



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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**11 Oregon artists receive 2015 Career Opportunity Grants
from the Oregon Arts Commission and The Ford Family Foundation**

In the first of three rounds of 2015 Career Opportunity Grants, the Oregon Arts Commission and The Ford Family Foundation have awarded \$41,645 to 11 artists for career development projects. The awards include \$15,750 from the Oregon Arts Commission and \$25,895 in supplemental funding for eight artists through a partnership with The Ford Family Foundation. Individual grants range from \$800 to \$8,990.

Career Opportunity Grants fund opportunities for artists to further their careers in areas that include artistic, business or professional development. The Ford Family Foundation Opportunity grants are available only to Oregon mid-career visual artists who are over 30 years of age and actively producing new work in the fields of fine art and contemporary craft.

Most of the grants support the artists' participation in residencies, exhibitions or performance opportunities that advance their careers.

"These grants are designed to accelerate an artist's development," said Avantika Bawa, the arts commissioner who chaired the review panel. "At a critical time in their careers, we want to provide the catalyst for them to move to the next level by supporting traditional and unique opportunities." A total of 26 applications were received for Commission funds; of those, 15 applications requested additional funds from The Ford Family Foundation.

"We are pleased to be able to invest in these artists at such pivotal moments in their careers," said Anne C. Kubisch, president of The Ford Family Foundation. "We expect these artists to make significant progress on regional, national and international stages."

FY15 Career Opportunity Grants were awarded to:

Ryan Burns (Ashland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,450

To support Ryan Burns' solo exhibition, "Biodiscourse: Climate Proxies," at The Gowanus Ballroom in Brooklyn, New York in the spring of 2015. "Biodiscourse" includes several recent rubbings, some older larger-scale ones and a small sculptural installation. The show will be the ballroom's first solo exhibit.

Damien Gilley (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$2,790

To support Damien Gilley's creation and production of an artist book that documents approximately 35 artist studios in Oregon through a unique photographic approach. The photographs capture linear laser lights emitted in private studios that have been light-sealed. The book will be limited to 200 copies and will be released at False Front Studio in spring 2015 with an accompanying immersive installation.

Grant Hottle (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$1,500

To support painter Grant Hottle's exhibition of "Aftermath" with sculptor Paula Rebsom at the Galleries of Contemporary Art at UC Colorado Springs in March of 2015. "Aftermath" addresses the artists' shared interest in the aesthetics of natural disasters and their aftermath. The show will be an opportunity for Hottle to display his project-based work outside of the West Coast region.

Diane Jacobs (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$3,615

To support a solo exhibition at the Bush Barn Art Center in Salem in January of 2015. The exhibition, Jacobs' first in Salem, showcases 20 years of her socially engaged political artwork as a call to action to end violence against women and girls. It will include the work "\$PEAK OUT," which includes 608 bills of real currency laser cut with statements/drawings reacting to the global crisis.

Patrick Kelly (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$800

To support the transport of Patrick Kelly's work for an exhibition at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande during October and November of 2014. Kelly was commissioned by the Oregon Arts Commission to create a unique piece for the university's library earlier this year; the exhibition is an opportunity for the university and community to become more acquainted with his work through the exhibition and an accompanying artist talk.

Anya Kivarkis (Eugene), OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$5,000

To support the production of work for Anya Kivarkis' winter 2015 exhibition at Sienna Patti Contemporary in Albany, New York. The exhibition continues work Kivarkis began on a recent sabbatical and will enable her practice to evolve and expand from jewelry objects to photography and the moving image.

D.E. May (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$7,490

To support the creation of a printed catalog documenting D.E. May's solo exhibition at LAXART in Los Angeles in the fall of 2014. Founded in 2005, LAXART is recognized as a

leading independent, nonprofit contemporary art space. The production of a catalog provides May with a tool to extend the reach and impact of the exhibition beyond the immediate viewing audience.

Donald Morgan (Eugene), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$4,000

To support Donald Morgan's participation in a three-week artist residency at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire, one of the most prestigious and historic art colonies in the world. The residency will provide a highly concentrated, relatively uninterrupted time for Morgan to complete a series of works for his upcoming solo show Soo Visual Art Center in Minneapolis, Minn.

Travis Neel (Portland), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500

To support Travis Neel's participation in the British Council Cultural Exchange International Fellowship in Great Britain. Designed for emerging socially engaged artists, the fellowship will allow Neel to conduct research, participate in cultural exchange and network with organizations and artists who are developing unique and innovative programs. He will utilize the fellowship to develop professional networks for future exhibitions, projects and professional development opportunities.

Heidi Preuss Grew (Salem), Visual Arts, OAC \$1,500

To support Heidi Preuss Grew's professional activities during a residency at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology from October 2014 to mid-January 2015. The residency will allow her to create new work and facilitate four scheduled regional exhibitions, including shows at the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center and the Hallie Ford Museum.

Laura Vandenburg (Springfield), OAC \$1,500, The Ford Family Foundation \$1,500

To support Laura Vandenburg's creation of a site-specific work for an exhibition at Disjecta in January of 2015. A practicing artist for 20 years, Vandenburg has also been a full-time professor for much of that time; she is now beginning a year-long sabbatical with goals to cultivate a new studio, new exhibitions and critical reception for her work.

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