

I will start with my current goals and needs as an artist currently working with traditional and digital animation, illustration incorporating graphic novels:

GOALS: Development of Gamelon Tales series of children's stories, and publication of them as graphic novels and interactive animation shorts. Continue with web development specializing in animation and Flash/Director.

SPECIAL NEEDS: digital video camera and Adobe Premier, a computer program to edit and create digital movies. It is impossible to do this development without this equipment.

Some history about myself and my life experience, that contributes to making me what I am today as a person and as an artist is:

- In the junior year of college, Minneapolis College of Art and Design (majoring in Painting and Printmaking) I studied abroad in Holland, and returned to Europe after graduation, in 1969 to pursue my art career, as I had made many beneficial contacts in Europe in 1967 and 68. The exposure to the classical art available in European museums and churches was an invaluable experience.
- Consequently I returned to and lived in Europe, mainly London, England, from 19769 through 1986, returning to Minnesota often and periodically to visit my mother and friends. In early 1986, I returned to Minnesota when my mother became terminally ill, in what became a permanent move.
- While abroad also expanded into many types of commercial art, additional to gallery showing of painting and fine art constructions and installations, from 1972 through 1986, and my client list included Revlon International, as their portrait artist. See current portrait site as part of redevelopment business endeavors.
- Since 1986, as a result of my mother's and my experiences, relevant to the circumstances around her death, I developed an interest in medical social aspects of life quality for the disabled, low income and elderly. I had also developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder consequent to those matters, which involved extensive loss for me, including my studio and all of my portfolio and art work. Pursuing this interest in disabilities, by 1992, I formally started Diabetics/Disabled Anonymous, Non Profit Support Group and Alliance, through which I and others have the opportunity to volunteer to assist others with disabilities as a advocate, who are low income or are elderly in various ways. See the web site, which I designed the graphics for at: <http://www.DDAexchange.org>

Since 1998 I have been redeveloping my art career and recreating portfolios lost in the course of the complications surrounding my mothers death. In this time I have learned to work with digital media for animation. I am currently focusing on graphic and web design, portraiture and children's stories, primarily the Gamelon Tales series, and I intend to revive the fine art aspect of my career soon, using mixed media, inclusive video. There has been considerable interest in my illustration and character development via "Gamelon Tales," from prospective clients. I have clients but all resources have gone on supplies.

Fortunately my business received a Sumasil Foundation grant for the purchase of a Apple G4 notebook, earlier this year which is partial provision of the technology I need. To develop the characters for the series of children's graphic novels from "Gamelon Tales" I need a digital video camera and Adobe Premier, a computer program to edit and create digital movies, which costs approximately \$1000.00. This is a major cost which would be hard for me to otherwise fund.

The Artists Recognition Grant enables me to practically continue with my development of characters/work for the Gamelon Tales series, I am developing, and for other similar work for clients, inclusive writers of children's stories wanting their books illustrated.

I am requesting a grant because I am a low income, disabled woman, receiving SSI, who is starting a business, OpusArts LLC., and I have financial need for the above specific technology to make my business succeed. I have no other resources to meet the cost of this technical equipment, at this time. Receipt of the grant would, of course, be prestigious.