

UW – Green Bay Research Council

Grants-In-Aid of Research

Cover Page

Name: Alison Gates

Phone: x2597

Email: gatesa@uwgb.edu

Address: Th331

Budgetary Unit: AVD

Project Title: Effects of Global Warming on Material Culture

This proposal is requesting funds for:

- First Priority Activities (Data/materials collection)
- Second Priority Activities (Travel to conference for research presentation)

Amount Requested: \$600.00

Anticipated Dates: Dec 10-Jan 11

Is Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval required? Y or N

Is Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval required?

Y or N

If awarded funding, proposals are open to review upon request.

Proposals must be submitted as a single PDF document containing:

- Cover Page
- Proposal Narrative (Page limit: 3) (Refer to guidelines)
- Budget of Expenses (Page limit: 1) (Refer to guidelines)
 - Use the template provided at www.uwgb.edu/rc/giar.htm
- Curriculum Vitae (Page limit: 2) (Refer to guidelines)

Electronic submissions only

Proposals must be received by 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 25, 2010.

E-mail your completed proposal as a single PDF file to nonnl@uwgb.edu

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Questions? Contact Charmaine Robaidek (robaidec@uwgb.edu), Lidia Nonn or a Council member.

		Grants in Aid Of Research Budget			
Name of Applicant Alison Gates		Budgetary Unit AVD Name of ADA (Academic Department Associate) Janet Gomez		Telephone No. X2597	
Budget Category		Grant Request Amount	Match (Not Required)	Match Type (i.e., monetary, service, or supplies) &	
a. Research Supplies and Expenses Yarn(10 balls Shetland @6.50 per;5 skeins Sheepdown@ 7.50 per; Guernsey 2 @ 12.00/SH) Display forms 3 @ \$90.00 plus s/H Maps 3 @ 25.00		600.00: 160.00 365.00 75.00			
b. Travel (mileage, lodging, meals) Name or number of people distance and/or charge		Rate and (Click for UW System Travel Regulations)			
c. Other					
TOTAL		600.00			

Describe how funds will be utilized: Yarn will be knit into re-imagined garments responding to the knitting histories of Guernsey, the Shetland Islands and the Cowichan tribes of British Columbia, histories in danger of dying out if sweaters are no longer needed in these traditionally cold areas. Three items will complete a series of 5, two of which are complete. Torso display forms will be used to display each garment which will then be incorporated into a display with maps and didactic tools pointing to the connection between material culture and climate. This is scheduled for completion for installation in the Lawton Gallery Faculty Show in late January 2011. Images of the existing garments can be seen on my blog, sharpandpointedobjects.blogspot.com. (They're knitted wool bikinis; Aran Isles and Norwegian traditions are represented.)

Narrative:

My project attempts to answer the question of what will happen should global warming have an adverse effect on certain cultural traditions of knitting. Most of the oldest and most respected knitting traditions come quite logically from cold, wet places like the Aran Islands, the Shetland Islands, Guernsey, Norway, and British Columbia. In fact, tourism to the Aran Islands is directly dependent upon the Aran "Fisherman's Knit" sweater, the classic off-white textured traditional pullover worn by fishermen for centuries, distinguished by distinct knit-in patterns of bobbles, cables and basket-stitches. In contemplating traditional knitting, I began to wonder what would happen if these places became warm; through climate change would we eventually lose these knitting traditions, or would they evolve? My answers were somewhat humorous:



My intention is to continue this series. I have planned the Guernsey (or Gansey) suit and the Cowichan (from the NW Coast Salish traditions, adapted from British settlers to the Cowichan Valley near Vancouver, BC.) A Fair Isle (or Shetland) suit is also in early stages of planning. I would like to create an installation of the finished suits, with didactic materials including maps, information on daily temperatures in each location, and imagery to support my thesis that the natural outcome would be an evolution of the knitting materials and styles to my end. I am committed to the UWGB Faculty Show at the end of January 2011 at which I hope to debut the installation. My budget outlines the costs related to the project including appropriate (traditional) wool yarns for 3 additional suits, display forms for the suits, and maps. Photocopies and mounting materials are not included in the budget. Once the installation is mounted at the Lawton, it can be documented, and (with luck) will be presented in a variety of other kinds of exhibition spaces down the road. This project combines my interest and research in both the areas of knitting and fashion history, is relevant in that it addresses the effect of climate on material culture, and is also appropriate to my body of art work to date. As such, it is an interdisciplinary project worthy of institutional support.

