

CSP Membership Engagement Grant Request from Zach Clark

1. Project Title

A Risograph Portfolio. (I'll come up with something more clever closer to its existence.)

2. Project Description

I would like to create a portfolio of 10 Risograph prints by artists predominantly working in traditional printmaking methods. Risograph as a medium is more commonly used by illustrators, graphic designers, and people working within the zine space, or as a tool for reproduction. I'd like to put together a collection of work from 10 members of the CSP that is entirely original work, made with the characteristics of Riso in mind.

The portfolio would be printed in an edition of 125, with each artist receiving 10 copies to keep or sell as compensation for their labor in the project, with the remaining 25 copies being retained by me as the publisher.

I will provide education and assistance to each participating artist to help them conceptualize a project that successfully translates their personal practice into a medium they may be unfamiliar.

3. Statement of the project's value and/or interest to the larger CSP and/or additional printmaking communities

With the focus on the portfolio being original work made for Risograph, I imagine there will be a significant amount of education and experimentation with each artist, providing multiple opportunities and incentives to participate in the project including education in a new medium, a work exchange with professional peers, and passive opportunities for showing and institutional acquisition.

Additionally, since I will be doing the actual printing for most projects, this is an opportunity that is not location specific and could provide opportunities for CSPs more locationally distant members who often can't participate in residencies or some shows.

Within the scope of the larger printmaking community, my hope is this portfolio would be a collection that helps exemplify the qualities of risograph for a community that is still uncertain about what the medium can provide beyond reproduction. There have been very few projects like this specifically trying to activate the traditional print community.

4. Project Management Personnel and their email addresses (the person(s) submitting the proposal and their worker buddies)

Zach Clark, nationalmonumentpress@gmail.com

5. Number of CSP member participants

10

6. How participants are selected to participate if a call, and/or names of participants if already selected

I'd like the participants in the project to be selected as part of an open call to allow for this to be as inclusive as possible. However, I will acknowledge upfront the untraditional nature of this call; the portfolio is intended to be original work created for riso but most of the participants will not know much about the medium, so traditional proposals won't be terribly useful. The call would exist mostly as applying to say you're interested in participating and providing some past work samples, and I would be selecting participants based off of what artists seem like they'll translate to the medium best, so decisions will be based largely of my own opinion and preference than the merit of a proposal, making it more like an invitational project, but from a pool that has said they would like to be invited.

I'm open to guidance from the CSP board on this.

7. Action plan / Project needs for success

I believe most of this is covered in previous questions and in the timeline question below, but please let me know if I'm missing any details.

8. Additional CSP resources requested such as access to CSP accounts for Submittable, Zoom, Social Media; or the CSP Website

I believe I would be able to handle the call myself through google forms due to the lighter application process.

9. Project Timeline

Upon being awarded the project funding, I'll begin to put together the call materials. The announcement to selection would be roughly 4-6 weeks. Once artists are selected, I would offer 1-3 workshops (depending on need) to educate artists on the process, followed by 2-3 months of time for working with artists to conceptualize their piece and then produce it. Ideally the complete collection would be shown upon completion with a potential artist talk, but with the

continuing reality of COVID, plans for that will need to be more flexible. It may be an in person exhibition, it may need to be a virtual talk/workshare.

In all the project should take no more than 6 months, with anticipated completion date of artists receiving their portfolios within Fall 2021.

10. Project Budget. Itemized. Include minimum amount needed to fund the project; whether the project will be co-funded by another entity or by the project participants, and if so by how much. Note: While current board members are encouraged to both participate in and manage projects, according to the CSP bylaws they are not eligible to receive compensation for services rendered. Article 3. Section D.

I would like to request the full \$1250.

The production costs alone for the portfolio would be roughly \$1600. Each artist's edition, estimating for 125, 8x10, 3 color prints, would be roughly \$155, multiplied by the 10 artists in the set. I would pay for the full cost of the set, recognizing there are opportunities for sales to make up the difference.

Each artist will be responsible for their own materials to prepare their piece, if necessary. They will receive 10 copies they are free to sell to compensate themselves for their labor and costs, or if a CSP board member, can do what they wish so as to stay within the guidelines of the by laws.

While this is a project that has the capacity to fund itself off of sales, the economics of Riso are such that the price point is typically quite modest. I imagine this set selling for roughly \$100, or \$10 a piece. This creates work well below an artists' typical pricing structure, and the collector base of many artists may not be interested in this more ephemeral work, so without funding from CSP, this project would likely not be possible because of the economic investment/risk.