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I will spend next summer on the initial stages of this project, carefully analyzing the poems and performance. While the specific material is new territory for me, the project is growing out of previous research, both on Shvarts and on performance. I have written extensively on another book-length cycle of Shvarts's poetry. My most recent research has focused on Moscow theater director Kama Ginkas's stagings of short stories by Anton Chekhov. This project will allow me to return to Shvarts's poetry, while combining it with my new research on performance.

The collaborative nature of the LARC program will assist me in both the poetic and performative aspects of the project. One of my student collaborators, Brynn Raymond, will be examining the poetry of Langston Hughes in the context of the Harlem Renaissance. Aided by the reading of common texts, we will consider the ways in which certain spaces are uniquely conducive to the creation of art (in her case, Harlem; in my case, St. Petersburg, and the imagined and experienced Rome). The other student collaborator, Grace Cohen, will be pursuing a creative project, a filmic map of Portland. Again through shared readings and discussions, we will consider generic transpositions—in her case, the translation of a two-dimensional map into a filmed experience of a city; in my case, the translation of a poetic cycle onto the theatrical stage.

I will be receiving no other internal or external sources of funding for this project.