

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Abakanowicz Community and Ecological Fieldwork and Research Fellowship

The Grantor

The Abakanowicz Arts and Culture Charitable Foundation (AACCF) was established in 2018 to promote the legacy of Magdalena Abakanowicz and to fund programs that investigate concepts of human creativity, the role of art as a visual language within cultures and a dynamic force within contemporary society, and the intersection of art and other modes of inquiry for the purposes of extending the meaning and relevance of Magdalena Abakanowicz's art and its underlying ideas.

Considerations

Applicants must undertake an initial investigation of Magdalena Abakanowicz's life and artwork in order to draw connections to their past experiences and current research. Applicants are encouraged to discover their own thematic areas of resonance along with the following examples:

1. *Overcoming Cultural Invasion* - The early life of Magdalena is a story of cultural invasion, war, and creative suppression. Much of her art-making was a process of reflecting on and healing from this oppression. She was especially struck by the unique power of indigenous artworks to provide community inspiration and group survival. CLIE students also recognize the important cultural, creative, and material dimensions of community wellbeing.
2. *Ecological Awareness* - From a young age, Abakanowicz recalled interacting with spirits in the forest near her home, inspiring her to create earthworks with natural materials. This ecological sensibility and connection to other-than-human beings covertly permeate the artworks made through her adulthood. She continued to report impactful ecopsychological experiences from her travels. Similarly, CLIE students build competencies to attune to the multiple voices comprising natural environments as a basic human ability that is urgently needed in times of ecological crises.
3. *Repairing Trauma* - Magdalena Abakanowicz was exposed to terrible trauma during World War II, such as seeing her mother's arm shot off by militia invading their home. From then on, she had to cope with the daily trauma of war on her own; nobody and no support group existed to help. Many CLIE students collaborate with or generate organizations focused on repairing the intergenerational and systemic oppressions that result from war, genocide, colonization, and systemic violence.
4. *Dialogue and Liberatory Pedagogy* - As a teacher, writer, and lecturer, Abakanowicz was deeply involved in seeking dialogue to reveal the meanings she discovered as part of her own creative practice. She believed the essential quality of art is the expression of personal freedom and that educators should recognize the emergent passion and grow it with the student. Correspondingly, various CLIE students investigate how dialogical, artistic, and liberatory approaches can reshape the traditional pedagogical model.

5. *Creative Citizenship* - Abakanowicz's career exemplifies her belief that artists are essential to creating a better society. She used her creativity to engage the world around crucial social issues, as well as fundamental experiences that make us human. With an approach that turns psychology inside out to engage socially, many CLIE students are creatively addressing issues of citizenship, identity, immigration, and activism.

Criteria

- A short 500-word essay on your personal history of working with the themes of Magdalena Abakanowicz's life and art. (In addition to online research databases, printed sources are available at the Ladera library. Applicants should also ask the CLIE Coordinator for Community and Ecological Fieldwork and Research for special digital materials made available while classes are being held remotely.)
- A careful description of how the proposed community and ecological fieldwork research resonates with the mission of AACCF outlined in the Selection Criteria. Include clearly defined fieldwork and/or research project goals and potential benefits.
- Delineation of budget items needed (i.e., art supplies, transportation, need for personal financial support, etc.).
- Proposed timeline (please note that fieldwork this year can continue to be conducted in the fall if necessary due to Covid-19).