

THE JUDITH ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION

GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

"Judith [Rothschild] saw being an artist as an individual necessity, a collective enterprise, and a responsibility to the public and her fellow artists."

Anne d'Harnoncourt, address for Judith Rothschild's memorial service, May 10, 1993

MISSION STATEMENT

The Judith Rothschild Foundation was established by the will of the noted abstract painter, Judith Rothschild, who died in 1993. The operating Foundation has several distinct missions, including the stewardship of Ms. Rothschild's own work, the disposition of works of art by others in her collection, special discretionary initiatives in support of museums and cultural institutions generally, and a grant program. The unique mission of the grant program focuses on encouraging interest in recently deceased American painters, sculptors, and photographers whose work is of the highest quality but lacks adequate recognition. The grant program is dedicated to ensuring that the work of under-recognized, deceased artists has meaningful opportunities for public viewing and critical reassessment.

THE GRANT PROGRAM

The Foundation makes grants to present, preserve, or interpret work of the highest aesthetic merit by lesser known American artists who have died after September 12, 1976 and before March 7, 2008.* The primary emphasis is to promote public awareness of the scope of the artists' achievements as well as direct aesthetic experience of their work. Examples of grants include support for: the organization of exhibitions; the acquisition of works of art for display and study in museums and public galleries; the development of accompanying public programs, films, or videos; the preparation of publications; scholarly and critical pursuits; and, the conservation, cataloguing, and safe-keeping of works of art.

The Foundation has no preset restrictions on the amount of a request, although previous grants have not exceeded \$35,000. Preference will be given to those projects to which the applicants themselves have demonstrated a strong commitment. Accordingly, the Foundation encourages applicants to try to match some portion of their proposed project budget with other funds, resources, or services. When appropriate, the Foundation will work with others to advance its mission, which may include cooperation with institutions as well as the surviving spouses, companions, relatives and estates of recently deceased artists. Because the mandate of The Judith Rothschild Foundation was specifically focused by Ms. Rothschild in her will, the Foundation is unable to consider requests which are outside the guidelines described here, including requests for: general operating support, capital projects, endowment funds, unrelated travel and scholarships, and other areas of need, as well as grants to living artists.

- *Dates established by Rothschild's will (15 years before the date of the her will and 15 years after her death)*

Grant Program: PO Box 3818, Minneapolis, MN 55403 Telephone: 212-929-0669

ELIGIBILITY OF THE ARTIST

An artist may be under-recognized for a variety of reasons. For instance, his or her work may have formerly received some recognition but has subsequently fallen out of favor. The artist's work may be known only regionally. Or, the artist may have been without access to, or support from, commercial galleries or art institutions. The Grants Review Committee will consider many factors; however, all qualifying work must meet the following criteria:

1. Work of the highest quality, regardless of style, by under-appreciated American artists, deceased after September 12, 1976 and before March 7, 2008.
2. Art in the following mediums: painting, including works on paper, collage and relief; sculpture; and photography. *
3. A clear and demonstrated need for such support.

* *Multi-media, film, video, performance, conceptual art or crafts are not included.*

ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT

Requests for support are welcome primarily from tax-exempt, publicly-supported, not-for-profit institutions. The Foundation will consider most favorably those organizations such as, but not limited to, museums, public galleries, art schools and academic institutions. Where the proposed project will add substantially to the body of knowledge and public appreciation of a qualifying artist's work, the Foundation will, in selected instances, also consider making grants to the estates of qualifying deceased artists and to independent curators, scholars, and historians who have a direct recognized relationship to the artist's work.