Alison Gates

Associate Professor, Arts and Visual Design, University of Wisconsin Green Bay
Home: 4819 North Fuji Drive, Appleton, WI 54913 920-202-3433
University: 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311 920-465-2597 gatesa@uwgb.edu

Education:

MFA, Studio Art, University of Washington 1998.
BFA, Studio Art, Western Washington University 1995.
BA, Liberal Studies, Western Washington University 1986.

Solo Exhibition:

- 2006 Roland Dille Center for the Arts, Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN.
"Merrily, Merrily, Life is but a Dream."
Reviewed:
Valley Forum February 9, 2006, pages B1-B2 "Weekend Watch/ Best Bets."
High Plains Reader February 2, 2006, pages 14-15 "Row row row your boat."
- 2005 West Bend Art Museum, West Bend, WI. "One from Wisconsin."
Graeme Reid, curator.
- 2004 Silo Project Space, Stoughton, WI. "Power and Structure."

Selected Group Exhibition:

- 2010 Society for Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh, PA "Fiberart International 2010"
Mary Ruth Smith, Vibeke Riisberg, Rebecca A.T. Stevens, jurors.
Triennial, international competition.
- Desotorow Gallery, Savannah, GA "Writing on the Wall"
Ai-ling Chaing, curator
- 2009 Wichita Center for the Arts, Wichita, KS. "Fiber Directions 2009"
Jason Pollen, juror.
Annual, national competition.
- Textile Center of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. "Web and Flow"
Bruce Hoffman, juror.
International contemporary basket exhibition.
- Luke and Eloy Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA. "Fibers Expanded"
Brigitte Martin, Curator.
- Guardino Gallery, Portland OR. "National Basketry Organization Exhibition"
Selected works from "Web and Flow."

2008 Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR. "Touching Warms the Art."
Namita Gupta Wiggers, Rebecca Scheer, and Rachelle Theiwes jurors.
Two works, of knitted and felted chain construction were exhibited; both are now
part of the museum's permanent teaching collection.

2007 Greater Denton Arts Council, Denton, TX. "Materials Hard and Soft, 2007"
Paula Owen, President and CEO of Southwest School of Art & Craft, juror. National
exhibition.
Center for Visual Arts, Wausau WI. "Collected Remnants."
Three Wisconsin artists, invitational. Ten new works were exhibited.

Publications:

Knitty, Amy Singer, ed.; Winter 2005 www.knitty.com Knitting pattern, "Marley's Ghost
No-Clank Chains."

Blog: <http://www.sharpandpointedobjects.blogspot.com>

Presentations:

"Changing the World with Sticks and String: Knitting Activism" University of Wisconsin
System Women's Studies Consortium Annual Conference, April 2008 (Updated material
was also presented for "Craftivism" at the Lawton Gallery, October 2008, and for Iris Fine
Yarns, Appleton WI, November 2009.)

"Women Artists React to Environment" University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies
Consortium Annual Conference, April 2008

Teaching Experience:

Associate Professor, Arts and Visual Design, and Women's and Gender Studies (Chair),
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, Green Bay, WI.

Art 250, Art 355, Art 453 Fibers and Textiles; Art 107 Two-Dimensional Design; Art 105
Introduction to Drawing; AVD 272/WOST 272 Women in the Visual Arts; AVD 372/WOST
372 Women, Art and Image.

Appointment to Women's Studies Faculty, Fall 2004.

UW Green Bay Teaching Scholar, 2003-2004; UW-System Teaching Scholar, 2005-2007.

Co-lead for travel course, COA/HUM 385 The Arts in London, 2004 and 2006

Promotion from Assistant to Associate with Tenure, 2007

Adjunct Faculty, Lecturer, University of Wisconsin Green Bay, Green Bay, WI.

Full-time, academic year, 2001-2002.

Adjunct Faculty, Lecturer, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

Three-Dimensional Design, Summer 2000; Beginning Drawing & Three-Dimensional
Design, Winter 2000.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Art, East Tennessee State, Johnson City, TN.

Fibers-Fabrics and Three-Dimensional Design. Full-time, academic year, 1998-1999.