

TRAVEL AND STUDY GRANT PROGRAM

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THE ART AND MARTHA KAEMMER FUND
OF HRK FOUNDATION
AND THE **JEROME FOUNDATION**

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

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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 2007 Travel and Study Grant Program recipients. Twenty-nine grants totaling \$126,550, ranging in size from \$1,000 to \$5,000, were authorized. The Travel and Study Grant Program awards grants to independent emerging artists in Minnesota and the five boroughs of New York. Funds are authorized to support travel for the purpose of professional development. Grant categories for this round were music, theater and visual arts. Three-person panels in each eligible arts discipline reviewed 432 applications; 182 from Minnesota and 250 from New York City. The panels' recommendations were reviewed by the Jerome Foundation Directors, who authorized the following grants.

MUSIC

The Music Panel reviewed 64 applications; 35 from Minnesota and 29 from New York City. Panelists were composer Brent Michael Davids, Minnesota; songwriter, musician, and Director of Artist Services at Springboard for the Arts, Chris Osgood, Minnesota; and Zeena Parkins, experimental composer and performer, New York City.

Composer **SIDIKI CONDE**, New York City, will travel to Salvadore, Brazil, to explore the African influences on Afro-Brazilian Candomble ritual music. He will collaborate with Tigana, a drummer and scholar of African traditions, and visual artist Rodrigo Bueno.

Composer **AMIR ELSAFFAR**, New York City, will travel to Baku, Azerbaijan, to study the Mugam repertoire, the classical music of Azerbaijan, and to learn the ways in which Mugam melodies and structures have been used in the creation of new works, particularly in the jazz idiom. Mugam is the Azeri manifestation of a larger musical phenomenon known as Maqam. ElSaffar will study vocal techniques with two experts and explore approaches to applying Maqam techniques to jazz through study with noted Jazz musicians.

Composer and pipa master **GAO HONG**, Minnesota, will travel to Beijing and Henan Province, China, to study and document Buddhist temple music at the Zhihua Temple in Beijing and at the Shaolin Temple in Henan Province. Gao Hong wishes to contribute to the preservation of Buddhist Temple music and promote its performance. She will record the music as sung and played by monks, and then transcribe the music and arrange it for pipa, choir and other instruments to promote wider performance and recording.

Composer and performer **DOUGLAS LITTLE**, Minnesota, will travel to Salvador Bahia, Brazil, to study Brazilian music at its source in order to improve the quality of his compositions and inspire them in new and dynamic ways. Little will undergo a specific course of study over a six week period with Bira Reis, a percussion specialist, and other performers. These experiences will fuel Little's artistic output as a composer and ensemble leader.

Composer **JEREMY R. WALKER**, Minnesota, will travel to New York, New Orleans, and East Lansing, Michigan, to participate in intensive study of composition and piano with acknowledged jazz masters. Walker is transitioning from a saxophonist to composer/pianist because of health problems that prevent him from playing the saxophone. He will study with Ted Nash and Frank Kimbrough in New York, travel to Michigan to study with Wessel Anderson and then move to New Orleans to study with Ellis Marsalis.

Composer and performer **JENNIFER WEIR**, Minnesota, will travel to Seoul, Korea, to study traditional Korean Samulnori drumming, specifically the hourglass shaped changgo drum. Weir is a founding performing member of Mu Daiko in Minneapolis and a member of the all-women's ensemble JoDaiko. Weir's purpose, in this trip, is to integrate Korean and Japanese musical influences in her taiko compositions, and better reflect her identity in her art. The travel will inspire a new composition, tentatively titled *Unknown Home*. She will study Korean drumming with Dong-Won Kim in Seoul.

THEATER

The Theater Panel examined 80 applications: 51 from New York City and 29 from Minnesota. Panelists were playwright Ed Bok Lee, Minnesota; Artistic Director of Skewed Visions, Gülgün Kayim, Minnesota; and Tim Sanford, Artistic Director of Playwrights Horizons, New York City.

Playwright and performer **SHÁ CAGE**, Minnesota, will travel to New York City, Leeds, and London to research and develop a new one-woman show titled *N.I.G.G.E.R.*, which examines the controversial affirmation and rejection of this word over the years—from a female perspective. She will conduct interviews, view plays and performances and attend festivals and workshops. She will attend the Hip Hop Theater Festival in New York; the New Voices Conference in Leeds, England; the Decibel International Performance Theater Showcase in England; and performance events in London.

Playwright **SHEILA CALLAGHAN**, New York City, will travel to Berlin and Frankfurt to study the work that Berlin theaters are doing, and then build a piece collaboratively with the theater artists in German Theater Abroad. She will meet with various artistic directors and attend performances in Berlin and Frankfurt.

