

Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship

There is no such thing as the “stroke of genius”, there are just small strokes of rejection that build up to the broader strokes of success as an artist. This lesson has been proven true, from the moment I entered college, to where I am today. I went from insecurity in my work, to building confidence through exploration of new mediums and modes of thinking with the help of my professors in the School of Art. Without their support, I don't think I would have received the recognition I have been granted. As my resume shows, the recognition I have received from the faculty illustrates that my ability to work with new mediums can create triumph. Although the risk of trying something new was a success, there are still so many concepts of abstract art that I haven't dived into yet. The School of Art has some great resources to offer in this specific field, but there are other worlds I need to excavate, in order to gain a broader sense of the conceptual/abstract genre of art.

While visiting Chicago last year, gaining personal connections dominates the galleries. Whether in the downtown area, or in the River-North gallery district, each artist who has his or her work hung up in those galleries knows this very concept. Every curator has their own criteria built in order to find which artists fit their gallery.

There was still so much to learn in Chicago. Every artist who strives to have any success in the world of art needs to start at the source, and the only way to begin that journey is to start from the bottom, as a gallery intern. It is in this stage where the artist begins to learn the business behind the art.

My goal, if given the honor of receiving the Stuart R. Givens Fellowship, is to begin this journey. As much as I appreciate all the effort and support my professors have given me, I feel that all the information I have gained would be in vain if I didn't take their advice and reciprocate it through action. It has been a long and difficult process searching for the right genre of art that I fit into that I am comfortable with, and once I found myself immersed in the field of conceptual art, I knew there were other cities with different outlooks in this genre. I have been offered a great deal of resources here, but there is still so much more beyond the borders of Ohio. After speaking with Dennis Wojtkiewicz regarding prospective internships available for the summer, he was able to get me in contact with Dennis Rosenthal, the owner of Rosenthal Fine Art in Chicago, who is willing to take me in as an intern. I have looked into the University of Illinois Chicago's housing units, which are reasonably priced and located close to the subway, and will give me the ability to travel with ease at a decent cost. With this opportunity, I will be able to learn more about how a gallery works in the wider perspective of a big city and the inner-workings of the art world as business. Being able to understand how shows are curated, the decisions that comes with what gets hung, and what is rejected, while being a small part of this decision making process, are what I wish to take from this internship. Understanding the personal and contractual relationship between artist and curator is a pivotal moment also.

During this time, not only will I be gaining knowledge from the business aspect of the art world, I will be conducting my own personal research for the BFA show next year. Although the business side is important, I must not forget about my own personal development as an artist. There would be no purpose to this internship if it did not mean

working on my artwork and challenging my skills to the next level. Given the vast amount of galleries and museums Chicago has to offer, I will take full advantage of researching what galleries are looking for, specifically in what districts of Chicago. It is important to know that each district in this city has a certain demographic and what type of artwork they wish to seek out, so, for future reference I would learn where I would be able to start as an artist living in this city. I will have the chance to research in some of the finest libraries and cultural centers that will help inspire this last project for my undergraduate career. With all these resources in my hands, this is my chance to take advantage of what other mediums I can experiment with and where they can take my artwork. There will be a copious amount of artists coming in and out of the the Rosenthal Fine Art gallery, as well as other shows taking place over the summer, and this would be one of those chance where I can pick into the mind of a full time artist. I can ask the hard-hitting questions that every artist solve differently. It would be extremely beneficial to take this opportunity as a chance to really think even deeper about my work, and start asking hard-hitting questions.

With this once in a lifetime opportunity to kickstart my career, being granted the Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship would be nothing but beneficial. Every moment spent in Chicago would solely be meant for obtaining a new perspective of the art world, and gaining a new sense of what it truly means to be a "starving artist", and the struggle that comes with it. The struggle is what I crave, and this city has what I need in order to feed that appetite. I appreciate your time and willingness to look into my application. If you have questions regarding the nature of my proposal, I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have. Thank you again for the possibility available.

Budget- \$6,000

Disbursement of Funds

Duration of Internship- 3 Months

Location- Rosenthal Fine Art-

3 E Huron St, Chicago, IL 60611

Rent - Dormitory- May 19 - August 4 The University of Illinois-Chicago 2035 W Taylor St, Chicago, IL 60612	\$3,300
Food (avg. cost per month for 3 months with groceries plus eating out)	\$1,700
Bus Tickets To and From Chicago via Megabus	\$50
Subway Fare (Chicago Transit Authority) Unlimited Rides at \$100/mo. (Avg. time from Rosenthal Fine Art to UIC is 32 min. by subway/bus)	\$300
Emergency Funds	\$350
Tickets to Museums- General Admission (to name a few) Art Institute of Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art River North Gallery District Museum of Contemporary Photography	\$300