

TRAVEL & STUDY GRANT PROGRAM

125 PARK SQUARE COURT
400 SIBLEY STREET
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101-1928
651.224.9431 or 1.800.995.3766
FAX 651.224.3439
E-MAIL: info@jeromefdn.org

TWIN CITIES PROGRAM
SUPPORTED BY THE **GENERAL MILLS**
AND THE **JEROME FOUNDATIONS**
GREATER MINNESOTA PROGRAM
SUPPORTED BY THE **JEROME FOUNDATION**

P R E S S R E L E A S E

J U N E 2 0 0 4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The General Mills and Jerome Foundations announce the 2004 Travel and Study Grant Program recipients. Thirty-three grants totaling \$117,185, ranging in size from \$620 to \$5,000, were authorized. The Travel and Study Grant Program awards grants to independent artists and nonprofit arts administrators. Funds are authorized to support travel for the purpose of professional development. Grant categories are separated by geographic region (seven county metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota) and artistic discipline (dance, theater, and visual arts). Three, three-person panels reviewed 215 applications in April. Jerome Foundation Directors approved the panelists' recommendations. Descriptions of the funded trips follow.

D A N C E

Dance review panelists were St. Paul resident David White, former Producer and Artistic Director of New York City's Dance Theater Workshop; Cynthia Oliver, choreographer and Professor of Dance at the University of Illinois; and Sandy Agustin, choreographer and Associate Director of Intermedia Arts.

TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA

LISA FIRST, a Minneapolis-based arts administrator and dance presenter, will travel to Hungary, Slovak and Czech Republics, and Berlin, Germany, to increase her expertise in Central and Eastern European modern/contemporary dance forms. First will meet with several Central European dance professionals. This investigation will inform First's role as an international dance organizer preparing a Central European/Minneapolis Dance Exchange Project.

COLETTE ILLARDE, a Flamenco dancer in Minneapolis, will travel to Madrid, Spain, for one month to take part in an invitational workshop directed by Master Flamenco artist Manuel Reyes, who will be creating an original Flamenco work. The workshop will include the study of Siguiriya, which epitomizes flamenco jondo, or deep flamenco. This involves difficult rhythmic patterns and profound themes requiring enormous emotional involvement.

Dancer **DINITA NICOLE**, St. Paul, will spend nine months in Salvador, Brazil, learning the songs, dances, daily routines and traditions of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé. Nicole will explore the Candomblé practice exemplified in both the dance and daily routines of secular society. She will study under Babalorixa Antonio Carlos Encarnacao in a terreiro, a Candomblé house. Many of the ceremonies Nicole will experience are rarely seen by the public. She will also study with Ballet Folklórico, a professional company that translates the dances of Orixa to the concert stage.

APARNA RAMASWAMY, Minneapolis, Bharatanatyam choreographer and dancer, will travel to Tamil Nadu, India, to conduct further research for her work in progress, *Bhakti (Devotion)*. The work is an exploration of mystical, musical poetry, which illuminated the soulful poetry of two female saint-poets—Andal of 8th century India and Hildegard von Bingen, of 11th century Germany. The hymns written by Andal are sung by congregations throughout Tamil Nadu during the month of Maargazhi (mid-December through mid-January), the time of Ramaswamy's travel. Ramaswamy plans to gain firsthand insight into the phenomenon of Andal's music and her lasting influences on contemporary society.

- m o r e -

LINDA SHAPIRO, University of Minnesota Dance Program Adjunct Faculty and freelance writer, will spend five days in New York City to explore and document the ways in which language and literature, in the broadest sense of genre, form and content, interface with and affect the work of choreographers Douglas Dunn and Tere O'Connor. Shapiro will interview the choreographers on both audio and videotape, and attend rehearsals and performances. She will then write a paper based on the interviews.

MORGAN THORSON, Minneapolis choreographer, will travel to Las Vegas for three days and then to the Djerassi Artist Residency Program in Woodside, California, for five weeks. She will research the areas of obsession and impersonation for the development of new choreographic material. Thorson is investigating obsession in the areas of impersonation, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and ritualistic behavior. Physical exploration will occupy most of her time at Djerassi, with short periodic side trips for research and interviews.

Minneapolis choreographer, dancer and dance instructor **ROXANE WALLACE** will spend one month in Toronto attending a summer intensive at Ballet Creole. She will investigate the philosophy and methodology used in the choreographic fusion of Ballet Creole through study with Artistic Director, choreographer and scholar Patrick Parson.