Playwright **JORGE IGNACIO CORTIÑAS**, New York City, will travel to Caracas, Venezuela, to conduct interviews, attend plays and collaborate closely with theater artists to understand better how theater functions in a changing society. The ultimate goal is the creation of a new play on the issues raised by Venezuela's socialist experiment. He will meet with Artistic Directors of Venezuela's National Theater and Gimnasio de Actores and observe their work.

Opera singer, performer and composer **SUSAN OETGEN**, New York City, will travel to Parris Island, South Carolina (USMC Recruit Depot), to observe and investigate the general history, character and culture of life on Parris Island; the "command voice" as demonstrated by USMC Drill Instructors; and Marine Corps cadence—its use as a physical training tool and its role in forging group identity. The experience will inform the creation of a chamber opera in which she will employ music, dialogue and dance to examine and explore the seeming impossibility of reconciling the social identities of artist and warrior.

Playwright **MARCIE RENDON**, Minnesota, will travel to Bega, New South Wales, and Melbourne, Australia, to conduct research for a play that explores such questions as: why and how do Native American expatriates connect so intensely with Aboriginal people and spiritual communications in Australia; and how do their shared histories of being invaded by English-speaking, protestant peoples and forced boarding schools polarize these two indigenous groups as soul mates across continents? She will conduct interviews. She is at a stage in the development of the play when having a physical visit to place and people will help move the script to fruition.

Artistic Directors **DAWN STOPPIELLO** and **MARK CONIGLIO**, New York City, will travel to Berlin, Germany, to work closely with dramaturge Peter Salis on Troika Ranch's next evening-length hybrid performance piece and to study German in an immersive class in Berlin. Working with Salis will be the first time that the two Artistic Directors of Troika Ranch have included a dramaturge during the formative stages of a new work. Salis previously worked with them on examining how viewers will read iconic images in different ways depending upon the practices established in the piece itself. The three weeks of study will enable the artists to analyze images and narratives, clarify themes, edit images and gain a greater understanding of creative processes and narrative choices.

KELLY STUART and **EMRAH KANISICAK**, New York City, will travel to Turkey to interview, transcribe and translate songs and stories of The Dengbej Singers, and then use this material to create a music-theatre piece. Their collaborative work will focus on the act of translation, and loss of a culture, specifically Kurdish culture in Turkey. The Dengbej Singers carry cultural stories through music and oral literature. Their study will be assisted by a connection with the Dicle First Culture Center and by a connection with singer Shoe Shiner Seyidxan.

Performing artists, creators and clowns **GALEN TREUER**, **NOAH BREMER**, **MEGAN ODELL** AND **VANESSA VOSKUIL**, Minnesota, will travel to Campinas, Brazil, to attend two weeks of intensive study with the Lume Teatro company. Coinciding with the Carnival season, Lume's intensive workshops encompass clowns, butoh, dance and theater practices. The four artists expect to be artistically and physically challenged and will return to Minnesota with new skills to enrich their art making and teaching.

Bedlam Theatre Artistic Director **MAREN WARD**, Minnesota, will participate in the Cornerstone Institute for community-based theater in Holtville, California. This is part of a six-month study and exploration of various techniques and processes for creating original theater with community. She seeks to understand her own work in a larger context, expand her creation tool box and, ultimately, strengthen the quality and impact of the performances she creates.

VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts Travel and Study Program Panel reviewed 266 applications, 110 from Minnesota and 156 from New York City. Panelists were artist Xavier Tavera, Minnesota; artist and professor David Paul Lange, Minnesota; and Sofia Hernández Chong Cuy, Curator/Program Manager, Art in General, New York City.

FELIPE ARTURO, New York City, will travel the path of the Amazon River from the Andes to the Atlantic Ocean, drawing parallels between that experience and the creation of new work. He's presently producing a body of work on the history of the rubber trade and expects this journey to lead his work in new yet connected directions. This travel is an exercise in merging the realities of art with the nature of a distant reality.

Conceptual artist **MATTHEW BAKKOM**, Minnesota, will visit research holdings in two archives, the Municipal Archives of the City of New York and the National Archives Still and Motion Picture Division in College Park, Maryland. At the Municipal Archives, he will continue research to further the project *New York City Museum of Complaint*, a public art project based on a collection of mayoral correspondence. In College Park, Maryland, he will focus on images detailing operations of the Drug Enforcement Agency between the years of 1973 and 1985. This research will inform ongoing public art investigations.

LAURA CARTON, New York City, will travel to Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Shanghai to meet with company executives in the pornography industry to inform her work *Investor Relations*. This multidisciplinary visual arts-based work is an investigation into the political economy of corporate America in terms of the pornography industry. She will attend two trade fairs, one in Las Vegas and the other in Shanghai, and will meet with company executives in Los Angeles. This will inform the research and development phase of her work, and allow her to examine the possibility of collaboration.

