



Press Release

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The Center for Cultural Innovation Announces Grants to 23 California Visual, Craft and Literary Artists

The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) today announced twenty-three recipients in the Visual Arts, Craft and Literary Arts round of funding 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. Since that time, with the support of The James Irvine Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, CCI has awarded \$1.77 million to 237 diverse artists working in various disciplines across the state.

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The 2013 Visual Arts, Craft and Literary Arts Round of the *Investing in Artists* grants program provides support to individual 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 twelve (12) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Julie Alland (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Dave Bailey (Visual Arts, Van Nuys)
- Bonnie Begusch (Visual Arts, Berkeley)
- Matt Black (Photography, Exeter)
- Marion Coleman (Crafts, Castro Valley)
- Bill Geisinger (Crafts, Sebastopol)
- Joyce Hsu (Visual Arts, Oakland)
- Nick Lally (Multidisciplinary, Oakland)
- Jennifer Reifsneider (Visual Arts, Burbank)
- May Wilson (Crafts, Davis)
- Michiko Yao (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Rene Yung (Multidisciplinary, San Francisco)

In the Artistic Innovation category, eleven (11) artists received *Investing in Artists* grants:

- Deborah Aschheim (Visual Arts, Pasadena)
- Sarah Christianson (Photography, San Francisco)
- Sandra de la Loza (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- James Gouldthorpe (Multidisciplinary, Richmond)
- Stas Orlovski (Visual Arts, Los Angeles)
- Jennie Ottinger (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Alison Pebworth (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Leslie Shows (Visual Arts, San Francisco)
- Sheri Simons (Visual Arts, Central Valley)
- Robert Wechsler (Visual Arts, Glendale)
- Arisa White (Literature, Oakland)

"It is a pleasure to acknowledge the excellent work of these diverse and talented California artists," noted CCI President and CEO, Cora Mirikitani. "Supporting their artistic endeavors is not only incredibly gratifying, but also vital to the community."

A panel of distinguished experts assisted CCI in reviewing the *Investing in Artists* applications, including: Jaime Cortez (Visual Artist and Writer); Julie Joyce (Curator of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara Museum of Art); Lauren Lockhart (Director of Education, Lux Art Institute); Sharon Maidenberg (Executive Director, Headlands Center for the Arts); Cora Mirikitani (President and CEO, Center for Cultural Innovation); Renny Pritikin (Senior Adjunct Professor, California College of the Arts); Robert Ragazza (Photographer and Ceramics Artist); Thomas Rhoads (Arts Consultant and Independent Producer); and Jan Williamson (Executive Director, 18th Street Arts Center).

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 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.

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