

KANSAS CITY ARTIST
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Kansas City Artists Coalition Presents:
"LIGHTON International Artists Exchange Program"
2008 Grant Recipients & 2009 Prospectus



The LIGHTON International Artists Exchange Program (LIAEP) began in 2002 with a generous grant from the Lighton Fund to the Kansas City Artists Coalition. As of 2008, 68 artists have received grants for projects around the globe.

The LIAEP GRANT is an important asset for dedicated artists who create work of exceptional quality and whose work and career is at a level to benefit from international exchange with peers. The Program was created to make the world smaller by giving artists and art professionals of different cultures the opportunity to work together with the hope that lasting friendships and understanding will develop. The chance to work in another country and to see the world from a different perspective enlarges a person and expands their mythology. The experience can break down barriers and, one person at a time; promote world peace and cultural cooperation.

The LIAEP GRANT has sent individuals to numerous locations around the world, both obscure and prominent, from Tanzania to Berlin; Bamako, Mali to London, England. Raechell Smith, a local curator, comments on her 2005 trip to Slovenia, offering a sense of the benefits of this program: "I feel compelled to understand contemporary artists working with issues that we might not understand at first glance. This was my very first travel to Eastern Europe and I found remnants of communism/socialism balanced with a new optimism and fresh opportunities for artists in these places to enter into

"While traveling in Japan I continued creating self-portraits. The quality of my recent work made Tim Barber, Vice magazine photo editor, want to produce a book, Don't You Feel Better, published by Aperture. This will certainly be the highlight of my career so far, much I owe to the LIAEP GRANT."

-Jaime Warren 2007

an international conversation and community. For example, how does an artist grapple with recent memories of war and conflict while contemplating democracy, artistic freedom, and international connectivity for the first time? "

While the grants dispensed are reserved predominantly for visual arts driven projects, they have also been awarded to programs that have an array of goals. For example, architects Philippe Barriere, Cassie Waddell and William Bourne worked on the Aqabat Jabber Refugee Camp Architectural Design Project in 2007 in Palestine. While there, they created architectural improvements on the Aqabat Jabber Camp for United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), improving amenities and housing for Palestinian refugees.

While the range of projects completed by LIAEP recipients is broad, so are the achievements that recipients have since reached. Take Michael Kruger, who traveled to Belgium to complete a residency in 2007, and then had a solo exhibition at the Sunday L.E.S. Gallery in New York from December 14, 2007 to January 6, 2008. Or Hesse McGraw, a 2004 recipient who traveled to Switzerland, who the Pitch Magazine named Best Curator in Kansas City in 2005. He went on to be the associate director of Max Protetch Projects in New York and is now the Curator of the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (Omaha, Nebraska).

We are proud to announce the LIAEP GRANT Recipients for 2008. The array of media used by the artists, painting, ceramics, printmaking, sculpture, speaks to the range of artistic practices that the program supports.

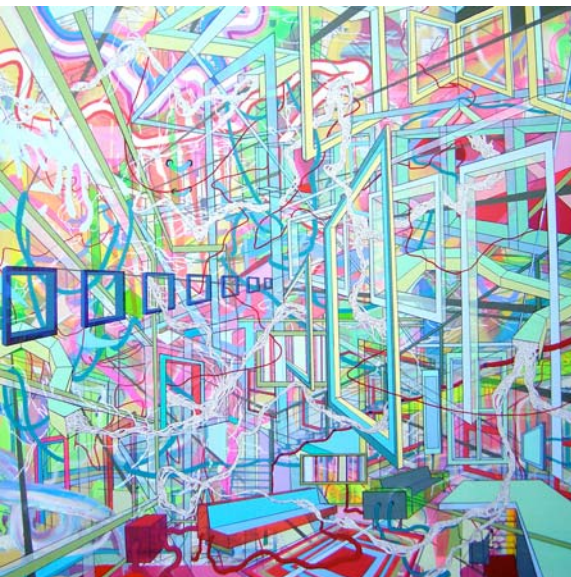
SHANE EVANS, Kansas City, MO illustrator, will travel to Lesotho, South Africa where he will research a book project that will shed light on HIV and how a community is affected by the disease. He will be working with local organizers and directly with children in the community creating artwork, which will give the youth in this community a platform to express their ideas, emotions and thoughts.

