

Inspiration Grants for 2013

ROUND ONE:

Lisa Lala: (\$875)

Inspiration funding will provide support for professional consultations needed to help create a finished working prototype of specialized video equipment and a custom-built structure needed for a new body of work by visual artist Lisa Lala. Well known for her successful oil paintings, Lisa's new works will be innovative light sculptures that will incorporate LED's and processed digital video elements. This project will mark a major new direction for Lisa's career.

Skye Livingston: (\$875)

Her first solo exhibition is the focus of this request from emerging artist Skye Livingston. She plans to combine large-scale digital prints of her intimate images of the thin, translucent inner membranes of a grapefruit, painstakingly skinned, then stitched, pinned and dried, with the sensory experiences of smelling and tasting the actual flesh of the same fruit. The exhibition is scheduled for the Project Space at Paragraph Gallery in July of 2013.

Whitney Manney: (\$800)

A grant from the ArtsKC Fund will help visual artist and fashion designer Whitney Manney create corporate fabrics generated from digitized images of her work for use in the designs for her WHITNEYMANNEY Spring/Summer 2014 clothing line, to be presented this fall at Kansas City Fashion Week. The printed fabrics will complement the hand dyed and block printed patterns that she will also continue to create as part of her signature look.

Eugenia Ortiz: (\$1,000)

Visual artist Eugenia Ortiz will receive funding to train in the use of fiberglass and resins to create her large scale fabric sculptures, rather than the metal frameworks that she is accustomed to using. Successful use of these new materials will help her to pursue her goal of creating large scale public art pieces for outdoor installation. Eugenia received a previous Inspiration grant to help complete a massive installation piece for her MFA thesis solo exhibition at KU.

Mark Southerland: (\$2,000)

Musician and installation artist Mark Southerland leads a team of five artists working on a new performance installation work about nomadic cultures in the digital universe, designed with a goal of museum exhibition in addition to touring opportunities. Inspiration funds will pay for the creation of an enormous costume/set sculpture piece as the central core focus of the installation. Mark has been a primary partner on 2 previous Inspiration grants, working first on a jazz concert with musician Jeff Harshbarger and then on "We" with dancer/choreographer Jane Gotch.

Paul Anthony Smith: (\$1,025)

ArtsKC funding will support some of the expenses for visual artist Paul Anthony Smith to attend the prestigious Art Omi Artists Residency program for three weeks this summer in New York. Paul was selected by Art Omi as its annual representative from the Kansas City region, an honor that is also accompanied by support from Charlotte Street Foundation for this trip, and he was recently recognized as a 2013 Charlotte Street Visual Arts Award Fellowship.

ROUND TWO:

Jeff Harshbarger: (\$1,000)

This Inspiration grant will support "The Sounds of True Grit" at the Kansas City Public Library's Helzberg Auditorium as a part of The Big Read 2013. Musician Jeff Harshbarger and his newest ensemble, The Revisionists, will perform music that would have been heard by the characters in the novel "True Grit" by Charles Portis.

Kari Johnson: (\$1,000)

Kari Johnson, pianist, and Chin Ting (Patrick) Chan, composer, are seeking travel support to travel to South Korea to perform Patrick's difficult and experimental piece, "time, forward," for piano and live electronics, as part of the 2013 Seoul International Computer Music Festival (SICMF). Typically only one or two U.S based composers are invited each year to attend this event, and the artists say that they are "delighted and humbled to be asked" to present "time, forward" this year.

Kim Shope: (\$500)

Dancer and choreographer Kim Shope has been accepted to attend the prestigious National Dance Institute of New Mexico's Teaching Excellence Training Workshop, where she will pursue her goal of creating original and exciting dance and movement programs for Kansas City's public school children culminating in live performances. The Inspiration funds would support travel to Ms. Shope's travel to Albuquerque, the site of NDI-NM, where the purpose of their distinctive program is to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves through the creative arts that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.

Laura Isaac: (\$1,000)

Multi-disciplinary artists Laura and James Isaac will receive funding for "Into the Night Sea," a series of short films and their accompanying soundtrack. The work navigates the unsettling world of childhood nightmares by combining films, visual art, photography, and dance with an accompanying soundtrack of re-imagined traditional lullabies, and will be presented at the Toy and Miniature Museum of Kansas City.

