



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2018

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**North Dakota Council on the Arts announces
Individual Artist Fellowship recipients**

The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) has awarded two artist fellowships each in the amount of \$3,500. The Individual Artist Fellowship recipients in Visual Art and Media Arts are Brad Bachmeier of Fargo, and Pirjo Berg of Grand Forks. Bachmeier and Berg were recommended by a review panel whose selections were approved by NDCA's Board of Directors.

Brad Bachmeier, Fargo

Visual Arts and Crafts, 3-dimensional, Clay

For the past five years Brad has been participating in State Park, National Park, National Monument and World Heritage site Artist-in-Residency programs (AIR). The residencies are all juried and some have been highly competitive at the national level. He received the top ranking in the Mesa Verde AIR in 2017, and for this summer (2018), Brad received one—of only two—AIR's given annually for the Grand Canyon/Parashant National Monument. During these past five years, he has had the goal of culminating his AIR experiences in the completion of both an article for a national ceramic publication, and an accompanying exhibit. Brad believes at the conclusion of this AIR, he will have a cohesive body of ceramic work that is ready for publication and exhibition. This grant has the potential to impact his personal artistic career in a significant way because it will provide the time and resources necessary to mount his most important exhibit to date. It will be the culmination of five years of ceramic work and will result in a professionally written, curated article and exhibit that can be distributed and shown across the state of North Dakota and then expand to national galleries and exhibitions. For more information on Brad and his work, visit <http://www.bachmeierpottery.com>.

Pirjo Berg, Grand Forks

Visual Arts and Crafts, 2-dimensional, Painting

Pirjo is interested in studying the experience of space, place and landscape. The childhood visual world is defining what one considers to be familiar. As an immigrant she feels to be in between her new and old country. This grant will be used to cover expenses on supplies for 20 new paintings, framing, shipping all the paintings to Monroe Community College's Mercer Gallery in Rochester, NY for her solo show at Mercer Gallery, and back. It will also cover her travel to Rochester, NY and back. During her five-day stay she will install the show with the

gallery staff, participate at the opening reception, and give a gallery talk about her art processes to the students of the Monroe Community College and the Rochester Art Community. This is great opportunity for Pirjo and her career as artist. This solo exhibition will bring many new possibilities to show and discuss her work, hopefully here in North Dakota. For more information on Pirjo, visit <https://www.pirjoberg.com>.

The Individual Artist Fellowship program recognizes practicing artists residing in North Dakota with a monetary fellowship award. This program is designed to support professional artists with outstanding talent and ability to improve their artistic skills and enhance their career opportunities. Fellowships for Music and Literature artists will be awarded in 2019.

For more information on NDCA's grant programs please visit <http://www.nd.gov/arts/grants> or call 701-328-7590.

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The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.