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● *GENERAL GRANT PROGRAM PRESS RELEASE*

MAY 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Jerome Foundation Board of Directors met on May 16, 2008, to review 362 applications. Directors authorized 23 general program grants for a total commitment of \$629,855, as described below. Directors also authorized 35 grants totaling \$138,538, ranging in size from \$1,130 to \$5,000, to individual artists in the Travel and Study Grant Program in the disciplines of dance, film and video, and literature.

The **TEXTILE CENTER**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$20,000 to launch the Jerome Fiber Artists Project Grant Program. A national center for fiber art, the Textile Center's mission is to honor textile traditions and promote excellence and innovation in fiber art. One of the Center's goals is to strengthen and expand its services for fiber artists in order to develop their skills and foster creativity. The pilot Jerome Fiber Artists Project Grant Program is designed to serve emerging textile artists who seek support for specific artistic projects that enable them to advance professionally. Artists may use funds to purchase equipment, devote time to studio work, study with a mentor, attend a seminar or workshop, experiment with new techniques and materials, rent a studio space and other purposes. Any eligible textile artist may apply. Recipients will be selected by an independent jury. The program will culminate in an exhibition of works made during the grant period.

SMACK MELLON, Brooklyn, New York, received a two-year grant of \$30,000 in support of the participation of emerging artists in the 2008 and 2009 Exhibition Programs. Smack Mellon's core programs include an Exhibition Program, which produces ambitious contemporary visual arts exhibitions; an Artist Studio Program, which provides artists with free studio space, technical support and a fellowship; and an arts education program. Jerome support is directed toward the participation of emerging artists in an Exhibition Program that annually presents three group shows and two solo exhibitions. Smack Mellon's exhibitions advance public interest in the visual arts while providing opportunities for emerging and under-recognized visual artists.

BOOKLYN, Brooklyn, New York, received \$8,000 to support publication of three chapbooks of works by emerging New York City writers in the ABC series. Booklyn promotes artist books as an art form and educational resource; provides educational institutions and the public with programming involving contemporary artist books; publishes innovative books uniting the fields of literature and art; and assists artists and writers in publishing, exhibiting and distributing their work. Launched in 2005, the ABC (Another Booklyn Chapbook) series features new writing with fresh book design in an affordable, attractive book format. The series reflects a variety of literary genres including poetry, prose and creative nonfiction.

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD, Moorhead, Minnesota, received \$12,000 to support the publication and distribution of three Many Voices Project books by **NEW RIVERS PRESS MSUM**. The Press seeks to publish the best literature it can find and to serve as a teaching press. An open call each year solicits submissions to the Many Voices Project competition for book-length unpublished manuscripts by new or emerging writers. After a thorough screening and review by guest judges and staff editors, three books by emerging writers, two of whom must live in New York City and/or Minnesota, are selected. The Many Voices Project publishes first and second books by emerging writers.

CAVE CANEM, New York City, received \$17,000 to support two workshops for emerging African American poets. Twelve weeks in duration, the two workshops will each engage up to 15 emerging poets. Workshops offer rigorous instruction, careful critique and an introduction to the work of contemporary African American poets. They are led by noted poets who have strong teaching abilities. Cave Canem is a home for the many voices of African American poetry and is committed to cultivating the artistic and professional development of those poets. It has provided supportive programming for eleven years and has significantly influenced the literary landscape in the United States and abroad.

ACCINOSCO, Brooklyn, New York, received \$10,000 in support of the development and production of a new work titled *The Success of Failure (or, The Failure of Success)*. Accinosco is a collective of performing artists, designers and musicians dedicated to creating groundbreaking original works that meld music, text, technical and theatrical design, and video with unbelievable fact and outrageous fiction. The collective was founded by Cynthia Hopkins, Jim Findlay and Jeff Sugg. The new work is an epic folk tale told by a post-human creature via a live science-fiction film about rival strategies for surviving the imminent death of the sun. The story is thematically linked to the first two parts of *The Accidental Trilogy* through the exploration of amnesia, remembrance, shifting identities and shifting realities in a multifaceted stage world.

FRANKLIN FURNACE, Brooklyn, New York, received a two-year grant of \$80,000 in support of the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance. The mission of Franklin Furnace is to present, preserve, interpret, proselytize and advocate on behalf of avant-garde art, especially forms that may be vulnerable due to institutional neglect, their ephemeral nature or politically popular content. Merging two previous programs, The Future of the Present and the Fund for Performance Art, Franklin Furnace is now offering one program that provides grant support to emerging experimental artists. The fund is open to artists creating work in performance, emerging technologies and variable media art. A majority of the artists receiving support will be based in New York City and Minnesota. This is an open application process with selections made by an independent panel.

