**Bachrun LoMele cover letter**

Dear Pollock-Krasner Foundation,

I am a 71 year old artist living in the rural and remote Sierras near Kings Canyon, where I have been working to develop my art for the past 20 plus years. I moved here from New York City, where I worked as a freelance illustrator for 24 years, while also exploring and developing my art path in private. I moved here to the mountains expressly to focus on my art — always my goal in life — with reduced financial pressures. At this juncture, I am asking the Foundation for professional support.

My partner Mahalia and I have managed a living here by developing two small cabins to rent out as vacation cabins, adjacent to our own single room dwelling. This has provided the necessary income for us to subsist, as long as we do all the cleaning, maintenance, and booking work ourselves.

I have been using the entirety of my social security check to pay for a nearby studio space for myself. In addition, I am currently paying for a storage unit separate from my studio, as my studio is in a previously abandoned and derelict structure in a wildfire prone area, and without power or water (I use a generator and a battery, and bring water there). I have been evacuated several times for wildfires, and have not wanted to risk losing all of my work — hence the storage unit in the valley.

Despite the challenging physical distance, I have been able to (incrementally) make some connections within the Los Angeles art scene over these years, but it has been expensive — a five hour drive each way. Nevertheless, I have managed to get my work shown, and am currently scheduled for a solo show at the Museum of Art and History (MOAH) in Lancaster, near Los Angeles, in 2026.

I feel that LA is the most practical arena within which to develop an art presence, but also the best fit for me aesthetically and in spirit. It is where I spent some years as a kid, where I later attended art school, and where I still have many long term friends. But it is necessary to be there, on the spot, to build and maintain relationships in the Los Angeles art community, I am finding. I feel that I have now put in enough time and work for my projects to be of value to other people, if only they could see it. I also feel that the time is right for this fit to be recognized.

I am requesting a grant to make it possible for my work to be more visible in the active and compatible art scene of Los Angeles. This money would be particularly helpful for me, making it possible to rent a small studio space in Los Angeles for a year, preferably in an active art district.

I’d use this space both as a display venue, and as a working studio for specific small, self-contained projects (smaller than my full installation pieces). I would expect it to be a base by means of which I might attract and maintain some exposure to others in the art scene of Los Angeles. I would expect to be there at least one week per month, and more if possible.

Such an arrangement would enable me to develop connections with other artists and with the art world there in general. It would even be possible for me to arrange studio visits with curators, gallerists, writers, and such — completely out of the question in my current situation (this has never happened in the twenty years I’ve been working here).

My experiences knocking about the art world has revealed that it very much operates through social and physical connection. For me, having a website and a social media presence, without already having an extensive background of chronically online friends and connections in the art scene, is not enough to attract and sustain attention.

Financial support would also be particularly helpful for me at this time, as I am preparing a new body of work for the MOAH show, a 30’ high, vertical version of my ongoing Burn Pile project. I am also developing two new projects, *Agree*, and *WUI Tree* (WUI = “Wildland Urban Interface”). The cost of art supplies for these projects is considerable — paper, printing inks, gator board, LED signs, lumber, canvas. If I could afford to, I would like to hire someone who could help me with some of my projects — there is a considerable amount of repetitive handwork, hand printing (most of my carved blocks are too large for my press), and some construction as well — involved in some of my installations.

I feel that I am now at an inflection point in my career: I know what I’m after, both in the making of my work, and in the pursuance of my career.

I am estimating an amount of $24,500 to help me with all of these expenses, for which I have prepared an itemized account. Here is how I estimate my expenses for this plan:

$12,000 — one year of rent for a small studio space in an active art district, which would not include a living space.

$3,500 — Occasional housing. I would expect to be able to stay with different friends for a week here and there through this year (as I have done in the past), but am also including money for a place to sleep perhaps four weeks during the year.

$3,000 — Travel. I would still be needing to travel back and forth between LA and Pinehurst throughout this year, to maintain the vacation rental business in the mountains.

$3,000 — Art supplies

$2,000 — Studio assistant

$1,000 — Transport. This would allow for a Uhaul rental truck to transport my work and supplies to and from LA (once each way), and includes gas for the two trips.

Total — $24,500

Thank you very much for considering my request!

Sincerely,

Bachrun LoMele