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www.cityofmadison.com/mac

BLINK Grant Application

Applicant Information

Name _____

Address (no P.O. boxes) _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Project Description

Project Title _____

Location(s) _____

Start date/time _____ End date/time _____

Project costs:

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Additional project income (if any):

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Amount requested from MAC _____

Estimated Total Costs / Income _____

Do you have the necessary insurance coverage?

Yes No

Do you have all necessary permits and permissions?

Yes No In progress

Deadlines

- Deadlines are: February 1, June 1, and October 1
- All application materials must be emailed to the Madison Arts Commission (madisonarts@cityofmadison.com) by 4:30 pm on the day of the deadline.



"The Beehive Project" by Chele Isaac, was an interactive public art project consisting of a large scale beehive, featuring a queen bee inside typing a story on an old typewriter. The public participated by helping to write the story.

Madison Arts Commission

The City of Madison (MAC) recognizes the unique value of the arts and the contribution they make to the quality of life within our community. Madison Arts Commission was created by ordinance in 1974, to advise the Mayor, Common Council and city agencies on matters which relate to the creation, presentation and funding of public art.

Conceptual Approach

This project involves placement of 350 yard signs with short, ambiguous phrases all around Madison. The signs will be distributed to city residents to place in their yards or house/business windows. Yard signs traditionally sell something or promote a cause; in recontextualizing this familiar object and taking poetic license with it, artist Trent Miller and poet J.L. Conrad (who are also married) hope to encourage viewers to engage with this medium, inserting themselves into the statements on the signs, and encourage open-ended interpretations. The signs should invite, surprise, and provoke. A Blink grant will enable us to bring our “If Not This Then What” project to a city-wide audience and to plant the seeds for future iterations of this present undertaking.

Project Description (400 words or less)

Our project, “If Not This Then What,” will put mysterious, open-ended phrases out in the public that cause people to pause and think. We’ve considered multiple formats but in the end landed on yard signs to deliver the messages. Yard signs traditionally sell something (rent this house, support this cause) or promote a point of view (everyone is welcome here, support our school). In this context, we want to create signs that say things like “If not this, then what?” and “meanwhile, the toast is getting cold.” All the phrases will come from text written by poet J.L. Conrad and have an open-ended interpretation.

We’ve specifically picked phrases that will read in different ways depending on the viewer’s current mood, life situation, etc. For example, “If not this, then what?” could be read as inspirational to some people and as unsettling for someone else in different circumstances. Either way, the physical sign could be interpreted as a “sign” for that person in their life.

We plan to print 350 signs and give them out all over town. We will use our own social networks and set up give-away stations at multiple Madison Public Library locations (we’ve confirmed that we can do this) to help distribute the signs to a broader network of people. Anyone taking a sign will be asked to post a photo on social media, or text/email us a photo with the sign and hashtag #ifnotthisthenwhat. The signs will also have the hashtag on the bottom corner so members of the public can share photos on personal social media accounts. This will help distribute the project even further, as we would eventually like to see it spread to other locations and be distributed in multiple physical formats.

In his role running the Bubbler at Madison Public Library, Trent has focused his energies on lots of public art projects and has extensive background in working on projects that interact with the public in meaningful ways. Trent has shifted his artistic practice from a focus solely on paintings and drawings to include public/social projects. J.L. has worked on multiple poetry projects and collaborations with artists; this project would enable her to move her words off of the page and out into a broader public view. She also has expertise in design, and this project will put her design work out into the public as well.

Trent Miller

trentmiller49@gmail.com

www.trentmillerart.com

Education

MFA in Art (May 2003) – Boston University, Boston, MA

BA in Visual Art (May 1999) – Anderson University, Anderson, IN

Solo Exhibitions

- 2016** *New Drawings*, Table Wine, Madison, WI
- 2014** *Meet Me At The Edge Of The World*, Tory Folliard Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- 2013** *The Lost Tower and Other Stories*, Delafield Art Center, Delafield, WI
Spindrift and Tether, James Watrous Gallery, Madison, WI
Spindrift and Tether II, Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN
Paint/Draw, Little Mifflin St. Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2012** *I and They*, Backspace Collective, Peoria, Ill
Healing Machines Head West, TAB Fine Art, Tabernash, CO
- 2011** *Ten Years of Painting*, Madison Central Library Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2010** *Imaginariums*, Edenfred, Madison, WI
Healing Machines, Sundance Cinemas Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2007** *The Radiant Threshold*, Porter Butts Gallery, Memorial Union, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
- 2006** *Trent Miller: New Paintings and Drawings*, Carrie Haddad Gallery, Hudson, NY
- 2005** *Night is a House*, Hudson Opera House, Hudson, NY
- 2002** *New Paintings*, Boston University Commonwealth Gallery, Boston, MA

Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2011** *Decreation*, two-person show with Michael Velliquette, Rockford College, Rockford, IL
- 2010** *Saudades*, two-person show at Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI
Paintings and Drawings, two-person show with Derrick Buisch, Madison, WI
- 2003** *Inside/Outside* two-person show at Harrison Art Center, Indianapolis, IN

Group Exhibitions

- 2017** *A Tiny Rivulet in the Distant Forest*, ArtStart, Rhinelander, WI

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- 2016 *Luck of the Draw*, Madison Central Public Library Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2015 *Anderson University Alumni Show*, Anderson University, Anderson, IN
- 2014 *Summer In Wisconsin*, Tory Folliard Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
Three Person Draw Three, Coop Gallery, Nashville, TN
- 2013 *RED*, Overture Gallery I, Madison, WI
Q & A (STACKED), Madison Central Public Library Gallery, Madison, WI
Wild America, Common Wealth Gallery, Madison, WI
Precautionary Principles, Porter Butts Gallery, UW-Madison, Madison, WI
COLOR!, Tory Folliard Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- 2012 *BOOKLESS*, Madison Public Library, Madison, WI
Time (Im)material, Four person show at Porter Butts Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2011 Paper Crane Artist Book Exhibition, Chicago, IL
Orange Crush show, Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN
- 2010 Three-person distinguished alumni exhibition at Anderson University, Anderson, IN
- 2009 *Intimate Frontiers* show at Stockton College, Pomona, NJ (printed catalog)
- 2008 Summer Group Show, Gulden Kunstverk, Norway
- 2007 Christmas Show, Galleri Galtung-Huser, Oslo Norway
- 2006 Columbia County Council on the Arts Annual Juried Show, Hudson, NY
 Juror: Donald McKinney
- 2005 Marist College Faculty Exhibition, Poughkeepsie, NY
 Dutchess Community College Faculty Exhibition, Poughkeepsie, NY
Hot, Columbia County Council on the Arts Juried Show, Hudson, NY
 Washington Art Association Young Talent Show, Washington Depot, CT
 Anderson University 1Painting/1Drawing Exhibition, Anderson, IN
- 2004 Bowery Gallery Juried Show, Juror: William Bailey, New York, NY
- 2003 *Superpowers* show at the Gallery at Green Street, Jamaica Plain, MA
MFA Painting Thesis Exhibition, Boston University 808 Gallery
Arches Student Print Show, Boston University 808 Gallery “catalogue”
- 2002 *Scapes* group show, Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN
- 2001 Anderson University Faculty and Alumni Exhibition
- 2000 Anderson University Faculty and Alumni Exhibition
Second Story/Project 49 Gallery Group Show, Anderson, IN
 Mural Commission (June-July), City of Anderson, IN
- 1999 Anderson University Senior Exhibition
 Juried Exhibition, Anderson University, Best of Show
 Juried Exhibition, Minnetrista Cultural Center, Muncie, IN
Rethink, Alter, Discard/Project 49 Gallery Group Show, Anderson, IN
Consider/Reconsider two person show sponsored by Open Hand, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

Curaorial and Community Art Projects

2016 *MUNICIPAL*, Madison Municipal Building, Madison, WI

2013 *STACKED*, Madison Central Public Library Gallery, Madison, WI

2012 *BOOKLESS*, Madison Public Library, Madison, WI

J.L. Conrad

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Phone: (608) 243-1385 ♦ Email: conradjl@gmail.com ♦ Web: jlconrad.com

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

J.L. Conrad is the author of one full-length collection of poems, *A Cartography of Birds* (Louisiana State University Press), and a limited-edition artist's book, *Species of Light*, carried out in collaboration with printmaker Sarah Noble. Her chapbook *NOT IF BUT WHEN* won Salt Hill's third annual Dead Lake Chapbook competition was published in 2016. Her poems have appeared in *Pleiades*, *Columbia*, *Third Coast*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *iO: A Journal of New American Poetry*, *H_NGM_N*, *Anti-Boxcar Poetry Review*, *The Southeast Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *Phoebe*, *Alligator Juniper* and *The Cream City Review*, among others. Several of her poems have earned recognition in various contests, including the 2009 *New Letters* Literary Awards, *Mid-American Review's* 2008 Fineline Competition and 2004 James Wright Poetry Contest, and *Columbia's* national poetry competition. Her poem "Brother André's Heart: Montreal, 2003" appeared with her accompanying essay "Tenebrae: Living In/Among Shadows" in the anthology *Making Poems: 40 Poems with Commentary by the Poets* (SUNY Press). She earned her Ph.D. in Literary Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

PUBLICATIONS

Book: *A Cartography of Birds: Poems*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2002.

