

APPLICATION – please follow the format provided below.

A. Abstract:

I 'm requesting funds to support the production of my upcoming solo exhibition in New York at A&L Gallery, opening in October of 2016. With this new work, already in progress, I intend to build on the successes of my 2014 and 2015 research which was featured in several publications of note including- the New York Times (with a color reproduction), an in-depth article in Hyperalergic (six reproductions), Art News magazine (color reproduction), the Miami Rail (color reproduction), Vogue Italy as well as an exhibition catalogue published by the Orlando Museum of Art which included a text by the curator and several reproductions.

B. Proposal

I'm asking for funding to help support the production of my upcoming (Oct 2016) New York solo exhibition at Arts and Leisure Gallery in Manhattan. For this exhibition I will continue expanding upon painting approaches using video and collage. I will create an entirely new body of work, building upon the momentum of my most recent exhibition- "Cut Rate Paradise" Dec 21, 2015- Jan 30 2016, Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami.

<http://www.mindysolomon.com/artists/index.php?artist=Ezra%20Johnson>

This next solo exhibition is very important for my career and will continue to place my work in a highly visible context, fostering future exhibition opportunities while expanding the market and audience for my work.

Starting with my surroundings here in Tampa, I will develop a pictorial narrative that travels across mediums, combining the imagery of my paintings with other media such as drawing and animation. I can't say what this work will look like when finished because I work intuitively, responding to a complex web of material for inspiration from artists and poets to the political and topical events of the day. My work is always a response to my environment as well as outside inspirations such as literature, poetry or films. The writings of Joan Didion, Don DeLillo, Cormac McCarthy, Jean Baudrillard as well as paintings of Tal R, Edvard Munch, Asger Jorn and Josef Albers' Homage to the Square series have had a large influence on my current research.

C. Anticipated Benefits:

This opportunity is very important for my career and will put my work in a highly visible context, fostering relevant future exhibition opportunities and collaborations all the while expanding the market for my work. New York's galleries are the preeminent exhibition venues for the art world and this project supports the strategic goals and objectives of the college and university because it takes place in this highly visible venue, and will be seen by critics and professionals of the international art world. The fact that I am doing three more solo exhibitions in 2016 (one in Los Angeles, one in Miami and one in New York) is the best evidence of the success of my last few years of research. In short this exhibition represents another major step for my professional career as a researcher and my success in these efforts will improve the visibility of the USF College of the Arts.