HOW TO APPLY

Requests to the Foundation by grantseekers should be in the form of a brief 2-3 page typewritten letter containing the following information: **1)** a succinct description of the project that outlines specific goals, how they will be accomplished and by whom; **2)** a specific amount requested accompanied by a detailed project budget, timetable, and information about other support received or anticipated; **3)** a short biography of the deceased American artist including the dates of birth and death; and **4)** a short statement of the history or background of the applicant organization. In addition, kindly send as attachments: **5)** a copy of the applicant's tax-exempt Letter of Determination from the IRS where applicable; **6)** résumés of key individuals; and **7)** if available, a few examples of supporting material about the artist such as articles, reviews, etc. ***Kindly format/reproduce the above mentioned documents with a 1-inch border left & right.***

The request must include **10 images of the artist work submitted on CD** (*maximum height or width 1280 pixels, file format must be jpg with 300 dpi resolution, file size should be no larger than 2 MB, file name must be numbered 1-10 and include the artist's last name*), **or, 10 standard 35mm slides** (*inserted in 8.5" x 11" plastic sheet, slides must be numbered and labeled with the artist's last name with top, left and right sides indicated, no glass mounts*). **Also include a slide list** indicating the corresponding number of each file/slide, the title of the work, its dimensions, date and medium. Reproduction quality is very important. It is recommended that you choose examples that best represent the project in question or the artist's career, as appropriate to the request.

Because the Foundation does not return supporting material (this includes slides and CDs) to applicants, **do not send valuable catalogues, books, and photographs.**

After preliminary review, the Foundation may request additional information if it is determined that the request or project is eligible, or will notify the applicant if the submission is ineligible.

GRANT PROGRAM CYCLE

1) Requests must be postmarked September 15th. *Please note:* Projects that have been completed, or substantially completed, and/or presented publicly before December 15 of the application year will not be eligible for review. Accordingly, applicants are encouraged to apply well in advance of a project's commencement and/or related publications. Faxed or emailed applications will not be reviewed; **2)** Grant seekers are notified of the Foundation's decision the following January; **3)** Grant awards are publicly announced in March; **4)** Grant payments are dispersed during the spring and fall quarters pursuant to the financial and scheduling priorities of the grantee's project.

Contact: Elizabeth Slater, Vice President, Grant Program: (212)929-0669; Slatereliz@aol.com
The Judith Rothschild Foundation, Grant Program: PO Box 3818, Minneapolis, MN 55403;
www.judithrothschildfdn.org.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Grants Review Committee will meet each year to review requests that are complete and meet all of the above criteria. This Committee, whose membership changes regularly, is composed of highly respected scholars, critics, museum professionals, and working artists who serve anonymously. At the end of their terms, the members' names are listed in reports of Foundation activities.

ABOUT JUDITH ROTHSCHILD

Judith Rothschild, who died at the age of 71 in 1993, was a noted abstract painter whose work was exhibited widely in the United States and abroad. A graduate of Wellesley College, Rothschild studied painting at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, at the Art Students League with Reginald Marsh, at Stanley William Hayter's Atelier 17, and with Hans Hofmann and Karl Knaths. She was a member and later president of the American Abstract Artists, a member of the Jane Street Gallery, and an editor of *Leonardo* magazine. Ms. Rothschild was deeply interested in the careers of fellow artists and sought to create and share opportunities for advancement with them. For instance, she joined with several fellow artists to form the cooperative Long Point Gallery in Provincetown, on Cape Cod. It is in this spirit of cooperation and support that The Judith Rothschild Foundation was created by her will, based on her belief that the life's work of meritorious artists should be preserved and made accessible to future generations.

As a further reflection of her commitment to arts organizations and to the importance of contributing the insights of a working artist, Rothschild actively served at various times as a trustee of The American Federation of Arts, The MacDowell Colony, The New York Studio School, The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and on committees of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Wellesley, Williams, and Bard College art museums.

Judith Rothschild worked in oils and collage and began her relief paintings in the early 1970s; the reliefs combine figurative elements with an abstract sign language, wedding sensual color to austere formal structures. Her work is included in the collections of many museums, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Sammlung Ludwig Museum in Aachen, The Neuberger Museum, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Fogg Art Museum, and the Smith and Wellesley College art museums.

STAFF AND BOARD

Harvey S. Shipley Miller, Trustee
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