

# TRAVEL AND STUDY GRANT PROGRAM

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The General Mills Foundation, the Art and Martha Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation and the Jerome Foundation announce the 2009 Travel and Study Grant Program recipients. Thirty-three grants totaling \$127,827, ranging in size from \$1,275 to \$5,000, were authorized. The Travel and Study Grant Program awards grants to emerging artists in Minnesota and the five boroughs of New York City, and arts administrators in Minnesota. Funds are authorized to support travel for the purpose of professional development. Grant categories for this round were music, theater and visual arts. Panels in each arts discipline reviewed 349 applications, 138 from Minnesota and 211 from New York City. The panels' recommendations were reviewed by Jerome Foundation Directors, who authorized the following grants.

### MUSIC

The Music Panel reviewed 43 applications, 17 from Minnesota and 26 from New York City. Panelists were director, performer and composer Nirmala Rajasekar, Plymouth, Minnesota; cellist and composer Michelle Kinney, Golden Valley, Minnesota; and New York City-based performer, bandleader, composer and interdisciplinary collaborator Taylor Ho Bynum.

Composer, bassist, and educator **JIM ANTON**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to Havana, Cuba, to study all aspects of Cuban music with master musicians, thereby increasing the authenticity of his approach and advancing his confidence and creativity for the composition of future works incorporating a strong Latin influence.

Composers **KATIE DOWN**, **JEFFREY LEPENDORF** and **MIGUEL FRASCONI**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Bulgaria and Macedonia to study with Shaqir Hoti, Kremena Stancheva, Goran Alacki, and Bajsa Arifovska, masters of traditional instrument making, music styles and performance technique. This is an ensemble of classically trained flutists and composers working with improvisation, electronics and experimental instruments. The primary goal is to inform the trio's improvisational work and expand their experience as composers.

Laptop composer and sound artist **SAWAKO KATO**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to the Florida Keys to research echolocation, a sensory sonar system used by dolphins, to gather field recordings from the oceanic soundscape of the area, and to find inspiration for a new work involving underwater sound. Kato plans to attend a formalized program through the Dolphin Research Center in addition to the field recording work. Kato engages in prolific audio file exchange with other composers.

Electronic composer, sound and multimedia artist **LUIS MAURETTE**, New York City, will travel to Chile and Argentina to conduct cultural research along the Qnapac Ñan (Main Inca Road) from Santiago, Chile, to La Quica, Argentina. While there, he plans to research the charango, a small South American stringed instrument used in the traditional music of the area and central to his compositions. He will collect field recordings, meet with musicians and music scholars, and talk with people along the way about the stories and beliefs behind the music.

Composer and vocalist **MANKWE NDOSI**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and to the Arusha Region, Zanzibar, for two months to learn, study and record music from the Meru people of Tanzania and to look for a musical mentor for further study. Ndosu plans to study and record the tribal music of her family's ethnic group, the Meru, a rural agricultural tribe relying on oral tradition. She also plans to attend the Basaza Music and Cultural Festival in Zanzibar and to connect to other teachers through universities.

**JENNIFER SHYU**, composer, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist residing in Bronx, New York, will travel to Dili, East Timor, and throughout West Timor, to research and document Timorese music focusing on the ritual music and dance of the Wehali Settlement. She is also investigating the transmutation of fado music from the Portuguese colonization of East Timor.

## THEATER

The Theater Panel examined 94 applications: 59 from New York City and 35 from Minnesota. Panelists were Noël Raymond, Co-Artistic Director of Pillsbury House Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Paul Slee, Executive Director of Ensemble Studio Theatre, New York City.

Playwright **KELI GARRETT**, St. Paul, Minnesota, will travel to New Orleans, Louisiana, to study and research the life of Homer A. Plessy and the historic Black neighborhood of Faubourg Tremé in the city of New Orleans. The research will fuel her new play *Zebra(s)*.

