

# TRAVEL AND STUDY GRANT PROGRAM

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**THE ART AND MARTHA KAEMMER FUND**  
OF THE **HRK FOUNDATION**  
AND THE **JEROME FOUNDATION**

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The General Mills, HRK and Jerome Foundations announce the 2006 Travel and Study Grant Program recipients. Thirty-four grants totaling \$140,174, ranging in size from \$1,500 to \$5,000, were authorized. The Travel and Study Grant Program awards grants to independent emerging artists in Minnesota and the five boroughs of New York. Funds are authorized to support travel for the purpose of professional development. Grant categories for this round were dance, film/media and literature. Three-person panels in each eligible arts discipline reviewed 273 applications; 127 from Minnesota and 146 from New York City. The panels' recommendations were reviewed by the Jerome Foundation Directors, who authorized the following grants.

### D A N C E

Dance review panelists were Gary Peterson, Executive Director, James Sewell Ballet, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Gabri Christa Reid, Artistic Director, Danzaisa, New York City; and, Roxane Wallace, independent choreographer, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The panel reviewed 74 applications from emerging choreographers.

**ANANYA CHATTERJEA**, a Minneapolis-based choreographer, will travel to Mayurbhanj, Orissa and Assam, India, to study the martial arts form of Mayurbhanj Chhau, and the iconographic representation of feminine energy in the goddess shrines in the surrounding areas in India. Chatterjea is a contemporary South Asian choreographer who has created her work through a deconstruction of the classical dance form Odissi and Yoga. Chatterjea will study with Chhau master Guru Mohanta and his primary disciples.

**NORA CHIPAUMIRE**, a New York City choreographer, will spend a month in Senegal, Africa, deepening her understanding of African traditional dances as well as the emerging African contemporary and modern dance of West Africa. Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Chipaumire received most of her training in the United States. She will study African and contemporary dance at the International Center for Traditional and Contemporary Dance, under the instruction of Germaine Acogny, a renowned African dancer and choreographer.

**DAVID DEBLIECK**, a choreographer residing in St. Cloud, Minnesota, will spend twenty days in Rhinebeck, New York, and Brattleboro, Vermont, studying Butoh-inspired dance with Maureen Fleming and advanced acrobatic/aerial training with Nimble Arts and Cirque de Soleil alumni Elsie Smith, Serenity Smith Forchion and Bill Forchion. DeBliek's choreography encompasses both Butoh and aerial work; this research will assist him in delving deeper into both forms.

Choreographer **BARAKA DE SOLEIL**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Ghana, West Africa, to immerse himself in the memories and experiences of historical routes involved in the slave trade, which will inform his work titled *Water Moves the Soul*. de Soleil will also attend the biennial celebration Panafest held during the summer months of July and August. The festival aims to establish the truth about the history of Africa and the experience of its people, using the vehicle of African arts and culture to provide a forum to promote unity between Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora.

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ADMINISTERED BY THE JEROME FOUNDATION

**WYNN FRICKE**, a choreographer based in Minneapolis, will spend time in Konya, Turkey, visiting museums and mosques and attending the ritual performance of the Traditional Islamic Whirling Dance (Whirling Dervishes), which was founded by 13<sup>th</sup> century mystic Muhammad Jalaluddin Rumi. Fricke is conducting research on the poetry of Rumi for an evening-length production of contemporary dance inspired by the gestures of Arabic letters. Rumi and his followers lived in Konya, where their sacred traditions continue to this day.

Choreographer **GELAN LAMBERT**, New York City, will travel to Ghana, West Africa, including Accra, Cape Coast, Wa, Volta Region and Tamale to seek parallels between contemporary dance forms and ancient African dance. Lambert's ancestors came from Ghana. It is essential to his work for Lambert to find accurate and authentic documentation of movement in this region of Africa.

**CHRISTOPHER MORGAN**, a New York City-based choreographer, received funds to travel to Molokai, Hilo, and Maui, Hawaii studying the most ancient forms of Hula and chants of his native ancestors with master teacher (Kumu Hula) John Kaimikaua. When missionaries first arrived in Hawaii in the 1800s, a suppression of culture ensued and a modern version of hula was created. Morgan will study the true root of the form, which is Kahiko.

