

MONEY FOR WOMEN/BARBARA DEMING MEMORIAL FUND, INC.
GRANTS AWARDED
JUNE 2020 VISUAL ARTS & FICTION / MIXED GENRE



Barbara Deming (1917-1984) was a feminist, lesbian, poet, writer, and nonviolent activist in the civil rights, anti-war, and women's movements. In 1975, when she founded the Money for Women Fund, Deming said, "In my life I've been helped as a writer to do my work. I think it's fair that I try to help others." Now a memorial fund sustained by generous contributions from donors and former grantees, Money for Women gives encouragement through small grants to feminists in the arts (writers and visual artists). Our address is PO Box 717, Bearsville, NY 12409. Our website is www.demingfund.org.

Submission periods for applications occur once a year: January 1-31, with poetry and nonfiction awarded in odd years, and visual art and fiction/mixed genre in even years. Judges in 2020 for fiction and mixed genre were Elvia R. Arriola, Lucy Bledsoe, Maureen Brady, Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Danielle Flores, Glenda Pleasants, Ruthann Robson, and Mina Samuels. For visual arts: Rachel Farmer, Lyall Harris, Clarity Haynes, Martha Hughes, Veronica Jackson, Maja Kihlstedt, and Carol March. Grants totaling \$20,550 were awarded to 17 women.

Makenzie Barron _____ **FICTION**
The Y (Buena Vista, CO)

The short stories in Barron's collection feature girls and women who shun traditional roles not out of explicit activism or singular desperation, but to fulfill identity and discover love for themselves. All the while, the western landscape is a present, pressing force.

We are sitting on the hillside, killing time before Samo's basketball game, and not getting high. Samo and Cora and Detta and me. Oh, but I love my girls. This spot above the tunnels treats us best. To our backs there is Browning, which we call Burning. Burning's the capital of Blackfeet Nation, and Samo's the captain of the Blackfeet High School girl's basketball team.

Award underwrites the cost of childcare to provide time to write.

Sabrina Gschwandtner _____ **ART**
Cinema Sanctuary (Los Angeles, CA)

Cinema Sanctuary is a large-scale installation that celebrates women's achievements in film. It honors the overlooked pioneering women active at the advent of cinema and connects them to women who work with the moving image today.



Credit: Ana Venegas, courtesy of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery

"Cinema Sanctuary Study 1: Marion E. Wong's 1916-17 *The Curse of Quon Gwon: When the Far East Mingles with the West*," 67" x 45", 35mm black and white polyester film, polyester thread, 2019.

Footage courtesy of Academy Film Library and Kino Lorber, Inc.

Grant pays for archive and lab fees for film footage directed by female cinema pioneers.

MONEY FOR WOMEN/BARBARA DEMING MEMORIAL FUND, INC.
GRANTS AWARDED
JUNE 2020 VISUAL ARTS & FICTION / MIXED GENRE

Doris Cheng _____ **FICTION**
The Choice, 1988, and Other Stories (Short Hills, NJ)

This manuscript of stories excavates the choices made by women, particularly immigrants and Asian Americans, and explores the question of agency: What does it mean to exercise agency when one's choices are circumscribed by the larger culture? In the title story, an interracial relationship is based on a desire for racial and economic power rather than physical attraction.

You tolerated his behavior because he didn't hurt you, only himself or the things around him. You were not one of those self-abasing women you had read about in your Women's Studies class, the type for whom you felt more contempt than sympathy—devoted, dependent, blinded by attachment to a man. You were smarter than that. Encased in brittle calm, you felt a frisson of excitement as you faced his anger. It was the tingle of an explorer perched on a dangerous precipice, utterly controlled, aware that any misstep could turn you into the victim of your own misjudgment.

Award covers the cost of writing residencies and childcare.

Desiree Evans _____ **FICTION**
Good River Folk (Austin, TX)

Good River Folk is an interlinked short story collection featuring Black women and girls living in the rural communities of southern Louisiana. Steeped in the folklife, culture, and histories of these disappearing bayou communities, the stories take us deep into the land to join these characters as they search for family, community, and freedom.

The Tuesday after Rashad was discovered, Reeva found herself sitting on her boat, thinking about that boy, and watching the sun make its slow move across the horizon. During misty river mornings, the sky became its own painting: orange and pink strokes sliding across the span of domed blue, and a paint-brush smear of white clouds right at the center. The water was calm, muddy brown, undisturbed today. The world sat in contrasts — bright sky above her and dark river below her. Reeva was breathing although she wanted to be crying. Breathing in and out, in and out, the heavy scent of swamp decay sucked deep into her lungs, where it would stay, fill her up, weigh her down.

Grant supports a one-month research trip and self-created writing retreat.

MONEY FOR WOMEN/BARBARA DEMING MEMORIAL FUND, INC.
GRANTS AWARDED
JUNE 2020 VISUAL ARTS & FICTION / MIXED GENRE

Ursula Gullow _____ **ART**
(Asheville, NC)

By Her Own Hand: A Self-Portrait Series

Gullow contemporizes approaches used in historical self-portraiture to pay homage to the women who created them. "I am inspired by artists who persisted in spite of social constructs that privileged their male counterparts. Self-portraiture is how I engage with these women – emulating their provocations in order to understand their circumstances."