Chapbooks:

Not If But When. Syracuse: Salt Publishing, 2016.

Winner, Salt Hill's third annual Dead Lake Chapbook competition (2015)

Species of Light. Muncie, IN: Bellywater Press, 2003.

Manuscript:

Miracle Town [selected honors below]

Finalist, The Green Rose Prize, New Issues Poetry and Prose, Western Michigan University (2015)

Finalist, The University of Akron Press's Akron Poetry Prize (2015)

Finalist, Slope Editions 14th Annual Book Prize (2015)

Finalist, Marsh Hawk Press's Twelfth Annual Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize (2015)

Finalist, Fordham University Press's Poets Out Loud (POL) Prize (2014)

Semi-Finalist, CSU Fresno's Philip Levine Prize in Poetry (2014)

Finalist, Barrow Street Book Contest (2013)

Semi-Finalist, Alice James Books' Beatrice Hawley Award (2013)

Finalist, Tupelo Press's First/Second Book Contest (2012)

Anthologized Work:

"Brother André's Heart: Montreal, 2003" and "Tenebrae: Living In/Among Shadows" (essay). *Making Poems: 40 Poems with Commentary by the Poets*. Eds. Todd Davis and Erin Murphy. Albany: SUNY Press: 15–19.

Poems in Literary Journals:

"Portent." *Amsterdam Quarterly* 19 (June 2017), and *Amsterdam Quarterly 2017 Yearbook* (Dec. 2017): [forthcoming].

"[Miracle Town] in which we embrace the evidence" and "[Miracle Town] in which everything is cast aside." *Salt Hill* 37 (2016): 32–33.

"Looking Back, September." *Birdfeast* 12 (Winter 2016). <birdfeastmagazine.com/twelve>.

"Some Brink." *Magma* 61 (Spring 2015): 75.

"House Above the Bottomlands." *Handsome* 7.1: 73–4.

"Poem in Which I see Your Double Coming" "Poem in Which Nostalgia Gets the Best of Us," "Poem in Which I Am Not Sorry," "Poem in Which I Ride the Train Ten Years Out" and "Poem in Which Our Pilgrimage Begins." *diode* 7.3 (Fall 2014). <www.diodepoetry.com/v7n3/content/conrad_jl.html>.

"Poem in Which I Dispense Unlooked-for Advice." *Ascent* (12 Oct. 2014). <www.readthebestwriting.com/poem-in-which-i-dispense-unlooked-for-advice-j-l-conrad>.

"The Trees, as if Overnight." *Phantom Limb* 11 (Summer 2014). <phantombooks.net/j-l-conrad>.

"Blood Orange." *Salamander* 38 (Spring/Summer 2014): 19.

