

Grant Final Report  
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Arts – FINA  
Research Grant  
Account# 22-568-34  
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1. *Description of grant-supported activity.*

With this funding I was able to travel in the north-eastern United States making photographs. The result is a body of work and development of my ideas conceptually. In July of 2006, I drove from South Bend to Canada. I followed the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean. I then headed southwest into Maine and followed route 1 back to the coast. I followed the Atlantic Coast into Rhode Island and photographed there, and then headed back straight west to South Bend.

While the funding primarily pays for the physical travel and supplies, in the time period when I was making this work, and in the following months editing the work I was able to redefine my understanding of the landscape and my particular view of the landscape that I am conveying through my photography. In my original proposal, I described a formal landscape, which I was able to photograph. In addition to these formal qualities and the compositional structure, I am able to define my work in more particular terms of land use, specifically: agriculture, tourism, and industry. I photograph these elements in contrast to a purity of nature and a pristine beauty. Having an extended period of time to devote to my image making conceptually and technically allowed me to progress significantly.

2. *Were you able to complete the project? Describe any difficulty you had.*

This is an ongoing project. Successful research projects lead toward further research, therefore it is often difficult to view them as completed. This is the case with this project. It is larger than I originally expected it to be. While I feel I was able to make a photographic statement about the landscape on the east coast, I feel that this body of work will be an ongoing project. I will continue to develop my ideas photographing in the East Coast again and in other parts of the United States. I will continue to seek funding internally and externally to make my photography.

3. *Did, or will, the project result in a specific product – a manuscript, composition, syllabus, etc? If so, please describe and indicate state of development.*

I produced a body of photographs with this funding.

During this trip I shot approximately 80 sheets of 4 x 5 color film and about 1000 digital images. After processing the images into prints, this work has been edited into a portfolio of landscape images. I am now in the beginning process of publicizing this work for exhibition.

At this time these images have been accepted into a national juried group exhibition and currently this work along with work produced with funding from the Indiana Art Commission Individual

Artist Grant in the south western United States is being exhibited in a one-person exhibition at the Southern Shore Art Association Gallery in Michigan City Indiana for the month of May 2007.

With further funding from the Ernestine M Raclin, School of the Arts endowment funding, I was able to take my portfolio to Photolucida, a biannual conference of Gallery curators and photographers meeting for reviews and self-promotion. I received feedback on my work in three areas: technique, content, and presentation. I received a great deal of comments about improving my work technically. Many reviewers suggested I use a higher-level professional scanner, an Imacon, to make finer detailed scans, improve the color accuracy and sharpness, and to make larger prints. The scanner I am using now is simply not powerful enough. This new scanner cost approximately \$10,000. I plan to apply for funding for such a scanner in the future.

In terms of content, my work was reviewed positively. All of the reviewers I spoke with commented that I was passionate about my work and that my research was valuable and interesting. Many suggested editing the body of images to make the content clearer. I received many comments about presentation, and its impact on content. Many of these comments are subjective and I am still considering all of this type of criticism.

The most helpful type of feedback I received was in reference to self-promotion. I spoke with many people about how to edit the images for specific juried exhibitions. Reviewers discussed commercial gallery opportunities, making print editions and pricing. I was able to make contact with a variety of curators.

This conference was an excellent learning experience. I feel that I have real goals in terms of technique and production of my work. I have a list of people interested in my images to keep in contact and hopefully some future exhibition opportunities. I plan to return to Photolucida in two years to demonstrate my progress to the reviewers, and further my exhibition record.