

South Africa: Connecting Art & Science in Cacadu LARC Proposal

Community Groups:

- a) Associate Professor Andries Fourie (Art) with student members Monique Rodriguez and Jake Waldner
- b) Associate Professor David Craig (Biology) with student member Erynn Rebol

Art Associate Professor Andries Fourie and Biology Associate Professor David Craig have previously collaborated on interpreting landscapes through joint projects in art, and a deep understanding of natural history. Their collaborative sculpture “Zena Web,” was part of an exhibition at the Salem Art Association’s Bush Barn Center in 2011 and had ecological web information embedded in a network of sculptural forms that identified key species that represented important ecological roles and demonstrated the connections between these species. The work in effect demonstrated a map species interaction as well as ideas about human relationships with the landscape and animals at Zena over the last 250 years.

In 2013 we are interested in continuing this interdisciplinary exploration of a specific landscape and ecosystem, but want to expand the project to include student participation, and shift the focus to the landscape of the Eastern Cape region of South Africa (where Professor Fourie grew up). An additional element of the proposed project would be a collaboration with the departments of Biology and Visual Art at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. We especially look

Fourie, Rodriguez and Waldner, will collect visual reference material and information to make sculptures and paintings that represent the relationships within species, between various species, or between humans and animals in the general area of the Addo Elephant National Park. Monique Rodriguez will focus on social behavior in elephants, Jake Waldner on the relationship between elephants and various tree species, and Andries Fourie on the connections between a variety of plant and animal species and humans in the region.

Craig and Rebol will collect data on the habitats and behavior of Caspian Terns as part of an ongoing research program on this cosmopolitan species. In a 2011 LARC group Craig and Rebol collaborated to use Caspian Terns to figuratively interpret the Columbia River estuary. They will collect preliminary data for future scientific grant proposals.

After returning to Willamette, joint meetings will be held to plan and design the works of art made by members of the community, and discuss the implications of the results of the biological research. The project will culminate in a joint art exhibition as part of the Salem Art Association's Project Space program in late summer 2013. The exhibition will combine work by the faculty and students of both groups. The exhibition will combine sculptures and paintings by the artists with artifacts, field notes and contextual information by the biologists.

LARC PROPOSAL BUDGET

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Professor Andries Fourie:

\$1800 for air travel to and from South Africa (Delta/KLM).

\$1100 for accommodation in South Africa.

\$800 for vehicle rental and fuel for travel in South Africa.

\$300 for meals in South Africa

Total: \$4000

Professor David Craig:

\$1800 for air travel to and from South Africa (Delta/KLM).

\$1100 for accommodation in South Africa.

\$800 for vehicle rental and fuel for travel in South Africa.

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1800 for air travel to and from South Africa (Delta/KLM).

\$800 for accommodation in South Africa.

\$400 for meals in South Africa

Total: \$3000

Additional Request

We are requesting an additional \$3000 for the following expenses:

\$450 for sculpture materials and supplies (steel, wood, aluminum etc)

\$1330 Addo Elephant Park Access fees for 5 adults

\$1000 for air travel from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth and back (Kulula Airlines)

\$220 for meals in South Africa.

Total: \$3000