- “Postpartum” and “A dangerous time: these hours in the night.” *Memorious* 22 (Jun. 2014). <www.memorious.org/?author=352>.
- “Poem in Which I Lament the Absence” and “Poem in Which Your Cells Remain Intact.” *2River View* 18.3 (Spring 2014). <www.2river.org/2RView/18_3/poems/conrad.html>.
- “Poem in Which I Enter the Fray” and “Poem in Which We Become Creatures of Habit.” *The Harlequin* 4 (Feb. 2014). <www.theharlequin.org/conrad1> and <www.theharlequin.org/conrad2>.
- “Poem in Which Our Best-Laid Plans Come to Nothing” and “Poem in Which We Disturb the Resting Places.” *Anti- Feature* #113 (Oct. 2013).
- “Poem in Which We Locate the Omphalos” and “Poem in Which I Inhabit the Spectral.” *iO: A Journal of New American Poetry* 10 (Aug. 2013). <iopoetry.org/archives/1871>.
- “Poem in Which We Count the Weeks Backward.” *Boxcar Poetry Review* 32 (Spring 2013). <www.boxcarpoetry.com/032/conrad_jl_001.html>.
- “Rabble” and “Poem in Which Everything Again Becomes Possible.” *The Laurel Review* 46.2 (2012): 131–33.
- “Poem in Which I Try to Bring Back the Dead,” “Poem in Which a Decision Has Been Reached” and “Poem in Which Everything Is At Odds” *Jellyfish* 6.0 (Spring 2012). <www.jellyfishmagazine.org/6.0/conrad1.html>, <www.jellyfishmagazine.org/6.0/conrad2.html> and <www.jellyfishmagazine.org/6.0/conrad3.html>.
- “Secret Elephant.” *Pleiades* 31.1 (Winter 2011): 81.
- “Poem in Which Something Changes” and “Poem in Which I Wade Through Coffee.” *Forklift, Ohio: A Journal of Poetry, Cooking and Light Industrial Safety* 23 (Summer 2011): 96, 191.
- “Poem in Which Terror Leaves the Kitchen,” “Poem in Which You Leave Me at the Shopping Mart” and “Poem in Which Everything is a Lie.” *H_NGM_N* 12 (2011). <www.h-ngm-n.com/h_ngm_n12/jl-conrad.html>.
- “Meanwhile.” *Mid-American Review* 29.1 (Fall 2008): 45-46.
- “The Sheep, in Wool Coats, Did Not Suffer.” *Columbia* 45 (2008): 39.
- “Surveillance: The River.” *The Southeast Review* 24.1–2 (Winter 2006): 53.
- “Annunciation.” *Third Coast* 20 (2005): 22.
- “Groundworks.” *H_NGM_N* 3 (2005). <www.hubcapart.com/h-ngm-n/3.htm>.
- “On Edge as if Breaking” and “El Greco Sky.” *Alligator Juniper* Special Issue: “Scars” (2005): 17–18.
- “Eclipse II.” *The Cream City Review* 29.1 (Spring 2005): 29.
- “Flood,” “Lament,” “Shapes of Memory,” “Irises” and “Sparrows.” *Frostproof Review* 1.1 (Spring/Summer 2004): 61–80.
- “Cypress.” *Brooklyn Review* 19 (2002): 65.
- “Undercurrents.” *Phoebe* 31.2 (Fall 2002): 47.
- “Evening, June.” *Folio* (Winter 2001): 7.
- “Learning to Move.” *CQ/California Quarterly* 27.4 (2001): 11.
- “In the Midst of Reading Ammons.” *Beloit Poetry Journal* 52.2 (Winter 2001–2002): 37.
- “In Winter” and “Planting, 1964.” *ForPoetry.com*. <www.forpoetry.com/Archive/conrad2.htm>.
- “North Beach,” “August” and “Outside the Church of John Coltrane.” *ForPoetry.com*. <www.forpoetry.com/Archive/jl_conrad.htm>.

RESIDENCIES AND RECOGNITION (POETRY)

- ♦ Assistant Editor, *About Place Journal* 4.2 (special issue *Animals Among Us: Strangeness, Intimacy, Reciprocity*, Fall 2016).
- ♦ Resident, Anderson Center for the Interdisciplinary Arts, Red Wing, MN (May 2011).
- ♦ Day Fellow, Edensfred, Madison, WI (individual award, summer 2008; with PGMAC poets, 2009–10).
- ♦ *MQR* 84 (April 2010): “Some New Voices in Mennonite Poetry: A Review Essay” by Ann Hostetler.

- ♦ **Finalist and “Editor’s Choice” Winner, *Mid-American Review’s* Fineline Competition** for “Meanwhile” (2008).
- ♦ **Finalist, *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art’s* Annual Writing Contest** (judge: Matthea Harvey) for “The Sheep, In Wool Coats, Did Not Suffer” (2008).
- ♦ **Finalist, *The Southeast Review’s* Gearhart Poetry Contest** (judge: Charles Wright) for “Surveillance: The River” (2006).
- ♦ **Special Opportunity Stipend, New York Foundation for the Arts** (2005).
- ♦ **Runner-up, *Alligator Juniper* National Writing Contest** (2005).
- ♦ **Finalist for poetry fellowship, Breadloaf Writer’s Conference** (2004).
- ♦ ***Ohioana Quarterly*** (Winter 2003): Review of *A Cartography of Birds: Poems*.
- ♦ ***Washington Times*** (May 11, 2003): “Two New Poets and Mrs. Wei,” review of *A Cartography of Birds: Poems*.
- ♦ **Writer’s Almanac** (Dec. 13, 2002): “Stories My Grandmother Told” read/featured by Garrison Keillor.
- ♦ **Fine Arts Work Center**, Provincetown, MA (June 2002). Week-long poetry workshop, “Breaking Through: A Poetry Workshop for Experienced Writers,” with Marie Howe (Sarah Lawrence College).
- ♦ **Vermont Studio Center**, Johnson, VT (May 2001). Month-long residency for writing.
- ♦ **Iowa Summer Writer’s Workshop**, Iowa City, IA (June 1998). Poetry workshop with Jim Heynen.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND READINGS

“Watershed Reading Celebrates New Books.” Poetry reading with Timothy Yu, Jeanie Tomasko and Steve Tomasko. Arts and Literature Laboratory (ALL), Madison, WI (June 10, 2016).

