

APPLICATION – please follow the format provided below.

- A. Abstract:** *(100 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your abstract)* Describe briefly how the funds for which you are applying will be used. If funded, the abstract will be posted to the CoTA website.

I have been invited to give a presentation on my project **Every Olive Tree in the Garden of Gethsemane** at the College Art Association in Los Angeles as part of a panel titled “**Photographing Disappearance**”. I will present my project alongside Michelle Smiley, a PhD candidate at Bryn Mawr College and dr. Meghan Bissonnette, Assistant Professor of art history at Colorado Mesa University. The College Art Association is the premiere context for academic presentations in the field of art and art history.

- B. Proposal:** *(500 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your proposal)* Describe the goals of your project / activity / conference and the areas in which your project supports the strategic goals and objectives of the unit, college and university.

My project **Every Olive Tree in the Garden of Gethsemane** has been the central focus of my creative efforts for the past four years. It began with a journey to Jerusalem to photograph the trees. I then spent two years on the painstaking process of editing out the background of each tree to create singular images of each tree. I finally printed the images with the assistance of Timothy Baker, master printer, using the historic process of photogravure (photo etching) to create a suite of twenty-three prints. The integration of historic and contemporary processes reflects my fascination with photography in that it is an ever-evolving technology and that the various iterations of these technologies have a profound impact on our perception.

The gnarled trunks of the trees are delicately rendered in the tender build-up of ink on paper in the photogravure process and the experience of the trees in this medium speak to the very materiality of their persistent presence in this contested territory, where the shifting sands of political and ideological struggle play out. Our perception of their presence is that they endure. From the site of the Gethsemane garden one can look out upon the old city of Jerusalem, where conflicts have raged for centuries. The particular choice of photogravure, one of the earliest forms of printing multiple photographic images speaks to the history of the trees of Gethsemane and their enduring legacy as witnesses to all that has unfolded on this most contested territory.

The College Art Association is a national conference that attracts a national and international audience of premier practitioners and thinkers in the field of art and art history. The premier venue for the presentation of academic research in the field will bring prestige to the project and will reflect the goals of my unit, the college and the university.

I believe my work fits perfectly the aspirations of the Art and Art History unit, which states: “We seek to provide a challenging learning environment of research, creativity and experimentation; we emphasize engaged, critical thinking. We investigate new media and technologies, as well as traditional approaches.”