



DONDIS, GODINE –Travel Awards

Artist Contact Information

Full Name Cherish Springer

Major

Undergraduate Status

Proposal

Synopsis My goal is to educate the public about the vulnerability and beauty of the Arctic landscape. To achieve this, I will travel to Svalbard and participate in a residency program. Through the program I can experience the landscape of the high Arctic, and learn about the history of the Norwegian archipelago, its people, and how it has been impacted by global warming. I will use what I have learned and work with schools near Boston to create community workshops that will combine climate change education and art. Then I will create paintings and a graphic novel that will collectively highlight the mystique of the Arctic and analyze the socio-political hierarchy within 19th century Arctic exploration missions.

Project Title Arctic research in the Norwegian Archipelago

Complete Proposal

I first took interest in the Arctic when researching the history of exploration. While most exploration missions were conducted in search of profit and heroism, Arctic explorers were often motivated purely by curiosity. The diaries of crew members reveal that many were in such awe of the landscape that they were certain it was formed by supernatural forces.

Since the start of my research, the majority of my artwork has been focused on themes of Arctic exploration, the socio-political hierarchy within the crews of exploration vessels, and humanity's attempts to declare its authority over nature. In many ways, it is tragic to know that the excitement and

wonder that is associated with the Arctic is threatened by climate change. The wonder those first men felt may be lost for future generations if this mystical landscape is not protected.

To spread awareness of the fragility of the Arctic, I will use what I learn about the environment and history of the Arctic, as well as my artistic background, to create youth community workshops that will use art to educate students about the Arctic.

I am traveling to Svalbard to directly experience and learn about the high Arctic. The most important goal I have is to take in the landscape of the Arctic. I will hire informed guides and travel in groups as I hike, bike, and boat around the island. Through this, I will take photos, sketch, and paint scenes of the icy tundra. Because of the high risk of polar bear attacks, I will take great caution as I travel and hire guides trained to be wary of bears.

To stay in Svalbard, I have been accepted to a residency program at Galleri Svalbard in the city of Longyearbyen. The studio and sleeping space provided by the residency will act as a home base as I venture around the island. The city itself has a lot to offer for social venues, museums, art spaces, and ways to meet local people.

While most of my time will be spent traveling, it will also be important for me to speak to locals. I have contacted an alternative newspaper called icepeople.net to get connected with local environmental experts. There is a lot of information on their website about the island's environment and how it has changed since being settled. Reading these articles has left me with some questions about how people are individually affected by climate change and the fear of a continuing rise in temperature. To answer these questions, I will interview the author of these articles, as well as ask local people how they have been affected by global warming, and what their worries are about the future.

To further my research on exploration, I will visit the Svalbard Museum in Longyearbyen. Here I will learn about and see artifacts from many north pole expeditions, and receive abundant information about the culture, history, and landscape of the island. I will also talk to the museum staff about their knowledge of exploration, and ask about other ways to learn about the island.

When I return to Boston, I will use my research to educate others through working with schools and creating art. I have already contacted local schools and I am prepared to work with them to create presentations, workshops, and lesson plans that will integrate environmental education into their curriculum. The goal of these programs is to not only to educate youth about global warming, but to show them the power of using art for education. For my classwork, I will use the information I've gathered to guide further research for my thesis project. Using a single narrative, I will create a graphic novel and accompanying paintings. The story will be historical fiction from the perspective of a crew member on an exploration mission that fails due to the negligence of an English imperialist mentality. This narrative will weave together the beauty of the Arctic, the politics of an unbreakable hierarchy, and the fear of losing an important aspect of our global ecosystem.

Budget

Total Expense

5000

	Explanation	Amount
Lodging	Residency and Galleri Svalbard 30/night for 16 nights	\$480
Food	This funds is meant for food for 17 days and to be used as misc	1000
Equipment	Hiking Boots, Gaiters, Winter Hiking Jacket, Waterproof Pants, Woolen Underwear	585
Supplies	Sketchbook, paints	200

	Explanation	Amount
Transportation	Flight total	1241
Other	Hiring Guides/Activities	1382
Other	Phone Service	70
Other		
Other		
Other		

Additional Information

I already have been accepted to the residency program at Galleri Svalbard. The hiring guides/activities section is the cost from Visit Svalbard website for all expenses for the hiking and boating I plan to do.

Artwork 1



Title

Diary of John Hepburn

Dimensions

24" x 24"

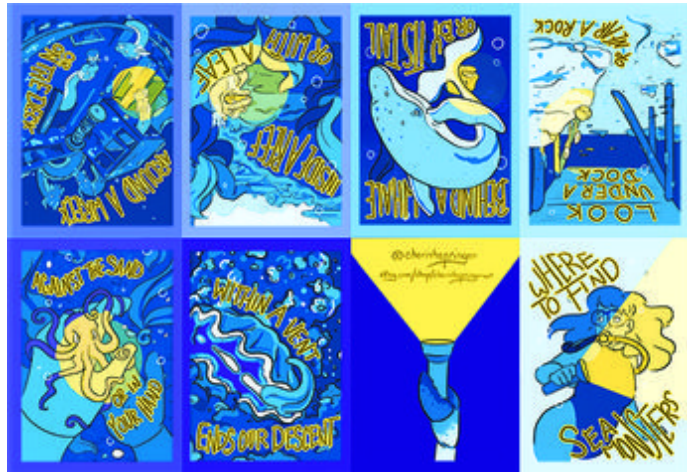
Date

Fall 2019

Medium

Chalk Pastel

Artwork 2



Title

Where To Find Sea Monsters

Dimensions

13" x 19"

Date

Spring 2019

Medium

Digital

Artwork 3



Dimensions

About 8" x 12"

Title

Ice Key Box

Date

Summer 2019

Medium

Mixed Medium; Acrylic Paint, Gouache, Epoxy Resin, Antique

Artwork 4



Title

Polar Explorer Portrait

Dimensions

9" x 12"

Date

Summer 2019

Medium

Acrylic Paint

Artwork 5



Title

Grocery Store Lobster

Dimensions

40" x 40"

Date

January 2020 Acrylic

Medium

Paint