Thinking about Clara, 24" x 24", oil on canvas, 2019.

Award covers studio expenses to allow time for completion of the series.

Jean Ho _____ **FICTION**
Fiona and Jane (Los Angeles, CA)

This collection of linked stories follows the ebb and flow of friendship between two Chinese American women, from their teenage years into adulthood. Set in Los Angeles, New York City, and Taipei (Taiwan), these ten stories shine a light on the ordinary triumphs and catastrophes of contemporary Asian American women's lives.

The year we turned sixteen, Fiona decided it was about time we learned to drink. She drove us to the Norwalk swap meet and we laid out fifty bucks each for fake IDs from a passport photo, faxing, and color copy stall. An Indian family owned the business, and the girl we paid off had graduated from our high school a few years back. When she handed us the finished IDs we knew right away we'd been scammed. They were flimsy laminated jobs no better than Blockbuster membership cards, overexposed photos of our unsmiling faces glued onto a rectangle of white paper with CALIFORNIA IDENTIFICATION CARD typed across the top.

Grant covers travel costs to attend a writer's residency in 2021.

MONEY FOR WOMEN/BARBARA DEMING MEMORIAL FUND, INC.
GRANTS AWARDED
JUNE 2020 VISUAL ARTS & FICTION / MIXED GENRE

Diane Kahlo _____ **ART**
Stolen Memories (Lexington, KY)

In this installation stolen memories will be preserved in a series of hand-sewn mandalas made from the fragile fabrics from pre-worn dresses, each one representing a young woman who died from gender violence. The pieced designs will be embellished with beads, jewelry, flowers, and mementos that might have been cherished had her future not been stolen.



"Sanctuary I," 6' x 6' (each of 5 panels is 2' sq), plastic bottle caps and bases, hobby beads, Mardi Gras beads, sequins, and seed beads, gold leaf, 2019.

Funds will be used to buy batting and framing materials for the mandalas.

María José Maldonado _____ **FICTION**
The Last Men On Earth (New York, NY)

Maldonado's novel-in-progress takes place in 2126, when cisgender boys and men have begun to menstruate due to the decimated human population caused by climate change. It follows the life of a newly menstruating seventeen-year-old Salvadoran-American boy named Benicio Torres, who is part of the third generation of cismen who menstruate.

He studied the instructional drawings that come inside every Manpon box:

1. Pull the applicator piece out, then insert into the testina.

Gosh, no one says "testina." Everyone says "testi" instead, Beni thought. Beni once heard his sister Genesis call it "manani" to her friends.

2. Push Manpon into testina until fully inserted.

A Manpon is about half the size of a traditional tampon. Testinas have the same width of a vaginal canal, but half as deep. The medical community says it's because it is still a new body part in its infant stages of evolution. Some girls at school call it "vagina jr."

3. Remove applicator and discard.

Beni put one foot up on the bathtub, lifted his balls out of the way and inserted the Manpon. It only hurt a little.

Award will underwrite a research trip to El Salvador.

MONEY FOR WOMEN/BARBARA DEMING MEMORIAL FUND, INC.
GRANTS AWARDED
JUNE 2020 VISUAL ARTS & FICTION / MIXED GENRE

Helina Metaferia _____ **ART**
By Way of Revolution (New York, NY)

This work combines archival research with performative gestures to produce mixed media collages that examine the impact of civil rights eras of the past on today's social justice movements. The project highlights the untold labor of women of color in histories of activism.



"Headdress 4," 96" x 45", mixed media collages, 2019.

Grant will purchase supplies and equipment for new collages.

Farnoosh Moshiri _____ **FICTION**
Enigma, a Novel (Houston, TX)

The central character in Enigma is an Iranian woman, a former political prisoner, who was tortured and raped repeatedly when she was twenty-two years old. Now in her mid-fifties she lives in Houston as a psychologist working with abused women. When she sees a man she thinks is her torturer, she decides to punish him.

The second time, the fifth time, or the fifteenth time, is as horrifying as the first time. Sometimes he is already there, waiting for her, and sometimes she stands in absolute darkness until he comes. When he comes, he brings the heavy odor of cigarettes with him. She has tried everything to overcome her fear and remain deaf to his verbal assaults, to separate her body from her mind, to become numb and lifeless. The older women, her cellmates, have given her some advice, *Space out, fly out of your body and travel somewhere else*. She tries, but a shout, an insult or a sharp slap bring her back to the hard wooden bed.

Grant allows for reduced workload to complete the novel.

MONEY FOR WOMEN/BARBARA DEMING MEMORIAL FUND, INC.
GRANTS AWARDED
JUNE 2020 VISUAL ARTS & FICTION / MIXED GENRE

Daisy Patton _____ **ART**
Burnt Hair Spun Gold (Easthampton, MA)

Patton's exhibition contemplates the erasure of women and their histories. As part of the series "Forgetting is so long," it uses abandoned family photographs, enlarged to life-size, and painted over to re-enliven the individuals photographed. The work explores loss and identity, while reflecting on who is worthy of being remembered.



