



## BELLE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2016 GRANTS

### **Darcie Book**

Visual Arts

Baltimore, Maryland

Darcie Book, painter and installation artist, pushes the boundaries and possibilities of painting by exploring the realms between two- and three-dimensional. Her bold work is vibrant, intricate and layered; a curious blend between painting and sculpture. Ms. Book has been featured in collections in Ireland and Nigeria as well as across the United States.

*“She’s using paint in a really unique way with multiple layers and bright colors — it catches your eye and stays in your memory.”*



### **Joy Lynn Davis**

Visual Arts

Santa Barbara, California



Joy Lynn Davis studied at UC Santa Barbara but found her creative calling in Nepal. Upon traveling to the Kathmandu Valley, she learned about numerous statues that were stolen and

sold to private foreign collectors. Ms. Davis launched “Remembering the Lost Sculptures of Kathmandu” to weave together narratives of sacred spaces, exploring how people respond when religious art objects — that exist, not as commodities, but as vital living community participants— are physically removed.

*“Joy is unique, memorable and compelling with a gentle but powerful soul. Her art has cultural and historical implications and more recently, has taken a humanitarian twist.”*

### **Shyama Helin**

Visual Arts

Portland, Oregon

Shyama Helin is a painter who blends figurative and abstract elements to reflect the spiritual and emotional connection to the environment. She uses a combination of collage, painting and texturing to create depth and layers, weaving her own perspective into each piece but leaving room for each viewer’s interpretation.



*“Some people are born to make art. They can’t do anything else, really. And sometimes life gets in the way and they have to go off and try to make a living doing something else. But the art always calls to them. The lucky ones are able to find their way back to it. But it can take time, persistence and a plan. Shyama is one of the lucky ones.”*



### **Sean Okuniewicz**

Theater

San José, California

Sean Okuniewicz is a bold, young actor who is rocking the Bay Area theater scene. He has firmly demonstrated true talent on stage in a series of plays that have showcased his magnetic presence, a maturity well beyond his years and a palpable passion for the art form.

*“Every once in a while an artist comes along who just has ‘it,’ that indefinable quality that signals something special, something rare, something that promises greatness to come. Sean has ‘it,’ and is destined for much more success.”*



**Marilyn Roaf**  
Textiles  
San José, California

Marilyn Roaf is a behind-the-scenes yarn bomber who quietly and persistently brightens up San José. Yarn bombing is a type of street art that employs colorful displays of knitted or crocheted yarn. Ms. Roaf has transformed SoFA (South of First Area arts

and entertainment district) into a tribute to extinct animals, a nod to the gay community and a call to action on water conservation through her whimsical work.

*“Anyone who takes the time, energy and effort to create such vivid and beautiful pieces of work anonymously sounds pretty cool to me.”*

**Rose Sellery**  
Sculpture/Wearable Art  
Santa Cruz, California

Rose Sellery’s pieces have been known to stop people in their tracks. Her work is inspired by the spoken word and reinterprets collected slang and derogatory words to



create pieces that explore the fragility of family dynamics, gender roles, complex social issues and the intricacies of our lives. Ms. Sellery works in the materials essential to the piece — from metal to bone, cigarette butts to rose petals, fabric to photographs — creating humorous, thought provoking and occasionally disturbing three-dimensional objects and wearable art.

*“Rose produces art that makes you say ‘OMG, you have got to see this!’”*

**Dominic Terlizzi**  
Visual Arts  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dominic Terlizzi is an artist, philosopher and arts activist. His works utilize baking, scavenging, mold making and color mixing to create arresting and unique works. Mr. Terlizzi established St. Charles, a project space dedicated to realizing curatorial visions and strategies contingent on their location, space and networks.



*“Dominic is an interesting, thoughtful and articulate guy who has developed a method of painting that is truly his.”*

**COLLABORATIVE GRANT**

**A Yawn Worth Yelling**  
Music  
Calabasas, California



Brayden Deskins, Tyler Boyd and Taylor Stover formed A Yawn Worth Yelling in San José and made a pact to do good and be kind, and never compromise their craft for anyone but themselves. This emerging indie-rock outfit is known for thinking differently, experimenting with music and staying true to why they are creating music.

*“They are all passionate about music and art and are making a solid name for themselves but even more important, they are staying true to who they are and sticking to their pact to do good and be kind.”*

The Belle Foundation for Cultural Development was established upon the belief that education, the arts and humanities are among the most vital elements of human civilization. The Belle Foundation acknowledges also that through the actions and achievements of individuals our culture not only continues to develop, but flourishes.