

Arts Scholars Arts Award Application
Ava Lonergan

Project Overview

Photography and Bookmaking

Before taking Pam Pecchio's Photobook class this semester, I was not aware that books could be such an effective vehicle for presenting and sharing photography. I was familiar with books of photography, e.g. Robert Frank's *The Americans*, but I thought they functioned as nice coffee table books, not as art objects. Pam's class has really opened my eyes to the broad possibilities of bookmaking, particularly in relationship with photography, and has inspired me to seek out opportunities to learn more.

A friend and photographer recently recommended I look into summer workshops at Penland School of Crafts (www.penland.org), a national center for craft education located in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. Penland offers workshops in a variety of media, and I was excited to find that they are offering a workshop on "Alternative Photography and Books" this summer. Attending this workshop would allow me to immerse myself in a new environment for two and a half weeks, surrounded by people who are passionate and dedicated to their craft. Without the usual distractions of work and school, I would be deeply engaged with photography and bookmaking, exploring new techniques of processing and printing photographs that aren't emphasized at UVa (including cyanotype, van dyke, and gum bichromate) and learning new methods of incorporating images into handmade books. Penland appeals to me because it is truly a community of artists living together, working together, and sharing meals. I have never been in such a concentrated, art-intensive environment and am very interested in learning from the other artists attending Penland as much as the workshop itself.

I would like to apply the knowledge and skills learned in Pam's Photobook class and the Penland workshop to create a book of photographs from the Woodberry Project I've been working on this semester (funded by the 3rd Year Arts Scholars Arts Award I received in the fall). While I have taken a lot of photographs at Woodberry, I currently do not have any plans to exhibit them or present them (other than a PowerPoint for the 3rd Year Arts Scholars Award Presentations on April 27). The photographs are meaningful to me and could be a useful addition to Woodberry's archives. I'd love to create an edition of five books that present my Woodberry photographs and a short essay on my project and my relationship with Woodberry. When I translate the project into book form, I can donate a copy to Woodberry, I can easily share it with friends and family, I can use it as a portfolio piece, and treasure it as an art object in its own right. Instead of presenting the photographs on walls in an exhibition for a month, I can create my own small, portable "exhibition" that is always accessible and timeless.

The Arts Award would enable me to attend the Alternative Photography and Books workshop at Penland this summer. Additionally, the Arts Award would fund my photobook project, giving me further hands-on experience in bookmaking and functioning as an apt culmination of my 3rd Year Arts Award project.

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Time Line

Woodberry photographs finalized and printed by **July 20, 2014**

Penland Workshop: **July 20 – August 5**

Edition of five completed by **August 25**

UVa Classes Begin: August 26

Arts Scholars Arts Awards Presentations: April 2015

My goal is to use the twenty days between the end of the workshop and the beginning of the fall semester to create my edition of five books with my Woodberry photographs. I should have final prints of all my Woodberry photographs ready before the workshop, so creating the books afterwards will be a matter of deciding on layout and paper, purchasing supplies, and physically making each book (all of which could be reasonably done in twenty days).

Budget

ITEM	PRICE
Penland Registration Processing Fee	\$50
Penland Tuition (two and a half week summer workshop)	\$1240
Penland Room + Board (economy dorm, includes all meals)	\$1130
Penland Workshop Supplies	\$200
Travel to and from Penland (640 miles round trip by car)	\$100
Woodberry Book Supplies* (edition of five)	\$300
TOTAL	\$3120

*Book supplies will include paper (photo paper, filler pages, endsheets, coversheets, and book cloth), linen thread, linen tape, embroidery floss, bookbinding needles, glue and glue brushes, book board, Xacto blades, cutting mat, and book press.

If awarded in full, the grant money would be enough to fund the entire workshop and book project. I have paid the processing fee and deposit to secure a spot in the Alternative Photography and Books workshop, so there is at least no risk of receiving grant money and then finding out I'm unable to register because the workshop is full.

Evidence of Participation in the Arts

My involvement in the arts at UVa has been primarily academic, especially since I declared a major in studio art. I've taken Drawing I, Drawing II, Photo I, Photo II, a handful of art history classes, and I'm currently taking Photo III (Photobooks). I was a member of the Art Students Society the first semester of my first year and was involved in UVa's Fashion Design Club my first and second semesters of first year. I always make an effort to go to the wide variety of performances and exhibitions happening on Grounds at any given time, which has exposed me to a lot of different art in the past two years. In April, I'm registered to attend visiting artist Nici Cumpston's handcoloring photography workshop and plan on attending the Spring Dance Show and Guerrilla Girls talk.

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Arts Scholars is my most important extracurricular time commitment at UVa, and I've been invested in shaping the program from the very beginning. This year I've been co-historian with Christian Selassie, tasked with taking and disseminating notes during seminars, discussions, and presentations as well as maintaining the Tumblr. I attended the seminar/discussion section in fall 2011, spring 2013, fall 2013, and this spring 2014. I was unable to attend the seminar in spring and fall 2012 due to scheduling conflicts with classes fulfilling general and major requirements.

Portfolio Image Guide

The following photographs are from the Woodberry Project.

Image 1. *Pool*, archival inkjet print, February 2014.

Image 2. *How to Play*, archival inkjet print, February 2014.

Image 3. *Choir Room*, archival inkjet print, February 2014.

Image 4. *Brand New Science Building*, archival inkjet print, February 2014.

Image 5. *Walker Lobby*, archival inkjet print, February 2014.