GREATER MINNESOTA

MARY ANNE NOEL and **JOB ETHAN CHRISTENSON**, dancers and teachers in Crookston, will travel to Hebron, New Hampshire, for eight days to attend Swing Out New Hampshire 2004. The Dance Camp will consist of classes and dancing in Swing, Lindy Hop, Jazz, Blues and Tap.

ANNA THOMPSON, an arts presenter at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota, will attend the CINARS (Commerce Internationale des arts de la Scene) Forum in Montreal, Canada, to see dance performances by international companies. Over 1,000 artists, agents, presenters and observers from 60 countries attend CINARS. Thompson will have the opportunity to select from over 150 international performances. The College of Saint Benedict plays a significant role in the artistic life of its regional community and has a long history of presenting dance.

T H E A T E R

Theater review panelists were Rick Shiomi, Founder and Artistic Director of Theater Mu; Gülgün Kayim, actor, Founder and Artistic Director of Skewed Visions; and Ellie Covan, Founder and Artistic Director of Dixon Place, New York City.

TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA

Minneapolis-based playwright **JANET MALIA ALLARD** will spend one month in Hawaii at the Kalaupapa Settlement on Molokai and on Oahu. Allard will conduct interviews, attend hula festivals and do historical research on Hawaiian performing arts, gathering raw materials and information to create a new theater piece on the Kalaupapa Settlement, a home for surviving Hansen's disease patients. The play will bring to the stage stories of loss, forced isolation, adaptation, family, struggle and survival..

BART BUCH, a Minneapolis puppet artist and teacher, will travel to Portland, Oregon, where he will spend seven days attending Sojourn Theatre's Summer Institute for adults working in theatre, education and community settings. The workshop will be led by Michael Rohd, author of *Hope is Vital, Theater for Community, Conflict and Dialogue*. This workshop will inform Buch's interest in community change through the use of puppetry.

WILLIAM CLEVELAND, a Minneapolis-based arts administrator and writer, will spend twelve days in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro to conduct field research to document the history of Dah Theater Company's artistic responses to social and political upheaval in Serbia. He will attend the theater's first retrospective conference, where he will conduct interviews. He will use this research for the theater section of a book he is writing about artists working in communities facing extreme social, political and/or military upheaval.

NOR HALL, a writer who resides in Minneapolis, will travel to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in four separate trips. Hall will develop ideas, share research, study actors in process, and write text collaboratively in the creation of a new work for the theatre company Archipelago. She will conduct research on myth, poetry, dreams, literature, film and media, for a new project, *The Woman in the Attic*.

Minneapolis puppet theater artists **ESTHER OURAY** and **JULIE KASTIGAR** will travel to Noragachi, Mexico, to attend the Tarahumara Festival of Semana Santa, in order to observe the magic of a deeply rooted Spring ritual of death and resurrection. Much of Ouray's and Kastigar's work with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre focuses on magic and ritual, including the May Day Festival. In Mexico, the two will learn more about ritual, which will inform their work for the 2005 Tree of Life ceremony on May Day.

JOKO SUTRISNO, puppeteer, musician and educator, St. Paul, will spend four weeks in Surakarta, Indonesia, where he will update and expand his knowledge and skills in Javanese wayang kulit (shadow puppet theater). Sutrisno intends to develop a production that infuses a traditional wayang story and performance with elements of Islamic tradition.

GREATER MINNESOTA

DAN EASTMAN, a theater designer and professor in Winona, will travel to St. Augustine, Trinidad, West Indies, to expand his design and stagecraft skills by way of workshop study with two of the Trinidad Carnival's premier wire formers. Eastman will work with artists who create the twenty foot masks and costumes used during Carnival.

EVA BARR, theater artist in Wyckoff, will travel to Matagalpa, Nicaragua, to work with the theatre groups of the Colectivo de Mujeres. It is Barr's intention to learn how their use of performance affects the communities and individuals with whom they are involved. She will apply what she learns to her work in rural Minnesota.

VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts review panelists were independent curator Eugenie Tsai, New York City; artist Steven Woodward, St. Paul; and artist and teacher Laura Youngbird, Breckenridge, Minnesota.

TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA

Arts administrator **THERESA SWEETLAND**, Minneapolis, will spend two weeks in New Zealand investigating model legal graffiti arts programs. This will inform the design of a youth mentoring program that she is developing in collaboration with the Minneapolis Graffiti Task Force. Sweetland's investigative travel supports her belief that Minneapolis is ripe for creative solutions because young people will continue to tag, and more ambitious youth will want to make large-scale graffiti art works. New Zealand contains a number of excellent working models including the Creation Youth Center in Christchurch, the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology's Street Arts Program, Arts Across Aotearoa in Wellington, the Respect Festival and the Phonic Youth Center in Lower Hutt, and the Youth Communications Program of the Wellington City Council.

No Name Exhibitions @ The Soap Factory arts administrators **BEN HEYWOOD**, **KAREN KASEL**, and **DAVID PITMAN** will travel as a team to research how other visual arts organizations have successfully developed their physical properties. They'll travel to New York City, New York State and other locations on the East Coast. They will cultivate curatorial and artistic relationships that may lead to exhibition exchange, artist residency exchange and audience development. Their questions will focus on how arts organizations work with architects and contractors in relevant, yet respectful conversions of historic buildings; how organizations work effectively with city officials and on such civic concerns as parking and historic designation; and how arts organizations work with diverse funders on financing as well as commercial partners on investment. They will investigate what roles artists have played in these various development processes, especially in spaces that began as artist-run collectives.

Artists **DOUGLAS PADILLA** and **XAVIER TAVERA**, Minneapolis and St. Paul, will spend two weeks in Mexico City and Oaxaca exploring and documenting Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, a religious, sociological and aesthetic event. Padilla and Tavera have a longstanding commitment to the celebration of Dia de los Muertos in the Twin Cities. They need to go to Mexico to dig deeper by experiencing indigenous Day of the Dead celebrations. They want to spend time with traditional families, with their devotions and their ofrendas. They also want to visit art museums and galleries in Mexico City, which celebrate Dia de los Muertos and exhibit contemporary ofrendas built by professional artists, ranging from the traditional to the avant-garde. They will document their experiences on videotape and in photographs. The travel will benefit the artists individually as well as the communities in which they work.

Arts writer, critic and editor **MICHAEL FALLON**, St. Paul, will spend three weeks in Denver, Atlanta and Pittsburgh to study the phenomenon of the neglected artist by focusing upon three unrecognized but skilled artists in these locations. These are talented visual artists who've worked for decades without attaining success. He will study the causes and effects of the situation. He intends to write about what he discovers in a series of critical essays/profiles, and to explore what the social phenomenon of neglected artists may mean to the future of cultural production in this country. He believes that these artists efforts to continue producing despite their inability to make money to survive from their art reveals a glimpse of the creative soul of humanity, something he ever seeks to understand as a writer on art.

TAMARA BRANTMEIER, a painter living in St. Paul, will spend 35 days studying at the Florence Academy of Art in Italy. She will take two intensive, month-long drawing and painting courses, and attend weekly lectures, technical demonstrations and additional drawing classes. Each student receives two critiques per day. Brantmeier will visit specific collections, museums and art centers. This travel and study experience is designed to expand her abilities and strengthen her technique. She is pushing toward increased self-confidence, a visual understanding that is subtle, and more precise powers of description.

LADDAVANH CHANTHRAPHONE, an artist and dance instructor, based in Brooklyn Park, will spend six weeks in Laos to expand and deepen her skills in the art of Laotian traditional fruit and vegetable carving. She'll investigate the different shapes and styles of traditional carved bowls and platters; animals such as birds, peacocks and butterflies; flowers such as the lotus and the hibiscus; and unique leaf designs. Vegetable and fruit carving is a venerable Laotian tradition that has been passed down from ancient times. Chanthraphone will study with Mrs. Sengphet Viratham, a master of the form. She will have one-on-one training sessions in which she will receive Professor Viratham's personal attention six hours per day over a period of six weeks. She expects the experience to not only improve her technique but to help her build a strong individual and creative voice, which she will develop and share when she returns to Minnesota.

MELISSA STANG, a painter, installation artist and object maker in Minneapolis, will visit the Sea Turtle Conservancy Field Station in a remote part of the Osa Peninsula in Carete, Costa Rica. This is one of the world's most important nesting beaches for green sea turtles, which travel tremendous distances to reproduce there. Stang will draw, write, document and participate in efforts to protect and study nesting green turtles and the release of hatchlings. This is the logical next step of her current project to research grassroots efforts to protect sea turtles. The results of this travel will be a series of essays, drawings, paintings and an installation in progress tentatively titled *Marine Ecosystem*, designed to read as a Natural History Museum display. She expects to return from this trip with renewed enthusiasm and the raw materials necessary to advance her work.