**KATORI HALL**, a playwright from New York City, will travel to Kigali, Rwanda, to learn about the Rwandan genocide through the Summer Rwandan Genocide Studies program. She will use the information she learns about the history, politics and current societal structure of Rwanda as the cultural context for a new play.

Playwright **CORY HINKLE**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to Oklahoma and Kansas to do historical research on the creation of each of the two states and the failed attempt by Native Americans to create their own separate state, Sequoyah. Hinkle hopes to incorporate the research into a new play examining issues of American myths, dreams and cycles of injustice and violence.

Performance artist **SOOZIN HIRSCHMUGL**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to England to study spectacle theater and celebratory art traditions of England's Horse and Bamboo Theater, The Heben Parade, The Liverpool Lantern Theater, and Walk the Plank Theater. She will utilize and integrate new skills and techniques in her work with Barebones Productions, a Minneapolis-based collective of visual and performing artists who create installations and performances.

**SAMUEL D. HUNTER**, a playwright residing in New York City, will travel to the Precious Moments Chapel and Park in Carthage, Missouri, to conduct research for his play *meat*, which centers on the culture surrounding Precious Moments. Inspired by Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel in Rome, Precious Moments artist and creator Sam Butcher designed and constructed the Chapel as an extension of the spiritual ideas behind his figurines of teardrop-eyed children he calls "Precious Moments".

Puppeteer and performance artist **MASANARI KAWAHARA**, St. Paul, Minnesota, will travel to the Deer Park Monastery in Escondido, California, to participate in a retreat led by Thich Nhat Hahn. Kawahara is developing a puppet show entitled *A Path Home: A Story of Thich Nhat Hanh* about Hanh's life teachings—especially focused on his peace activism in Vietnam and the U.S. Kawahara expects that this focused experience will bring real-world insight and spiritual foundation to the new work.

**ALISSA MELLO**, puppeteer and playwright living in Jackson Heights in Queens, New York, will travel to Charleville—Mézière, France, to participate in a one-month workshop led by Philippe Genty and Mary Underwood, founders of the Compagnie Philippe Genty, renowned for visual theater that combines puppetry, dance, and illusion. Mello is interested in expanding her artistic palette and exploring new

techniques to work with performers, transform raw materials and performing objects, and use performer generated content as part of the creative development process.

**ANNA MOENCH**, New York City, will travel to Beijing; Loess Plateau Chenjiayuan, Shaanxi Province; Qinjiagelao, Shaanxi Prov; Lanquan, Shaanxi, China, to research the rural Chinese folk custom of minghun (afterlife or spirit marriage). She will consult with experts at Tsinghua University and attend Peking opera and puppetry performances in Beijing. She wants to incorporate this research into a new play.

Playwright **AAMERA SIDDIQUI**, St. Paul, Minnesota, will travel to Mumbai, India, to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Women Playwrights International (WPI) Conference. Siddiqui is invested in the conference's aim to explore new emerging relationships among nation states, cultures, races, languages, religions and faiths with special reference to liberty and tolerance. She expects to return from this conference with increased knowledge, a deeper understanding of her craft, renewed energy to create, and more meaningful ingredients to add to her work.

**KATIE KA VANG**, Hmong performance and spoken word artist living in St. Paul, Minnesota, will travel to Wisconsin, California, Ohio, Georgia, and North Carolina to gather interviews from Hmong Bollywood choreographers and dancers to enrich her next project *Hmong Bollywood*, a performance art piece in which Bollywood movies recount pivotal moments in her life. The politically exiled Hmong have extensively reworked and re-produced Bollywood movies, including Hmong dubbing of these Hindi films. Vang is interested in using this phenomenon to explore issues of identity as a second generation Hmong woman.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

The Visual Arts Travel and Study Program Panel reviewed 211 applications, 86 from Minnesota and 125 from New York City. Panelists were curator Yasmil Raymond, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota; artist Andrea Carlson, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Eric Heist, artist and Director, Momenta Art, Brooklyn, New York.

