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Contact: Katy Hilton  
(213) 687-8577  
[Katy@cciarts.org](mailto:Katy@cciarts.org)  
[www.cciarts.org](http://www.cciarts.org)

## The Center for Cultural Innovation Announces Grants to 26 California Artists

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced twenty-six recipients in a seventh round of funding for Visual Arts, Crafts, and Literary Arts under its *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 established by the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) in 2007 to enhance the working lives and strengthen the creative support system for California artists working in all disciplines. Following an initial three rounds of funding made to 54 artists in 2007 and 2008, CCI is now continuing the grants program from 2009-2011 with support from The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Round VII of the *Investing in Artists* grants program provided support to individual visual, craft and literary artists in two categories: 1) for the acquisition of Artistic Equipment & Tools; and 2) for Artistic Innovation.

In the Artistic Equipment & Tools category, the following fourteen (14) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Jessica K. Bodner (Visual Arts, Ventura)
- Natalie Bookchin (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- George-Ann Bowers (Visual Arts, Berkeley)
- Rebecca Chamlee (Crafts, Simi Valley)
- Adriane Colburn (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Eileen Cowin (Multidisciplinary, Santa Monica)
- Patsy Cox (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- David Maisel (Visual Arts, Sausalito)
- Elizabeth A. McKenzie (Literature, Santa Cruz)
- Patricia A. Montgomery (Crafts, Oakland)
- Michael Namkung (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)
- Genevieve Quick (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Favianna Rodriguez (Visual Arts, Oakland)
- Joe Scarpa (Visual Arts, Sacramento)

In the Artistic Innovation category, twelve (12) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Claude Collins-Stracensky (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Lia Cook (Crafts, Berkeley)
- Beatriz da Costa (Multidisciplinary, Long Beach)
- Brian K. Dempster (Literature, Mill Valley)
- Ruth M. Hodgins (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Cheryl Klein (Literature, Los Angeles)

### Administrative Office

244 S. San Pedro Street  
Suite 401  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 687-8577  
(213) 687-8578 fax

### Bay Area Office

870 Market Street  
Suite 490  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 288-0530  
(415) 288-0529 fax

- Amitis Motevalli (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)
- Dr. Viet Nguyen (Multidisciplinary, Los Angeles)
- Camilo Ontiveros (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Richard Ross (Multidisciplinary, Santa Barbara)
- Diana Thater (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Jody Zellen (Visual Arts, Santa Monica)

“The Investing in Artists grants program has been able to fund extremely talented and diverse artists in California,” noted CCI President and CEO Cora Mirikitani. “We feel that supporting individual artists is crucial to the community and economic vitality of the state.”

A panel of distinguished experts assisted CCI in reviewing Round VII *Investing in Artists* applications, including: Jaime Cortez (*Visual Artist, Writer*); Sergio De La Torre (*Multidisciplinary Artist, Educator*); Karen Kienzle (*Executive Director, Palo Alto Art Center*); Cathy Kimball (*Executive Director, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art*); Cora Mirikitani (*President and CEO, Center for Cultural Innovation*); Lynn Schuette (*Visual Artist, Arts Consultant*); Carol Stakenas (*Executive Director, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions*); Joan Takayama-Ogawa (*Ceramics Artist, Educator, Otis College of Art and Design*); Sharon Tanenbaum (*Arts Consultant*); and Weston Teruya (*Program Associate, Cultural Equity Grants Program San Francisco Arts Commission*).

**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.

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](http://www.cciarts.org).

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