

**SABBATICAL LEAVE PROPOSAL
CHRISTINE MORLA
FINE ARTS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2009**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

I am applying for a one-semester sabbatical leave for the spring of 2011. The intent of this leave is to further improve upon my knowledge and skills applicable to my field of Fine Arts. **My sabbatical proposal is two-pronged.** Currently, I am applying for a Fulbright Scholarship to go to the Philippines from January 2011 through April 2011. **If I am selected for the Fulbright, my research will focus on Filipino Weaving and Decorative Art With Its Links to Filipino Contemporary Art.** While in the P.I., I plan to work closely with Dr. Norma Respicio, who specializes in contemporary issues in traditional textile production at the University of the Philippines. I will attend seminars, exhibitions and weaving demonstrations at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the T'boli Weaving Center, The National Museum of P.I., Mo Space Gallery, Green Papaya Art Projects and Gallery.

If I do not get selected for the Fulbright, my other plan is to use my sabbatical leave to participate in an artist residency program. I plan to develop a new series of work, research and learn current trends and techniques related to art, and make strong connections with national galleries. Currently, I am applying for several artist residencies in various metropolitan cities including New York, San Francisco, and Boston. I am eager to reconnect with the current contemporary art community that will enable me to grow as a professor, gallery director, and professional artist.

BENEFITS

For Students:

Students will benefit from this sabbatical by getting instruction, counseling and leadership from a faculty member who is renewed, re-energized, and equipped with knowledge of current art trends and techniques. They will be exposed to new works of art that I will document during my research in museums, galleries, and residencies. While in the Philippines from January through April 2011, I plan to attend seminars and weaving demonstrations at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the T'boli Weaving Center, The National Museum of P.I., Mo Space Gallery, Green Papaya Art Projects and Gallery.

Students will also be able to avail themselves of the professional connections I will have made. These connections include building relationships with gallerists, curators and other artists who like myself, are professional artists who teach on a local and national level. Currently I have connections at CSUCI, Loyola Marymount University, Claremont Graduate University, Santa Monica College, Jaus Gallery, 643 Project Space, Carnegie Art Museum, University of Colorado

at Boulder, 18th Street Arts Center. I plan to use this time to strengthen my connections with these institutions and to create new ones.

This will translate into the community as these students take what they have learned with them and as I collaborate with city and county art organizations. I will be able to present the results of my art development to other faculty and students through the McNish Gallery and in other contexts.

For faculty:

This time represents an opportunity for my professional growth as I will be immersed in my field becoming more familiar with the contemporary art trends. Although my sabbatical leave will be used to create a body of work specific to my painting medium, I will also use this time to become more familiar with developments that have occurred in sculpture, art theory and digital arts, among other art forms since I obtained my graduate degree. I will accomplish this by visiting art galleries, museums, and utilizing such resources as the Getty Research Center. This research and studio practice will allow me to become a greater asset to my students and to the district.

For Oxnard College and the college district:

As Oxnard College develops the Fine Art curriculum (i.e. 3-D Sculpture, Digital Arts), I will be better equipped to contribute to updated curriculum development. As the only Full-Time Faculty in my department, Chair and McNish Gallery Director, my active presence in the art community will provide me with renewed inspiration for our facilities and program goals. This increased visibility and improving my reputation as an artist will directly benefit Oxnard College and the Ventura County Community College District. One specific way this will come to fruition is at the McNish Gallery, where I will bring other professional artists and guest curators to exhibit and lecture on our campus in the future. As Oxnard College develops a high profile art program, it also has the potential to lead the momentum of a blossoming and thriving art community in Ventura County.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Give a lecture for OC Scholar Lecture Series in Fall of 2011
- Establish solid connection with artists, gallerists and other professionals
- Exhibit my body of work in solo and group exhibitions. For example, exhibit my art at the McNish Art Gallery on March 2012
- Apply new art techniques, modes of instructions and critique methods

PAST CONTRIBUTIONS

I have been teaching art for 10 years at the community college level in California; 5 of those years have been at Oxnard College. I have contributed to the college by chairing, teaching, and gallery directing; curating over 30 art exhibitions that included guest artists lectures, exposed my students to the professional art scene by finding opportunities for them to exhibit their art and collaborate with other emerging artists; expand the art program through more course offerings,

started the mural painting program, and now in the process of establishing a Sculpture and Digital Arts program. My artwork has been exhibited nationally and internationally in Art Frankfurt (Germany), Rimjaus Gallery (Mexico City), The Armory Show (New York), Riverside Art Museum, Patricia Correia Gallery, Peggy Phelps Gallery, Huntington Beach Art Center, Raid Projects, The Office-Art Space, and 18th Street Arts Center among other venues. In addition to my practice, I am an independent curator. My curatorial projects include "The Color of God: Contemporary Expressions of Spirit, Race and Justice" at the Laband Art Gallery at Loyola Marymount University, "Tabo(o)" an exhibition of Filipino-American artists at Claremont Graduate University's White Room Gallery, "Ghetto Fabulous" an exhibition exploring inner city crisis and their aesthetics at Highways, and "Cubicle" at The Office Art Space. My art has been published and written about in various publications such as the Los Angeles Times, ArtWeek Magazine, New American Paintings Magazine, the Herald newspaper and the Inland Valley Times. I have given lectures and participated in panels at UC-Riverside, Cal Poly-Pomona, Pitzer College, Loyola Marymount University, Huntington Beach Art Center, and Focus on the Masters-Ventura.

Morla Sabbatical Leave Timeline

January 2011 thru April 2011:

Fulbright Research, University of Philippines at Diliman, Quezon City. Visit various weaving centers and attend seminars and workshops; research at University of the P.I.; meet professors and discuss topics related to Filipino textile history and production; visit art museums and make connections with contemporary galleries and art organizations. Documentation of various sites, events, works of art, and process via photography, video, and audio recording.

May 2011- July:

Gather and review research materials such as photographs, notes, video documentation. Begin creating a new series of paintings in my Oxnard studio, based on the techniques and information gathered from the Philippines.

October 2011:

Give lecture and presentation of my research and sabbatical experience at Oxnard College Lecture Series.

March 2012:

Present my new series of work at the McNish Art Gallery.