The **MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$43,000 in support of the Jerome Book Arts Mentorship and Fellowship Programs. The Center is dedicated to nurturing artists engaged in creative expression through the book form, celebrating and preserving the traditional arts of bookmaking, and showcasing the book in all its contexts. The first year of the grant will support mentorships for emerging artists to work with more experienced artists to create new book works. There is an open call and independent panel review to select the participating artists, who receive support and services for one year. In the second year, fellowship artists will be chosen by an independent jury reviewing submissions in response to an open call. The fellowships will support the creation of new works over a one-year period. Both years culminate in exhibitions featuring works completed by the artists.

PATRICK'S CABARET, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$11,500 in support of the Guest Curator Mentorship Program and fees for emerging performers testing works-in-progress in a cabaret setting. Patrick's Cabaret supports artists in their growth and development by encouraging them to try new things, take risks and present their developmental work. The Guest Curator Mentorship Program allows guest curators to select artists and program weekends of performance, in an eclectic mix of styles, disciplines and performance levels.

VSA ARTS OF MINNESOTA, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$38,000 to support Career Advancement Grants for Artists with Disabilities and services to artists. VSA arts of Minnesota promotes quality, accessible arts experiences for people with all types of disabilities throughout the state. Artists are assisted in their artistic pursuits through grant programs, workshops and access to information. Proposals for Career Advancements Grants will be submitted in response to an annual open call and reviewed by an independent jury. Selection criteria will be artistic merit/quality, demonstration of forward movement by the artist along a career path, the merit of the proposed artistic project and eligibility as an emerging artist.

ZENON DANCE COMPANY AND SCHOOL, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a grant of \$10,000 in support of July 2008 performances of works by emerging New York City and Minnesota choreographers at Dance Theater Workshop in New York City. The mission of Zenon Dance Company and School is to sustain an artistically excellent, professional dance company in the Twin Cities by presenting the commissioned works of emerging and locally, nationally and internationally recognized modern and jazz choreographers to the broadest and most diverse audiences and communities possible. This repertory company has commissioned new works from over 30 choreographers, many of those with the support of the Jerome Foundation. The culmination of its 25th anniversary season will be this series of performances at Dance Theater Workshop.

INTERMEDIA ARTS, as fiscal sponsor for **THE BODYCARTOGRAPHY PROJECT**, received a two-year grant of \$20,000 in support of the production and touring of *Half Life* and the creation of the new work *Symptom*. Intermedia Arts is a multidisciplinary art center that often acts as a fiscal sponsor for independent artists and ensembles. The BodyCartography Project draws from modern dance, contact improvisation and other contemporary movement theories in the creation of work for theater, site-specific locations and dance films. *Half Life* investigates issues of intimacy, control, geography and science in the context of nuclear threat from three perspectives, the United States as a super power, Japan as an atomic bomb survivor and New Zealand as a nuclear-free zone. The starting place for research and development of *Symptom* is the exploration of three systems of approaching and knowing about the anatomy of the body. This work will be developed in collaboration with dancers, biologists, neurologists, physicists and somatic practitioners.

The **MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**, New York City, received \$12,605 to complete preservation work on a selection of cinematic works directed by Jerome Hill. Since 2003, the Jerome Foundation has supported a multi-year preservation project on Jerome Hill's films, which are housed at the Museum of Modern Art's Celeste Bartos Film Preservation Center. Preservation work has been completed on Jerome Hill's autobiographical work *Film Portrait*, as well as *Grandma Moses*, *Magic Umbrella*, *Death in the Forenoon*, *The Artist's Friend*, *Canaries*, *Merry Christmas* and *Albert Schweitzer*. The last film to be preserved is *Cassis, or How to be Happy Though Healthy*.

IFP MINNESOTA, St. Paul, Minnesota, received \$20,000 in support of programs and services for emerging film and video artists, with half of the grant funds designated for subsidized access to production and editing equipment. IFP Minnesota, a center for media arts, supports and promotes the work of artists who create screenplays, film, video and photography in the Midwest. IFP Minnesota serves emerging artists by offering opportunities to gain and develop skills, providing accessible equipment and facilities, enabling artistic and financial success, ensuring access to technological tools, and increasing audiences for their work.

In a major new program commitment, the Jerome Foundation made a grant of \$65,000 to **FORECAST PUBLIC ARTWORKS**, St. Paul, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for a commissioning and mentoring program in art, media, technology and social practice to be administered by **NORTHERN LIGHTS**, under the direction of Steve Dietz. The purpose is to support emerging artists and experimental practices that significantly utilize the capabilities of new and old technologies to push the boundaries of art making, particularly as they intersect with public participation. The program will operate in two tracks. The commissioning program track is for emerging artists who know what they want to do and are looking for the financial resources to create and present the work. Emerging professional artists who live in Minnesota and are proposing to make new works as individuals or as equal collaborators are eligible to apply for three commissions of \$6,000 each. The program will also provide exhibition support and hosting, along with archiving and promotion of the projects. Fellowship recipients will be selected via an open call and competitive panel review. The second track, a mentorship program, will assist artists who need technical assistance, developmental support and a higher level of engagement with more experienced artists or curators in order to develop capacity, sharpen skills and create new works. Three awards of \$4,000 each will be given to emerging artists in addition to technical support, mentoring, participation in a technology boot-camp, promotion and media relations, hosting and exhibition of the work, and documentation of the completed work.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE PERFORMING ARTS, Burnsville, Minnesota, received \$9,000 to support the commissioning of three new music compositions by composer Gao Hong. The mission of the organization is to help bridge the gaps between the many diverse cultures found in the United States by promoting intercultural fellowship, interaction and understanding through activities in the performing arts. It presents, books and commissions performers of indigenous instruments from a variety of cultures. Gao Hong will be commissioned to create three new works. The first will be written for pipa with taiko, sitar, cello, percussion and tabla. The second will be written for the new music ensemble Zeitgeist. The third piece will be a work for Hong's newly formed new music ensemble Intersection.