**SACHIKO NISHIUCHI**, a flamenco choreographer in Minneapolis, will travel to Seville, Spain, to attend the Bienal de Flamenco Festival and take flamenco dance classes with various master instructors. She will focus mostly on flamenco theater shows, which involve themes or stories and use media beyond singing, guitar and dancing. The Bienal will take place in September and October of 2006. In addition to dance classes, Nishiuchi will also take instruction in flamenco singing.

Minneapolis-based choreographer **DEBORAH JINZA THAYER** will spend three weeks at The Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, Florida, in a working residency. Thayer, along with other choreographers, will investigate current pieces they are developing. Interactions will center around critical response to the works and shared investigations.

**PAVEL ZUSTIAK**, a choreographer in Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Vienna, Austria, and Brussels, Belgium. In Austria, Zustiak will attend the three-week ImPulsTanz International Dance Festival and then will spend time in Brussels researching new approaches to video and dance integration with visual artist Khosro Adibi. While at ImPulsTanz, Zustiak will devote time to the Pro Series, which focuses on the work of extraordinary artists with international influence on the direction and perspective of dance in our times. Zustiak expects the investigation with Adibi to inform his highly visual work.

## F I L M / M E D I A

The panelists were Wisconsin-based independent filmmaker and Minneapolis College of Art and Design Media Arts Professor Thalia Drori; filmmaker and Minneapolis Community Technical College Media Arts Educator Hafed Bouassida; and Executive Director of The National Board of Review in New York City, Eileen Newman. The panel reviewed 64 applications from emerging film and video artists.

**DON BERNIER**, a documentary filmmaker in New York City, received funding to travel to Sheffield, England; Paris, France; Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Boston, Massachusetts; Utrecht, The Netherlands; Leiden, The Netherlands; St. Petersburg, Russia; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Syracuse, New York; Austin, Texas; Reading, Pennsylvania; Dayton, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Gibsonton, Florida; London, England; Briston, England and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. His purpose is to conduct research for a new project about the fabrication, propagation and evolution of the "freak" in Western culture. Bernier uses the term not as a definition of a group of people or a specific individual, but rather as an historical Victorian-era term invented by the entertainment industry for its select circus, sideshow, fair, or dime museum employees. Bernier will visit historical societies, amusement parks and circus museums, as well as collections of photographs from the period.

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**ARIADNA CAPASSO**, a New York City documentary filmmaker will travel to Mexico City, Jalisco, Tamaulipas and Chihuahua, Mexico, to visit places that were significant to Juan Rulfo in order to experience the land, the solitude, the dejection and also the beauty of nature as he did. Rulfo was among the most influential Spanish language writers in the twentieth century and pioneered the school of Magic Realism. Capasso's research constitutes the pre-production phase of her video ***Across the Silence***.

Filmmaker **LAURENS GRANT**, New York City, will spend time in Mali, West Africa, to investigate the ancient musical instruments and traditions that African vocalist Rokia Traore uses in her music compositions. Grant intends to better understand the reasons why so many young women admire Traore as a significant voice for their generation. This research will inform her one-hour documentary film, ***Rokia: Voice of a New Generation***.

**SHAUN IRONS**, a multi-disciplinary artist, and **LAUREN PETTY**, a video artist, working in Brooklyn, New York, create evocative and poetic combinations of video, film and audio as multiple-channel and single-channel works. Irons and Petty received funding to travel to Kyoto, Japan, to immerse themselves in the culture, expanding on their aesthetic range by gaining an in-depth appreciation of the intersections among ritual, ceremony, performance, meditation, nature and artistic practice.

**JOANNA KOHLER**, a Minneapolis-based filmmaker and media activist, will travel to New Mexico to learn more about media literary models and facilitation in order to improve her community engagement with digital media and her work as a filmmaker. Kohler will participate in a workshop presented by the New Mexico Media Literacy Project.

Film animator **PATRICIA MCLAUGHLIN**, Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Kyoto, Japan, to work for two months as an artist-in-residence at the Kyoto Art Center. The focus of McLaughlin's work is on the basic necessities for living, the physical and spiritual maintenance of the body. Japan continues to be at the forefront of technological developments for modern urban life, while maintaining strong ties to a spiritual and religious past that remains a mystery to many Westerners. Living among the old and new structures of Kyoto, McLaughlin will witness firsthand the evolution of human ingenuity in Japanese design.