Artist **IAN BURNS** of Brooklyn, New York, will travel to the Arctic Circle, north of the Svalbard archipelago of islands, on a collaborative voyage with artists, scientists and educators. He believes that the landscape and natural environment will have an impact on his artistic sensibilities, as will engaging with the other passengers on the ship. He intends to investigate sculptural forms and language in the context of the voyage and bring back new methods to apply in his studio.

Artist **ROBERT DE SAINT PHALLE**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Paris and Saint Phalle (Provence), France, to conduct research for a series of sculptures exploring his relationship to his cousin Niki de Saint Phalle, French painter and sculptor (1930-2002), and the complex role of gender in his family history and art. The goal is to create new work that engages the formal and psycho-linguistic framing of gender.

**CAMERON GAINER**, artist, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to San Juan and Vieques, Puerto Rico, to deepen his scientific, artistic and linguistic capabilities, while forging the foundation for a future body of artworks. He intends to research the bioluminescent dinoflagellate organism and its delicate habitat by working with Ivelisse Johnson and Mark Martin at the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust. He will also study the history and formal elements of synchronized swimming with the former Olympian Luna del Mar Aquila in San Juan.

Artist **ELAINE GAN**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Manila, Philippines, to research, locate and document various spatial forms, urban zones and gated communities that reflect uneven geographical development and growing disparities in distributions of capital/commonwealth. Gan is an artist working in the public domain to reconfigure urban spaces, social roles and popular images. Her research will focus on spatial forms, urbanization processes and human migrations/displacements that

have shifted or developed as a result of specific sociopolitical events beginning with the 1986 “People Power Revolution.” She seeks to construct a visual constellation of built environments as spatial products linked to contemporary neoliberal and postcolonial occupations.

**BEN HEYWOOD**, Executive Director of The Soap Factory, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to Venice, Italy, to attend the 53rd Venice Biennale. The Soap Factory supports new and emerging practice across the visual arts. The Venice Biennale, since its founding in 1882, has promoted new artistic trends and organized international events in the contemporary arts in accordance with a multi-disciplinary model. This trip will be a powerful professional development opportunity for Heywood to connect with what is new in a global contemporary arts context.

Photographer **LEIGH LEDARE**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Moscow, Russia, to continue research on a Russian motorcycle gang, the Night Wolves, before and during their annual meeting in Moscow. Ledare is investigating Russian subculture and youth culture. He sees their social practices as alternative models for participation in society. Ledare’s expectations of this trip are to collect materials and establish connections that will lead to a broader film/photography/archive project exploring the group’s cultural positioning as well as his relationship to them as a documentarian.

**CONOR MCGRADY** and **DARIO SOLMAN**, artists living in Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Croatia, Slovenia and Macedonia to interview select cultural leaders on the nature of mythology and ideology and to document architecture and urban spaces to form the basis for a new collaborative body of work. The artists employ a similar aesthetic approach featuring the iconographic use of the future to represent the individual’s relationship to ideology and power. The impact of shifting mythologies in these geographic locations, their impact on urban space and concepts of national identity, will form the basis for the research trip.

Artist **JEANINE OLESON**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Svalbard, Norway, Boston and Philadelphia to research post-apocalyptic images. She proposes a visual cultural analysis of language, images, the science of potential destruction and apocalyptic drawings. She is interested in the efficacy of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault or “Doomsday Vault,” a secure seedbank established to preserve a wide variety of worldwide plant seeds in an underground cavern as a refuge in case of large scale regional or global crises. She will also conduct research at the Center for Millennial Studies at Boston University and consult with a professor of Mathematics and Physics at the University of Science in Philadelphia. She will incorporate this research into the production of critical writings, performance, film, photographic works and performative public projects.

