

Research Grant – Fall 2014

Faculty member: Neil Bender

Unit: Institute for Research in Art

Project/Proposal Title: *Exhibition of New Work at SELECT Art Fair, Miami, December 2014*

Abstract:

We are applying for a CoTA Research Grant to help fund the substantive costs of exhibiting new self-produced work at the Select Art Fair in Miami during Art Basel from December 2nd through December 7th, 2014, for which we were invited by the fair's director, Brian Whiteley. The grant money would go to paying for the exhibition fee –which is comparable and fair relative to other exhibition opportunities during Art Basel, the most dynamic artistic and commercial opportunity for visual artists internationally annually since the early 2000s.

Proposal:

Upon direct invitation from the curator Tim Gossens and the directors of the Select Fair (who sought out our work), we have coordinated an exhibition of our current production to show during Art Basel Miami Beach 2014. With this exhibition, we hope to present an exhibition of paintings and sculpture to an important and expanded audience, fostering relevant future exhibition opportunities and collaborations, and expanding the market for each of our work. The week of Art Basel Miami Beach has become the preeminent social space for artists, collectors, curators, and dealers to see new work and exchange ideas. This stage will help expand our respective national and international profiles subsequently expanding the profile of the progressive program at the School of Art & Art History and the College of The Arts. The scope of the Select Fair is ambitious; the coordinators have used major public platforms to make this an important event. Following critical acclaim received at the Frieze Art Fair in New York this past spring, Select fair has moved to a beachfront location following the footsteps of such heralded fairs as SCOPE Miami Beach and Untitled. The new location of the fair in North Beach is prime real estate, neighboring one of the most well respected fairs, NADA, while residing within a reasonable proximity to main center of Art Basel itself.

Current work that will be exhibited at Select include Neil Bender's stylized selection of drawings and collages that act as their own theatrical experiences. Said drawings will be hung –salon-style—within the booth anchored by one large (5ft x 6ft) and two smaller accompanying paintings. This multimedia installation will be paired with and oppositional to Taylor Pilote's corporeal fiberglass forms (three) finished in slick automotive paint. Three smaller mixed media works, similarly hung –salon-style- offer a balance of the respective artists. A newly developed, idiosyncratic wall-painting, acts as a subtle cross-thread throughout the space. The goal is a focused duality to the exhibited work that neither fully opposes nor mirrors each other quite fully, and creates a cohesive contemplative space for pointed material and conceptual reverberation. This collaboration demonstrates a balance of both technical competence and attention to conceptual research agendas, which reinforce the high ideals we have set forth as a department, college, and university. Most of all –as previously stated—it is our hope that participation in Select Art Fair is a platform to expose the current work to an expanded and important audience, as receiving the invitation to exhibit is quite prestigious.