

I'll See You On the Mountain

Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship

Anita Britt



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Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship Application
Bowling Green State University
March 2, 2015

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Also Enclosed:

Terms and Provisions Agreement

Letters of Recommendation:

Janet Ballweg
Professor - Printmaking Area Head
BGSU School of Art

Charles Kanwischer
Associate Director
Professor- Advanced Drawing
BGSU School of Art

Official Bowling Green State University Transcript

His eyes were pale blue. Blue like an overcast spring sky, blue like the bed sheets around his face. His gaze was always at some distant point beyond the ceiling above our heads, so I would sing into the blueness. He seemed to step back into his mind for one precious moment; "Will you be my mountain blue bird?" I asked, "Yes...I will be your bluebird".

On September 13, 2014, my dad, Earl Britt, age 61, passed away in Hospice after many years of struggling with cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. Shortly after his death, my mom gave me a small Celestial Seasonings Box containing over 50 Kodak slides taken by my dad while living in Colorado in the 1980's. The 'Dad' I knew always seemed to be looking behind him. I could see this in the way he told his past stories; my favorite ones were about the beauty and power of the Rocky Mountains... stories about working as a volunteer firefighter and how scared he was at times; stories about getting chased up a tree by a timber wolf; stories about how beautiful the night sky was during a meteor shower. The family would tease and say they were tall tales, but in my mind, I could feel how he ached to be back, how he ached to be free from pain and suffering.

To see images of my father, young and healthy, against the majesty of the mountains, is a play on the beauty of impermanence. The peaks seemingly remain unchanged over the years, while the young man in the images married, became a father, lived his journey and passed on. I am not my father. But I am the breath of his love. With that in mind, I propose to spend two months exploring, living in, and making artwork in the same Colorado sites traversed by my dad 30 years before.



I turned to my greatest passion, printmaking, as a way to mindfully express my emotions during the grieving process. "I'll See You on the Mountain" is the title of a multi-panel screen print I produced last semester from a composite of some of his photographs. They, as well his stories, are the closest things through which I remember him by. Because of this, I feel a deep emotional connection to those landscapes although I have never seen them in person.

Last year I began a series of artworks that emphasize the emotional and spiritual connections I have to specific landscapes. Because so much of my work is based on experience and interpretation of a particular space, I have come to realize that being physically present in the environment, making extensive sketches, and writing down my impressions are extremely important to my process. Through careful studying of signposts within images as well as some notes he left behind, I have created an itinerary of trail hikes closest to where he might have been; including Arapahoe Pass, Apache Peak, Isabelle Glacier, and many others. Thus, my intent for this project is to immerse myself fully into the Colorado landscape for two months.



From June 7 - July 7, I will stay with Downtown Artery in Fort Collins, Colorado, a creative hive that houses artists and private studio spaces. Their director, Amy Bradley, has generously offered lodging and studio space for a discounted price. Mad Deer Press, located nearby, is fully equipped with the presses I need to produce my work. During this time, I will focus each week on a different section of Rocky Mountain National Park, documenting my experiences through extensive watercolor sketches while hiking in an attempt to recreate my father's photographs. From these studies, I will create a new woodblock print each week, focusing on a particular experience. I will then conclude this portion of my stay by giving a visiting artist's presentation at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Melanie Yazzie, University of Colorado-Boulder printmaking professor, has been a wonderful ally in helping me find contacts and in providing me with this opportunity.

From July 8 - July 31, I will stay in a private Air BnB listing and continue my studio work at Red Delicious Press in Aurora. RDP is unique in that it is a professional press that is run primarily by women. Their director, Elaine Scheiffler, has offered me use of their studio to produce work, as well as a presentation space of my project in return for donating a finished work-and has pro-rated the usual studio fee. I will continue to explore Roosevelt National Forest and Arapahoe National Forest, each week creating a new woodblock print from my experiences. As an avid horseback rider, I would like to

purchase a 4-hour horseback ride through Estes Park via National Parks Gateway Stables, to explore the park in the same manner as my dad once did.



Toward the end of his life, my father and I shared an interest in Buddhist Literature. A favorite author, Pema Chodron, wrote that the journey to *Bodhisattva* is often considered a journey upward, up the mountain toward a gleaming point that transcends all suffering and grief. The mountain, she suggests, instead points inward, down into our suffering and uncertainty, and that as we move through these trials in mindfulness, we may find at its bottom a “pool of healing water, and a love that will never die”. This philosophy has guided me in shaping my goals for this endeavor. I know that I will never experience my father’s presence as I once did, but by the end of this journey I hope to have created a series of prints and watercolors that recreate some of my father’s passion and express my physical, emotional, and spiritual experiences of walking those same paths. I believe that this journey will be an opportunity to experience a truth and love that has shaped me as a compassionate and living part of a greater whole. Thank you for your consideration of my proposal.

Proposal Budget
Total Funds: \$6,000

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Travel	<i>I will be driving a van from Bowling Green, Ohio to Colorado: This is will be the cost of fuel and tolls according to Mapquest.com</i>	Roundtrip	\$400.00
Lodging	<i>DownTown Artery Air BnB, Fort Collins</i>	One Month	\$900.00*
	<i>Air Bnb listing, Aurora, Colorado</i>	One Month	\$900.00
Food	<i>Budgeted Grocery Trips and Dining</i>	\$30/Day For 54 Days	\$1,620.00
Studio Fees	<i>Mad Deer Press, Fort Collins</i>	One Month	\$100.00
Membership	<i>Red Delicious Press, Aurora Colorado</i>	One Month	\$30.00*
Park Fees	<i>Colorado Parks and Wildlife Annual Pass- Unlimited access to The region's parks and forests</i>	One	\$70.00
Orientation	<i>Topography Map, Trail Guide Book</i>	Two	\$30.00
Art Supplies	Purchased through Dick Blick store:		\$1200.00
	<i>Wood for woodblocks, 12@ 12 x 18"</i>	\$60	
	<i>Ink, 17 cans (1 each color)</i>	\$300	
	<i>Professional Watercolor Wood Box Set</i>	\$200	
	<i>Sketchbooks 3 @9x12</i>	\$60	
	<i>Printing Paper, 100 Sheets Rives @ \$4/sht.</i>	\$400	
	<i>Sennelier Soft Pastel Set of 24</i>	\$70	
	<i>Jullian Remy Watercolor Easel</i>	\$110	
Adventure Gear	Purchased through REI online:		\$210.00
	<i>ALPS Mountaineering Backpacking Tent</i>	\$130	
	<i>Keen Waterproof Hiking Shoes</i>	\$80	
Canon Powershot SX170 IS 16.0 MP	<i>A compact digital camera to take high-quality landscape photographs</i>	One	\$140.00
National Parks	<i>4-Hour guided horseback ride</i>	One Adult	\$85.00

Gateway Stables	<i>through Estes Park</i>		
Natural Aspen Urn **		One	\$102.00
#12543 by Garden Arts			
Miscellaneous	<i>Souvenirs, Emergency Funds, Extra Travel Expenses, Possible Campsite Reservation</i>		\$213.00
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Total Cost:			\$6,000.00

**Indicates that this fee has been reduced by the director of the facility*

***This company takes fallen aspen logs from the Arapaho National Forest and turns them into unique and beautiful urns. My father especially loved the Arapaho Forest, and because he did not wish to be buried in a Cemetery, I believe this purchase would be the most appropriate way to honor his memory and bring his ashes with me safely.*