

Press Release

For Immediate Release

August 8, 2008

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\$130,400 Awarded by the Center for Cultural Innovation to California Artists in Third Round of Funding

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced thirteen recipients of a third round of funding under the *Investing in Artists* grants program, which is designed to build the personal and creative capacity of California's artists working in all disciplines. The *Investing in Artists* grants program was created in June 2007 through a multiyear program grant from The James Irvine Foundation. As the result of three rounds of funding over a 14-month period, a total of 54 California artists have now received grants totaling \$450,000.

The *Investing in Artists* grants program provides support in two categories: 1) for the acquisition of Artistic Equipment & Tools; and 2) for the planning and implementation of activities related to Presenting & Marketing Artistic Work.

In Round III under the Artistic Equipment & Tools category, the following eight (8) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Sandra de la Loza (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Andrew Freeman (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Ellen Fullman (Performing Arts, Berkeley)
- Shinichi Iova-Koga (Performing Arts, Petrolia)
- Ruben Ochoa (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Susan Simpson (Performing Arts, Los Angeles)
- Jim Skuldt (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- David Washburn (Media Arts, Wilton)

In the Presenting & Marketing Work category, five (5) artists received Implementation grants as follow up funding to their Planning grants from previous rounds:

- Scott Constable (Visual Arts, Sebastopol)
- Paul S. Flores (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- Alison Pebworth (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Erika Chong Shuch (Performing Arts, San Francisco)
- Kristina Wong (Performing Arts, Los Angeles)

The thirteen artists selected as Round III grant recipients were chosen on a competitive basis out of 323 total applications received. CCI convened a six member panel of outside experts to make recommendations on grant recipients. The panelists included: Rob Bailis, Theater Director for ODC Theater in San Francisco; Adam Fong, Associate Director of Other Minds in San Francisco; Stephanie Hanor, Senior Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Kris Kuramitsu an independent curator based in Los Angeles; Renny Pritikin, Director of the Richard L. Nelson Gallery at UC Davis; and Carol Stakenas, Executive Director of Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions.

There are plans underway to continue and grow the *Investing in Artists* grants program in the future, according to Cora Mirikitani, President and CEO of the Center for Cultural Innovation. "Individual artists are the backbone of creative economies throughout California and the United States," said Mirikitani, "yet they are inadequately supported. This grants program represents a small but important step in addressing that need, by investing in artists so that they can be more self-sufficient in the future."

About CCI: The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) was founded in 2001 as a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its mission is to promote knowledge sharing, networking, and financial independence for individual artists and creative entrepreneurs by providing business training, grants and loans, and incubating innovative projects that create new program knowledge, tools, and practices for artists in the field. CCI's current programs for artists include entrepreneurial training workshops, grants and micro-lending programs, a group discount purchasing program called Benefit Opportunities for Artists (BOA), and a Project Incubator.

For more information about the Center for Cultural Innovation and the *Investing in Artists* grants program please go to CCI's website at www.cciarts.org.

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