New York City-based film animator **TOMOKO OGUCHI** received funding to travel to Mino City, Japan, to participate in a washi papermaking class. Oguchi will study the process of making the paper, as well as the history of washi paper. Washi is used to create lanterns, clothing and toys in Japan. Oguchi uses washi as an essential material in her animation films and intends to make her own paper for future films.

**JESSE ROESLER**, a Minneapolis-based documentary filmmaker, will travel to Ghent, Belgium, to develop as a documentary filmmaker and video artist by studying musical performance filmmaking at the Logos Foundation with Moniek Darge and Godfried-Willem Raes. In addition to working directly with Darge and Raes, Roesler will view archived films and a performance by the artists in their exhibition space, the Tetrahedron.

**AMANDA TAYLOR**, St. Paul, Minnesota, will spend time at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, investigating Professor Paul Vasey's research on homosexual behavior among female Japanese macaque monkeys. The research will inform Taylor's documentary, ***Freak of Nature***, which explores the state of science on animal homosexuality, exposes the suppression of this research from the general public, and considers how American culture influences how we think about sex.

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**KIM WOOD**, a filmmaker based in Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Paris, France, to conduct research at the Bibliotheque Charcot, which houses the unpublished writings and photographs of the subject of her next film, a psychiatric phenomenon known as hysteria. Hysteria's birthplace is a still-functioning hospital in Paris. Its founders were Dr. Jean-Martin Charcot and his star patient Augustine. The films made of Augustine's behavior and Dr. Charot's papers will be examined by Wood in preparation for her film *Into the Ether*.

## LITERATURE

Literature panelists were Quang Bao, writer and Executive Director of the Asian American Writers Workshop in New York; Robert Hedin, poet, editor and founding Director of the Anderson Center in Red Wing, Minnesota; and Carolyn Holbrook, writer and founding Director of SASE: The Write Place in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The panel reviewed 135 applications from emerging writers.

**MICHELE BATTISTE**, a poet residing in Astoria, New York, will explore the city of Budapest, Hungary, and research its post World War II area history, the place and time in Part One of her collection of narrative poems-in-progress titled *Uprising*. Battiste will conduct research at the Central European University History Department and Library and the Open Society Archives. Battiste will also investigate museums, historical sites and the Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, novelist **ALICIA CONROY** will travel to the Poitou region of France to conduct primary research for a novel-in-progress about the history of French immigrants to Acadia (Nova Scotia) in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Conroy is particularly interested in investigating the Marais poitevin, or estuarine Poitou marshes, that lie between the city of Niort and the Atlantic Coast. The Marais poitevin are coastal marshes and floodplain traversed by an intricate network of centuries-old canals and dykes and dotted with small towns and farm plots. In Acadia, the Poitevins significantly altered the land by using their traditional skills in making dykes and managing flood waters. Conroy will visit churches, museums, canal villages, bird sanctuaries and wild animal preservation areas in the region.

**DOUGLAS DANOFF**, a creative non-fiction writer based in New York City, will spend time in Piedmont, Italy, to study ancient winemaking techniques as a step toward continuing his creative nonfiction writing on rural traditions. While in Piedmont, Danoff will meet with Massimo Martinelli who is widely considered one of Italy's foremost experts on the history of wine making. Martinelli also presides over the Museo Renato Ratti, which is devoted to the history of Piedmontese winemaking. Danoff's destination is among the most ancient and venerable winemaking zones in the world.

Poet **SEAN HILL** of Bemidji, Minnesota, received funding to travel to Kenya and Tanzania to attend the Summer Literary Seminars program in Kenya and spend two additional weeks in the region. The seminar will offer him an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas with and be inspired by African writers, artists and intellectuals in Nairobi. He'll enroll in poetry workshops, attend lectures and readings, and participate in a writing retreat.

**DIMITRI KAASAN**, a writer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was awarded funding to travel to Italy to research an autobiographical novel and short stories about the Etruscans. His novel *Etruscans* is based, in part, on his early life in Italy where he and his parents lived as expatriates in the 1970s. Kaasan will spend time in Impruneta, Tavarnuzze, Galuzzo, Florence, Bologna, Rome and Fiesole.