AMY TOSCANI, a sculptor in Minneapolis, will spend two months in Utica, New York, in a residency at Sculpture Space. Sculpture Space presents an environment that fosters risk-taking, exploration and innovation. Toscani will work alongside other sculptors and technicians, learn from her interaction with them, and develop new approaches to her work. The residency will give her precious time to develop and push her ideas into physical reality. She'll participate in the creative community on-site, and take field trips to visit major museums and sculpture parks in the area.

JAN ESTEP, an artist based in Minneapolis, will spend three weeks in Norway doing research leading to the creation of a new body of art work related to the ideas of philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. Estep will visit the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen and spend some time in Skjolden, Norway. Estep is planning a series of multimedia art works based on the life and philosophy of Wittgenstein. The project is not strictly documentary or biographical but rather an exploration of the relationship between language and meaning, the search for knowledge, and the desire to articulate things that resist articulation. While the trip is research oriented, it is also a form of retreat.

Photographer **VANCE GELLERT**, Minneapolis, will spend ten to eleven weeks in Bolivia to continue research and make photographs on Shaman rituals and medicinal plant use by the indigenous cultures of Bolivia. The photographs from this research trip will be used to develop long-term project strategies. His goal is to convey through photographs the art of ritual as an integral part of effective medicinal treatments in various cultures worldwide. The images gathered will be presented in a book and exhibition. In addition to traveling to various indigenous communities to meet with shamans, he will observe rituals of plant collection, preparation and curative treatment. He'll explore the philosophy, mysticism and training of Shamans and their relationship to the environment.

Photographer **KIMBERLEE WHALEY**, Minneapolis, will spend seven days in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to further define and develop a photographic project titled *Fragments*, about her hometown. A year ago, she began this photographic investigation by making images representing her parent's house and their personal belongings while addressing issues of space, form and light. The work focused on an interior home life of absence. She will further articulate and expand *Fragments* through this trip. The series is expected to include landscapes, with a focus on personal artifacts found at certain places and how they tell personal and collective stories. The long-range goal is to create her first significant body of work, pursue exhibition opportunities for it, and advance her professional career.

Painter **JOE SMITH**, St. Louis Park, will spend five days in Los Angeles, California. The purposes of his trip are to facilitate better connections with galleries and artists there, to see art in a vibrant community, and to bring that experience back to Minnesota as an influence on new work that he will create. Smith will make connections with specific curators and critics, galleries, and museums.

GREATER MINNESOTA

CRAIG EDWARDS, a potter from New London, will spend three weeks in South Korea and Japan to learn more about the forms, kilns and glazes of folk pottery. He's interested in the hand building and wood firing techniques used by the Onggi potters of Korea and the Mengei of Japan. He'll visit kiln sites in five different provinces in Korea, looking at design, construction materials, firing processes, firing materials, and the rhythm and routine of the annual production and firing cycles. He'll visit museums, and the leading proponent of the Mengei Movement in Mashiko, Japan.

SAM SPICZKA, a sculptor from Sartell, will spend three weeks visiting large-scale outdoor sculpture venues and artists on a road trip exploring the nature of large-scale outdoor sculpture in America today. He'll visit and document through photography and writing major sculpture venues between Minnesota and the East Coast, and will meet with sculptors along the way. This information will feed his professional and aesthetic development, enable him to critically assess his strengths and weaknesses, and assist him in understanding the place of his own work within a broader context.

PATRICK KELLEY, a web artist based in Northfield, will spend ten days at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colorado. Kelley does research dealing with philosophies of imaging and notions of language and visualization, while at the same time undertaking a practical examination of digital imaging tools in light of photography's and image-making's history. He'll participate in a workshop titled *Web Animation for Artists*, taught by new media artists Joshua Davis and Mark Tribe, and focusing on the web as an artistic medium. He'll also spend some time making new images while in the east Snowmass wilderness area.

Arts administrator and arts educator **KAREN KRAUSE**, New Richland, Minnesota, will spend three weeks in central Europe meeting with other arts administrators, taking classes designed to develop her own work, and creating a pilot international art exchange program for elementary children. This will likely take the form of two communities collaborating via artist teacher exchange and exhibitions of student work, sponsored by the Waseca Art Center.

For further information about these grants, please contact Jerome Foundation Vice President Vickie Benson or President Cynthia Gehrig at 651.224.9431 or 1.800.995.3766. Visit the Jerome Foundation on the Web at www.jeromefdn.org.

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