through large scale drawings made with foraged materials specific to the sites and formulated by the artist into different charcoals, inks, and paper substrates. This project was awarded \$2,000.00 in funds.

Makers, Crafters, Educators: Identity, Culture, and Experimentation

Lisa Hochtritt, EdD

Teaching (MAT)

How is making understood across all dimensions of art education in the 21st century? Lisa Hochtritt used funds to participate in the International Society of Education through Art (InSEA) 2019 World Congress in Vancouver, Canada. Hochtritt along with co-editors of their recent Routledge anthology presented an academic paper and facilitated a performative and experimental workshop. Both sessions explored the question, "How might making and hacking contribute to the democratization of doing and inventiveness and lead to personal and cultural change?" This international gathering of artists and educators was attended by over 800 participants and advanced contemporary making practices while exploring making as an agent of change in education. This project was awarded \$1,270.17 in funds.

From Invisibility to Collective Healing: Restorative Critical Art-Based Practices

Vanessa López

Teaching (MAT)

How can we make sense of Black and Brown bodies in/through the act of making? Vanessa Lopez will present on a panel entitled *From Invisibility to Collective Healing* during the Nettleford Arts Conference held at Edna Manley College. The three participating female art educators of color will open this presentation by providing a context for understanding their struggles as they navigate their academic identities within White-dominated spaces. Using trioethnography as a research methodology and looking to scholarship by feminists of color, the panelists present a framework that makes visible the intellectual and artistic tradition of women of color (WoC) artists and educators in the US. The panelists conclude this presentation by sharing the ways in which they have used critical art-based practices to nourish their intersecting identities even amidst mental and psychological violence. This project was awarded \$2,000.00 in funds.

Radical Ornament: Islamic Art in the 'Pattern and Decoration' Movement, 1972–78

Sarah-Neel Smith

Art History, Theory, and Criticism

Sarah-Neel Smith received a Brenner Grant for a research trip to the Getty Research Institute to study the papers of Oleg Grabar, the "grandfather" of Islamic art in the U.S.

In 1972, Grabar welcomed an unusual guest to his Harvard classroom: a 45-year-old artist and critic named Amy Goldin, who was affiliated with the 'Pattern and Decoration' painting movement and believed American artists should use abstract motifs from Islamic art. Over the following years, Goldin and Grabar conducted an extensive dialogue in letters, in person, and in the pages of *Artforum* and *Art in America*.

Smith will use her Brenner Grant to access the final pieces of archival evidence for an article telling the story of Goldin and Grabar's exchange. This project was awarded \$1,345.00 in funds.

Exhibition at Horowitz Visual Arts Center

Jonathan B. Thomas

Printmaking

MICA Faculty and Printmaking Department Chair Jonathan Thomas has been invited to exhibit at The Rouse Company Foundation Gallery within the Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center in Columbia, MD. The exhibition is scheduled to take place February 3-March 15, 2020. Through this grant, Jonathan received funds to support production and presentation costs necessary for the successful completion of the exhibit. This project was awarded \$1,848.00 in funds.

DDD 14: A Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying, and Disposal

Ruth E. Toulson

Humanistic Studies

In September 2019, more than 200 scholars from 30 countries gathered together for *DDD14*, an international conference on the social context of Death, Dying, and Disposal. Humanistic Studies faculty member, Ruth E. Toulson, attended and presented a paper drawn from her ethnographic research on funeral practices in Chinese societies. The conference theme, *Education and Engagement*, prompted Toulson to examine the “real world” impact of her research. Reaching beyond the academy, Toulson considered: How might anthropological research on death help the dying? How might scholarship which examines cultural difference improve palliative care? And how might understanding the grieving process ethnographically enable us to better support the bereaved? This project was awarded \$1,583.00 in funds.

The Ecology of the Living Dead in the Ancient Baltic Worldview

Eglute Trinkauskaite

Humanistic Studies

In a world on the verge of climate crisis, we need to reimagine our relationship with the planet. In addressing these crises, knowledge drawn from environmental science can only take us so far. A spiritual reorientation is also necessary. Eglute Trinkauskaite will explore these issues in a paper she will present at the American Academy of Religion conference in San Diego, CA. Trinkauskaite’s research draws together textual, ethnographic, and oral traditions to examine ancient Baltic concepts of reincarnation. In this context, the souls of the dead animate the landscape, in a way that prompts a radical reimagining of ecology. This project was awarded \$2,000.00 in funds.