Artist **JESSICA ANN PEAVY**, New York City, will travel to Jamaica to study rituals of consumption in the African-inspired Pocomania and Revivalist churches and Dancehalls, which are rooted in ceremonial practice, Christian ideology, African psychology and performance. Peavy will research and develop artistic concepts, building upon earlier investigations in the United States and West Africa. The material gathered will be valuable in contextualizing the complex nature of consumption and the black female existence and perception of form.

**DAVID PETERSEN**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to Greensboro, North Carolina, to work with and study the artist-run Elsewhere Artist Collaborative, in order to further his development as an artist, curator and organizer. Peterson is Artistic Director of the artist-run gallery Art of This. In residence with the Elsewhere Artist Collaborative, he will explore and develop as a multidisciplinary artist, broaden the scope of his practice and expand the possibilities for residencies and installations at Art of This.

**MARGARET PEZALLA-GRANLUND**, artist, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to Boston/Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C., to study collections of mathematical models and meet mathematicians, historians and designers to discuss folding, curves and modeling geometric shapes. She seeks a deeper understanding of the mathematical and engineering principles behind her structures and inspiration for paper engineering, the construction of complex models, and new materials and fabrication techniques.

**STEPHANIE POWELL**, an artist based in Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Yokosuka, Japan, to research the history of the U.S. Military naval base where she was born and to Tokyo to study the theatrics and narrative structure of the post World War II art form, Butoh, at the Dairakudakan School. Powell's intent is to learn through Butoh new ways of using the body in space. She also hopes to find inspiration for future images to express the tensions of being mixed race, Japanese and American.

**TRAVIS SPANGLER, AKI SHIBATA, KATHLEEN MALONEY AND MARCUS YOUNG**, St. Paul, Minnesota, constitute Grace MN, an artists' collective and behavioral art studio whose work centers on the internal and civic life, creating personal practice and collective experiences. The collective will travel to Thich Nhat Hanh's Blue Cliff Monastery, New York, and to New York City. The Monastery will be a retreat for meditation, research and development of collective practices. In New York City, the collective will do further research and development for an ongoing work of public dancing titled *Don't You Feel It Too?*

Artist **CHRISTIAN TOMASZEWSKI**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to the Lake Titicaca Region, Puma, Peru, to study with Uro Indians the art of creating an artificial island. The installation works that he creates explore the narrative potential of space, architecture and habitat. He is investigating the physical craft of making a functional island and the more philosophical aspect of creating one's own space or land. This trip will be an opportunity to reexamine his practice and approach to art-making.

**MEGAN E. VOSSLER**, artist, Minneapolis, Minnesota, will travel to national parks and land art sites in Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. She will visit, explore and draw in these areas for the purpose of broadening her use of landscape in drawing. The focus of her current work is the tense, exploratory relationship between human beings and an overpowering landscape. The trip will allow her to explore more dramatic vistas and collect first-hand reference material.

Artist **LAN TUAZON**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Berlin, Prague, Paris, Palermo and Vienna to understand each city's unique features of urban planning that historically made them susceptible to riots and insurrections. Tuazon's work is about the urban landscape, how political history is written (or erased) and how social spaces modify the social life of the city. She will make observational drawing studies to inform her understanding of the life and flow of cities and to generate an ideal political and social space.

**ROSEMARY WILLIAMS**, artist, St. Paul, Minnesota, will travel to Davos, Switzerland, to gather material on the World Economic Forum, which meets there each year, and to explore the setting of Thomas Mann's 1925 novel *The Magic Mountain*. She will mine visual and conceptual material to build a new body of work centering on these two facets of the small mountain village. This research trip continues her exploration of the intersection of capitalism, society, power and institutions, as well as public and private spheres.

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For further information about these grants, please contact, Program Director Robert Byrd, Program Officer Eleanor Savage or President Cynthia Gehrig at 651.224.9431 or 1.800.995.3766. Visit the Jerome Foundation on the Web at [www.jeromefdn.org](http://www.jeromefdn.org).

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