Novelist **ELAINE KIM**, New York City, will spend ten weeks in Kwangju, South Korea, to interview survivors and their family members about the impact of the 1980 Kwangju uprisings on their lives. Kim will absorb the sites and sounds of the birthplace of the majority of the characters in her novel *Kwangju*. Kim also plans to interview those who were part of the organized movement—student leaders, members of the famous taxi brigade, and some of the hundreds of ordinary people who joined in protest against the siege of a military dictator, Chun Doo Hwan. It is widely acknowledged that the movement strengthened opposition to the repressive regime in Korea and ushered in a new era of democracy.

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**THANHHA LAI**, a poet in New York City, will travel to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to learn about changes in the lives of four ten-year old girls, now 40, whom she knew immediately after the Vietnam War ended in 1975. As a ten-year old girl in 1975, she fled Saigon with her family to Montgomery, Alabama. The travel will help Lai juxtapose her life with the girls who stayed in Vietnam and will inform her collection of prose poems.

**GREG LICHTENBERG**, a writer in New York City, received funding to travel to Israel and to the city of Hebron on the West Bank to conduct the research necessary to complete his novel, *The Time Value of Love*, which was inspired by two previous trips. Lichtenberg will meet with a Chief of Staff of a former Prime Minister of Israel as well as a member of Israel's delegation to the United Nations. He will spend time in Tel-Aviv, Be'ersheva and the old city in Hebron and will meet with Israelis, both Jewish and Arab.

Writer **ISHLE YI PARK**, Queens, New York, will spend a month in South Korea to better visualize the city where her aunt was raised, conduct interviews, and undertake research on women who married American soldiers. This will inform the writing of a novel about a young Korean woman emigrating to America in the 1960s, titled *Kunemo*, a fictionalized account of Park's aunt, a former bar girl and army bride. Park will spend three weeks in Daegu to take extensive sensory notes on the place her aunt was born. She will then travel to Seoul to learn more about women who reside in the camptowns that surround U.S. military bases. Park will also investigate non-profit organizations that provide services for camptown women.

**SUZAN SHERMAN**, a writer residing in New York City, will travel to Kansas, Nebraska, New Jersey, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Arkansas and California to conduct research for a novel, *Pearl O'Shea*, which traces an elderly woman's recollection of being an Orphan Train Rider from New York City to Nebraska in 1873. Prior to the establishment of foster care and adoption, the Orphan Train was a social program for unwanted and orphaned children, founded by the Children's Aid Society in New York City. From 1854 to 1929, hundreds of thousands of urban children were sent on trains to rural areas in the United States to be raised by farm families.

Rochester, Minnesota poet **YUKO TANIGUCHI**, will travel to Hiroshima City, Japan, to study the landscape of the city, visit the peace memorial park, visit museums and libraries, and conduct interviews with Hibakusha (victims of the atom bomb) in order to enhance and complete a poetry manuscript, *Story of Rivers*. Many Hibakusha have died or are dying. Saving their memories is a real concern. This trip will make it possible for Taniguchi to discover her own voice to tell the stories that need to be told.

**KA VANG**, a writer in St. Paul, Minnesota, will travel to Australia to study the lives, language and folklores of Hmong communities so that she can write creatively and accurately about the Hmong Diaspora. Vang will visit the cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra where there are about 2,000 Hmong people. She will meet with Hmong writers and elders in those cities. Vang plans to use her research in Australia to develop complex and real characters, and to write authentically about identity and heritage interwoven with the magic realism of her own writing style.

**RANDALL WEDIN**, a creative nonfiction writer based in Wayzata, Minnesota, received funding to travel to Banff, Alberta, Canada, to participate in an international workshop, Creative Writing in Mathematics and Science, held at the Banff Centre. Wedin will also conduct extended research in Banff National Park focusing on organisms that grow and thrive in apparently hostile environments. He will use this information as a source for a metaphor or central image that illuminates connections between subjects in creative nonfiction essays.

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**RANDOLYN ZINN**, a poet based in Brooklyn, New York, will travel to Spain to encounter flamenco firsthand in order to work in a more informed way toward the completion of a book of prose poems titled *Meson Flamenco*. Zinn seeks to understand, in a deeper way, the origins of the songs and dances that serve as models for her writing. Zinn will spend time in Madrid, Andalucia, Seville, Jerez La Frontera, Granada, Cordoba and Montserrat National Park.

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