THE JAZZ GALLERY, New York City, received \$25,000 to support four commissions for emerging composers working with large ensembles and the performance of their new works. The Jazz Gallery is a cultural center that provides an international venue where a new generation of professional jazz musicians can be nurtured, giving them a performance venue with attentive audiences. The Gallery identified emerging composers who are on the verge of major recognition for their contribution to large ensemble composition. Jerome grant dollars will support commissions and performances in the form of two-night engagements.

MOVEMENT RESEARCH, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$24,000 in support of the publication of the Performance Journal, with a portion of the grant designated for writers' fees. The mission of Movement Research is to serve as a laboratory for the investigation of dance and movement-based forms. It has ushered in a new era of artist-driven programming and increased involvement of the artistic community. The Performance Journal is a printed forum created by and for artists, fostering the evolution of written and graphic languages that contemplate current issues in dance and performance. Each issue is conceived by an Artist Editorial Team around a specific topic or structure and includes contributions from artists, writers, scholars and others. Jerome support will cover four issues, two in 2008 and two in 2009.

The **MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$7,250, \$6,750 in general support of its 2008 program and \$500 as a membership commitment. The mission of the Council is to strengthen and expand philanthropy. Its vision is to inspire grantmakers to achieve,

individually and collectively, the highest standards of purpose and action. Jerome Foundation joins approximately 170 other members who support the Council's wide range of educational and professional developmental programs for member grantmakers. The Council also provides information about philanthropy and the grantmaking process to nonprofit organizations, the media, government officials, the general public and potential donors.

SOHO REPERTORY THEATRE, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$26,000 to support the commissioning, development and production of new works by emerging theater artists. Soho Rep is a hothouse for the development and production of contemporary theatre, committed to nurturing innovative and uncompromising new work from first impulse through fully mounted production. Its programming includes mainstage productions, Studio staged workshops and the Writer/Director Lab. Jerome support is directly tied to Soho Rep's development of new works by emerging playwrights based within the Foundation's geographic areas.

NEW GEORGES, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$30,000 in support of the development and production of new work by emerging theater artists residing in New York City and/or Minnesota. New Georges is an innovative producer of ambitious new plays, and a supportive, productive home for promising and accomplished women theater artists. The primary resource with which New Georges serves artists is The Room, a workspace for rehearsal and development.

DIXON PLACE (a.k.a. Open Channels), New York City, received a two-year grant of \$57,000 in support of Mondo Cane! artists' commissions and Under Construction artists' fees. Jerome support is directed toward emerging creative artists based in New York City and/or Minnesota. Dixon Place, a laboratory for performing and literary artists, supports the creative process by presenting original work of theater, dance, music, puppetry, literature and performance art at all stages of development. Through Mondo Cane!, Dixon Place commissions artists or ensembles to develop and produce new works of theater and dance. Each receives a commission, designer, director, and performer fees; funds for production materials; free rehearsal space; technical staff; and marketing support. Under Construction presents new and developing work by innovative emerging artists, over 12 to 15 nights each month. The program features diverse disciplines and perspectives, and encourages risk taking in a supportive, intimate and professional environment.

In conjunction with grant commitments from the Northwest Area and Grotto Foundations, the Jerome Foundation made a two-year grant of \$55,000 to the **MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, St. Paul, Minnesota, to enable it to process, preserve and promote the James J. Hill, Louis W. Hill and Maud Van Cortlandt Taylor Hill Papers. The Historical Society will create a vibrant website presence for the Papers, which contain some 12,000 cubic feet of records, and promote their usage. This is an unusual grant commitment for the Jerome Foundation, a one-time award to support access to papers of Jerome Hill's grandfather, father and mother. Jerome Hill is the founder of the Jerome Foundation. Jerome Hill's Papers are also in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.

For further information about these grants, please contact Jerome Foundation Senior Program Officer Robert Byrd, Program Officer Eleanor Savage or President Cynthia Gehrig at 651.224.9431 or 1.800.995.3766. Visit the Jerome Foundation on the Web at www.jeromefdn.org.

The JEROME FOUNDATION, created by artist and philanthropist Jerome Hill (1905-1972), makes grants that support emerging artists in the creation, development and production of new works.