HUGH MERRILL, Kansas City, MO artist, will take part in Go Down Arts Residency Program in Nairibi, Kenya. There he will work with American and Kenyan artists to create a community artwork/mural for orphans and disadvantaged children in Kibera, a “slum” district of Nairobi. He will also be developing an ongoing exchange exhibition program between Kenyan and Kansas City, MO artists.

SHIRA SILVERSTON, ceramics artist from Israel, will travel to Kansas City, MO. In Kansas City she will expand her horizons by mutual exchange with local artists and the community. She will work with local children and teenagers on a ceramics workshop and special project.



Shane Evans



Grant Miller

MICKI SKUDLARCZYK, ceramics artist from Portland, OR, will travel to Yucatan, Mexico. She will take part in La Fundacion Gruber Jez Residency in Cholul. Here she will work side-by-side local artists who will offer insight into local traditions and customs involving the arts.

GRANT MILLER, Kansas City, MO artist, will travel to Paris, France and take part in the ‘Cite Internationale des Arts Residency’ program. He will create a new body of work that reflects the complexities that exist within a completely different environment and culture. He will share his work with the Kansas City community through a lecture and panel discussion upon his return.



Piotr Chizinski

PAUL MESNER, Kansas City, MO puppeteer, will take part in a workshop at 'El Institut International de la Marionnette' in France. Here he will learn one of the oldest forms of popular theater, the art of the Pulcinella, by Italian Master Bruno Leone. He will further develop his puppetry skills and teach the most this ancient form to other individuals once he returns.

PIOTR CHIZINSKI, Texas sculptor, will visit Germany where he will take part in The Hilmsen1 Residency. He will learn new techniques in both ceramic and metalworking. He will be completing a series of collaborative and individual works that will be brought back to the US for exhibition in the Kansas City area.

JANE INGRAM ALLEN, paper artist from Massachusetts, will collaborate with artists of Warm Heart Art Tanzania in Moshi, Tanzania, East Africa. She will work with local people, artists and plant experts to identify new plant fibers for papermaking and will create new works using local materials.

JOSEPH KAMM, sculptor from Pennsylvania, traveled to the International Ceramic Research Center in Skaelskor, Denmark. In Denmark Joseph was able to take part in dialogue with artists from Europe and Mexico and form relationships with an international community. He participated in a variety of workshops that have allowed him to grow both as an artist and as an individual.

2009 LIAEP PROSPECTUS

The LIAEP GRANT seeks applications from dedicated artists who create work of exceptional quality and whose work and career is at a level to benefit from international exchange with peers. The program is especially interested in funding artists who have not yet worked in a foreign country and in funding travel and residencies to countries that are less westernized. Artists from Kansas City and the Central Plains/Midwest area receive first priority for funding. The maximum grant is \$5,000. Application forms are available for downloading at <http://www.kansascityartistscoalition.com> Application deadlines are **March 15** and **August 15**, (not a postmark deadline). **Artists should apply 6-12 months prior to intended travel dates.** Notification will be mailed two months after deadlines. **Only complete applications will be reviewed.** International artists who have upcoming projects in the United States and wish to travel to Kansas City may submit inquiries as to the feasibility of a local residency. Submit via email only to Janet Simpson at jfskcac@sbcglobal.net.

ABOUT THE KANSAS CITY ARTISTS COALITION

The Kansas City Artists Coalition (KCAC), an artist-centered, artist-run alternative space, presents a variety of contemporary visual art exhibitions in its Mallin Gallery, Jacqueline B. Charno Gallery and the Underground. The Artists Coalition also provides opportunities for artists including grants, panel discussions, publications, programs and workshops, as well as, the Annual Benefit Art Auction, Artist Toolkits, the Lighton International Artists Exchange Program (LIAEP), Open Studios and the River Market Regional Exhibition. The Artists Coalition was created to change the lives of Kansas City visual artists and to promote visual arts awareness and artistic culture in the Midwest and the surrounding region.