Matt Otto: (\$1,000)

Musician Matt Otto and The People's Liberation Big Band of Greater Kansas City will be creating and performing new original music scores to three short silent films by Vladislav Starevich, an early pioneer of stop-motion animation, as part of the ArtSounds concert series. ArtsKC funds will help pay for musician fees for the project, which also includes recording the pieces for future production as a DVD and for marketing purposes.

Steven L. Gorman: (\$500)

Ceramicist Steve Gorman will use ArtsKC funding for expenses to attend a workshop at Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN on printmaking techniques such as screen printing, mono-printing and relief printing onto clay. Attending this work shop will increase his ability to efficiently transfer crisp clean imagery to his sculptures, and also provide ample opportunities for developing relationships and conversing with other artists, giving him the chance to be exposed to new concepts and possibilities for working with clay.

ROUND THREE:

Christian Hankel: (\$500)

Musician Christian Hankel and record label Money Wolf Music, a local record label and musicians collective, would receive funds to offset the expense necessary to arrange for over 40 of their affiliated artists and personnel to attend the annual International Folk Conference, to be held for the first time in Kansas City in February of 2014. Their participation will enable these musical artists to have immediate and intimate contact with music industry professionals who can directly impact their careers.

STAFF NOTES: Christian benefitted previously from two previous Inspiration Grants, first from a marketing grant to cabaret musicians Alacartoon, and then in support of The Monocle's production of "A Orphan's Feast" at the Arts Asylum.

Elizabeth Allen-Cannon: (\$500)

This Inspiration grant would support five Kansas City artists to take part in a group exhibition at Roots and Culture Contemporary Art Center in Chicago, Illinois that will be co-curated by visual artists Elizabeth Allen-Cannon and Mesplay Helm. In addition to the works of the curators, the exhibition will also feature Matt Roche, Danni Parelman and Patrick Egger.

John Raux: (\$1,000)

Visual artist John Raux is seeking support to travel to Germany for a 3-month residency program at Takt Kunstprojektraum in Berlin in the eastern art district of Friedrichshain. While there he plans to explore the spectrum of movement (physical & emotional) in his gestural and contemplative paintings and writing in collaboration with resident musicians and dancers to create a multimedia experience.

Marco Rosichelli: (\$500)

The Inspiration Grant would support attendance by sculptor and visual artist Marco Rosichelli art a residency with the Pottery Workshop in Jingdezhen, China, porcelain capitol of the world. While there he will begin work on PandaMontana, a major installation project to be realized and documented later next year.

Maria Cuevas: (\$1,000)

Sisters Maria and Tess Cuevas request funding to produce a vinyl version of "Moon Colored Jade," the debut recording from Maris the Mexican, their popular musical act with a bilingual sound described as Americana soul meets Mexicana groove. A group of 15 musicians from the Kansas City area, including members of the Kansas City Symphony and the UMKC Conservatory, performed with Maria and Tess on the 12 compositions included on the recording.

Maura Garcia: (\$1,296)

Dancer and choreographer Maura Garcia has requested an Inspiration grant to help her to attend and perform at the "Talking Stick Festival," a two week celebration serving to promote the contemporary indigenous artistic expression of Aboriginal music, dance, theater and storytelling in Vancouver, Canada. Her work was selected through the Festival's submission process and she plans to perform, screen and discuss a dance/art video, and teach.

Melaney Mitchell: (\$500)

Curator of the Underground Gallery, Melaney Mitchell has proposed the creation of Informality, a new art and culture blog that focuses on Kansas City with the goal of helping local visual artists, writers, and thinkers engage with the worldwide community online. Inspiration grant funds would pay writers and editors to generate written content and fund educational gallery programming that would directly impact Informality.

Miles Neidinger: (\$500)

This grant would support a solo exhibition by visual artist Miles Neidinger at City Ice Arts, his first solo show in 10 years. The exhibition would also mark the first display by the artist, known primarily for his sculptural installations, of his 2-dimensional work.