“Brief and Fortunate Conjunctions: Edith Sitwell’s Influence on Sylvia Plath.” Sylvia Plath Symposium 2012, “The October Poems,” Indiana University-Bloomington (Oct. 25–28, 2012).

“The Beast in Me: Becoming-Nonhuman in Atwood’s *Surfacing* and Boyle’s ‘Dogology’.” The 26th Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Milwaukee, WI (Sept. 27–30, 2012).

Poetry reading with Marilyn Taylor and Christine Holm. Crosshatxh Poetry Series. Avol’s Books, Madison, WI (Apr. 21, 2011).

Poetry reading with Cynthia Marie Hoffman and Erin Rudzicka Trondson. Edenfred Day Fellows Reading, Sundance Cinemas, Madison, WI (Mar. 25, 2010).

“Poems from *Flood*.” M/MLA conference, Minneapolis, MN (Nov. 13–16, 2008).

“Mapping the Terrain of Memory: Articulations of Trauma in Poetry.” MadLit Conference, “Re-imagining, Re-inventing, and Re-reading.” University of Wisconsin-Madison (April 19–21, 2007).

Poetry reading/new book celebration. “Mennonite/s Writing: Beyond Borders” conference. Bluffton University, Bluffton, OH (Oct. 26–29, 2006).

Poetry reading. Hudson Opera House, Hudson, NY (Oct. 29, 2005).

Poetry reading and lecture, “A Conversation about the Craft of Poetry.” Visiting Writers Series, English Department, Clarion University, Clarion, PA (Apr. 7, 2005).

Poetry reading and visit to graduate student poetry class. Visiting Writers Series, Department of Literature, American University, Washington, DC (Apr. 9, 2003).

Poetry reading and book launch with Joanna Goodman. Adams House, Cambridge, MA (Nov. 12, 2002). Sponsored by the Grolier Poetry Bookshop and the Ellen LaForge Memorial Foundation.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison: English/Literary Studies, 2016

M.A. University of Wisconsin-Madison: English/Literary Studies, 2007

M.F.A. American University, Washington, DC: Literature/Creative Writing, 2000

B.A. Anderson University, Anderson, IN: Psychology, 1998 (*Summa cum laude*, departmental honors)



Example of sign text and design for “If Not This Then What” project by Trent Miller and J.L. Conrad.



Mockup of yard sign for “If Not This Then What” project by Trent Miller and J.L. Conrad.

Blink Grant Image Descriptions

- 1) Screenshot from collaborative art/poetry web project by J.L. Conrad and artist Emil Corsillo titled “Groundworks” (full project viewable at www.jlconrad.com/groundworks). J.L. based the text for this piece on a web search of architectural terms and used Emil’s methods for composing his artwork; in other words, J.L. attempted to “translate” Emil’s paint into language. This undertaking shows J.L.’s willingness to work with artists in reimagining her own writing and in generating something novel.
- 2) Screenshot of website design (partial page viewable) by J.L. Conrad for her Chapbook *Not If But When* (Winner of Salt Hill’s Third Annual Dead Lake Chapbook Competition). This shows some of J.L. Conrad’s design skills, as well as the sort of typography that would be used in the proposed “If Not This Then What” project.
- 3) Image from MUNICIPAL community art event organized by Trent Miller. This image is from the “Ask The Oracle” project conceived by Trent Miller where the public asks questions, and oracles (primarily poets) answer the questions with open-ended, mysterious responses. This iteration of the project used the post office counter and a financial vault in the old Municipal Building. As an outgrowth of the initial “Ask the Oracle” project, this undertaking demonstrates Trent’s facility with public engagement and continuing projects beyond their inception, reimagining them in a different context.
- 4 Image from BOOKLESS community art event organized by Trent Miller. This image is from the original “Ask The Oracle” project conceived by Trent Miller where the public asks questions and oracles (primarily poets) answer the questions with open-ended, mysterious responses. This iteration of the project used pneumatic tubes in the old Central Library. Questions and responses from this project were anthologized in handmade chapbooks that were sold to benefit the library.
- 5) Image from BOOKLESS community art event organized by Trent Miller. This image is from an Installation called “Please Eat Pets In Library” by Trent Miller, which included found objects from the old Central Public Library. This project showcases Trent’s dexterity with reimagining familiar items and rendering them strange/unfamiliar/humorous for an audience.



Aren't we all in the same boat?

Fair does not mean everyone gets treated the same.
Fair means everyone gets what they need.

Resistance is necessary: it is not rude.

Maybe a little fear isn't necessarily bad.

J.L. Conrad

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