Photographer **LOURDES DELGADO**, New York City, will travel to Rochester and Dundee, New York, to learn a 19th century photographic process from John Coffey in Dundee, and to research the 19th century photography collection at the Eastman House Museum in Rochester. She will learn how to make ambrotypes, ferrotypes, glass plate negatives and albumen photographic prints from Coffey. This will help her take a step forward in her own work in the wet plate medium. At Eastman in Rochester, she will study a collection of 19th century wet plate photographs of the American West and Civil War.

Photographer **KRISTINE HEYKANTS**, Minnesota, will travel to Italy to compile visual research and glean new subject matter for photographic imagery. She is especially interested in old and deteriorating locations. This trip is designed to inform her ideas about parallels and contradictions between older European culture and contemporary American culture.

YOKO INOUE, New York City, will travel to Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia to do preparatory research for the development of a performance and installation art project, which probes the import and export practices associated with Andean wool products and investigates the effect of global trade on native culture. *Transmigration of the SOLD* is a two-year project that examines how heritage industries can promote stability and positive assimilation for immigrants. A trip to the sources of these industries will enable Inoue to be in direct contact with local makers, especially the women's cooperatives in the Andean regions of the three countries.

SWATI KHURANA, New York City, will travel to The Gambia, Senegal and Ghana, meeting artists, arts professionals, students and scholars, and researching how popular culture impacts visual culture. Her work mines personal narratives and explores immigrant issues with a focus on gender, rituals and the seductive promises made by popular culture. She is specifically interested in how Bollywood cinema is received in places outside of India. She will take video footage and digital photographs for her library of source materials, including images of traditional ceremonies and motifs on objects.

FAWN KRIEGER, New York City, will travel to Berlin, Germany, to visit the Trümmerbergen, rubble mountains constructed by women after World War II. She expects this to inform a new body of work. Krieger is interested in the community of women warriors who transformed rubble into the shape of land and scarred cities into communities. Her practice is the search for intimate encounter and forgotten subjective histories, surfacing them through sculptural and architectural installations. There are eight recorded Trümmerbergen in Berlin.

LIZE MOGEL, New York City, will travel to Shanghai and Shenzhen, China, to research World Fair sites as a jumping-off point to create work about globalization. She will see the construction site of Expo 2010, the World's Fair under development on the Huangpu Riverfront in Shanghai, and a new factory city in Shenzhen where 400,000 workers will produce goods for global consumption. This would be her first opportunity to visit a World's Fair site during its planning and construction phases. This trip will yield rich source material to continue her *mappamundi* body of work in which she conflates real and imaginary geographies.

Photographer **JUSTIN NEWHALL**, Minnesota, will travel to Churchill, Manitoba, reflecting on his craft while exploring the possibilities for a new body of work in, and on his way to, this area, the northernmost terminus of the Canadian Railway. Aesthetically, he is investigating light—the lack of it and its seemingly unended presence. Newhall will also explore imagery about the subject of “North” in a way that goes beyond simple documentation and becomes a meditation on the idea of place. He also seeks to reflect and grow in a place where stillness and solitude are still possible.

Painter and video artist **CAITLIN PARKER**, New York City, will travel to the Ukraine to conduct research and gather video footage of the area surrounding the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. This visual exploration will inform the development of a new body of work. She is searching for a narrative in her

work, which can only be cultivated through firsthand experience. She will focus on locations within the “exclusion zone”, landscapes, ghost towns, and herds of wild horses.

Photographer **XAVIERA SIMMONS**, New York City, will travel to Istanbul, Turkey, to study the history of that country’s women’s rights movement with a focus on birthing and child bearing practices, through meetings with women’s advocacy and health organizations. Simmons expects the journey to enrich, enlighten and encourage her artistic pursuits. Her photographs explore a non-fixed and multiple self.

LAURA SPLAN, New York City, will travel to Chicago, Illinois; Washington, D.C.; London, England; and Rome and Florence, Italy; to study the history of medical instruments, imaging and procedures, particularly the unique histories behind instrument invention and development within their respective cultural and scientific contexts. Splan is interested in the cultural relationships between form and function. These investigations will inform her conceptually and research based work, which attempts to represent the complex cultural histories within science.

JENNIFER HAYASHIDA and **BENJAMIN GERDES**, New York City, will travel to various locations in Sweden to conduct field and secondary research into the life and significance of The Match King, Swedish industrialist Ivar Kreuger (1880-1932), founder of the match stick empire Swedish Match. This will inform their project ***Room of the Sun*** (working title), taken from the name used for the room housing the planetarium Kreuger built in his Park Avenue apartment in New York. The multiple channels and visual/sound overlays of the projected installation are intended to represent the complex linkages between Krueger’s economic and political ideologies, and the relationship between Kreuger and light.

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