"Untitled (Family Portrait with Photograph)," 80"x 60", oil on archival print mounted to panel.

Grant will pay for materials for the exhibition, especially construction of panels.

Gretchen Potter _____ **FICTION**
Stories of Barren Creek (Claremont, CA)

The linked stories in this collection circle through the lives of community members on and around the reservation after the Seneca tribe wins a land-claims case, the fallout from which sparks civil unrest and strange happenings.

"The day the nuns came looking for Mirabelle, Louis found her speaking Seneca to the ladybugs. He could've easily snitched. She'd have gotten paddled and he'd have earned extra dinner. Instead, he leaned close and whispered in Mohawk.

Mirabelle didn't understand the words though she knew they were forbidden. They weren't English. She looked into the older boy's eyes to ascertain whether it was a trap. Such sophisticated thoughts for a five-year-old, but that's what comes from eating the rancid meat of those who rip you from your mama's arms; your thoughts get stained by the wastewaters of cruel intent."

Award funds a week off work this summer for a home writing retreat.

MONEY FOR WOMEN/BARBARA DEMING MEMORIAL FUND, INC.
GRANTS AWARDED
JUNE 2020 VISUAL ARTS & FICTION / MIXED GENRE

Kristi Ryba _____ **ART**
 (Charleston, SC)

Chapel of Perpetual Adoration III

Ryba's project is to install the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration III and/or each painting individually once exhibition spaces reopen. Eight paintings will be exhibited in August 2020 at the Bo Bartlett Museum in Columbus, GA.



"Disputation of St. Christine (Blaise Ford)," 24" x 30", egg tempera and 22k gold leaf on panel, 2019.

Grant will purchase a prayer bench and the 22k gold leaf for a new painting.

Gwen Shockey _____ **ART**
 Addresses Project (Brooklyn, NY)

The "Addresses Project" investigates lesbian/queer space and memory in New York City through map-making, oral history, portraiture, personal ephemera, and community programming. Using an intergenerational lesbian/queer perspective, the project explores the history of the gay rights movement and its intersections with civil rights, women's rights, and the sociopolitical conditions of NYC.



Credit: Riya Lerner
 "Sharee Nash, Addresses Project," 11" x 14", gelatin silver print, 2019.

Grant will pay for time to continue the project.

MONEY FOR WOMEN/BARBARA DEMING MEMORIAL FUND, INC.
GRANTS AWARDED
JUNE 2020 VISUAL ARTS & FICTION / MIXED GENRE

Kosiso Ugwueze _____ **FICTION**
The Girls (Lakewood, CA)

Ugwueze's story collection is both an ode to Nigerian girlhood and an examination of American immigrant identity. Through the perspectives of two women characters, Ifeoma and Chisom, these linked stories explore the importance of female friendships to young women as they learn to navigate sexism, violence, and exile.

"We can't go in there," I said even though I followed Chisom into the forest, even though I would have followed her anywhere. When I caught up to her, she had stopped to rest under a tree. Chisom was still in her school uniform, a white shirt and blue skirt, and she looked at me with tears in her eyes.

Suddenly my fear of the forest dissipated, replaced by confusion. Chisom was the strongest of the two of us; I had never seen her cry, not even when her older brother died two years ago. When my father died, she had scolded me for wailing, calling me a silly girl. Now tears stained her cheeks and dripped down to her blouse. Something was terribly wrong.

Award covers expenses to complete the story collection.

Sarah Ulicny _____ **FICTION**
The Imposters (Ferndale, MI)

A 20-something underachiever with cerebral palsy is bullied by a sardonic re-imagined Helen Keller in The Imposters, a novel that grapples with difference's effect on self-worth and examines the consequences of being a woman with disabilities in a society that openly questions our right to live fully.

When you check into The Aviary they take away your shoelaces, phones, pens, headphones, purses, wallets, aspirin, keys, and plastic bags. Then, they give you a cockatiel; everyone gets a cockatiel. They name it for you; they name it after you. My cockatiel, Alice Leonora Beardsley, dangles from the ceiling in a rusted copper cage on a rusted copper perch. I sit across from her on a cocoon-brown twin bed, numbly, dumbly glaring at the

bird. She is soundless, motionless, just soul-crushingly blank. When I leave this place, my glare says, I won't miss you.

The award will cover living and research expenses needed to complete this novel.

Anne Beck and Michelle Wilson _____ **ART**
(Oakland, CA)

The Rhinoceros Project: Circling the Map

This socially engaged research project features a series of traveling, participatory sewing circles and papermaking happenings to create an 11' x 14' collaborative embroidery and watermark in handmade paper based on a woodcut map of Tenochtitlan (pre-Hispanic Mexico City) attributed to Albrecht Durer and Hernan Cortes.



Photo credit to Good Morning Graphics

Image from the "Circling the Map" project launch at the Museo Textil de Oaxaca.

Grant will be used to purchase recording equipment and to workshop the project's documentary components with Northern California communities.