Faculty Development Grant Report

In the Spring of 2011, I received a Faculty Development Grant to purchase an Epson Perfection V750-M Pro Scanner and a Canon EOS slr D7 digital camera.

I requested the professional scanner to digitize 25+ years of analog photographs of my personal work and to help catalog my extensive collection of vintage photographic images including early processes that are difficult to document. I requested the digital camera because I no longer believe shooting with film is practical and cost-effective; in order to continue my studio practice as a photographer, I needed to up-grade to a camera capable of producing images worthy of gallery presentation, as well as one that could support my teaching activities.

Since I received the grant, I have discovered that the quality of the scanner exceeds my expectations. In recent weeks, I scanned a variety of photographic materials, including slides, color negatives, glass negatives, lantern slides, tintypes, and photographic postcards. Several of these images are included on the following pages.

Since I only recently received the grant, I have not had an opportunity to use the digital camera; however, it is perfect for a project I began years ago — documenting architectural details, furniture, and wallpaper in historic settings. The small point-and-shoot film and digital cameras I used in the past were adequate, but limited, and I look forward to pursuing this project with more versatile equipment. The images at right are representative of this body of work. Many photographs from this project have been included in my Principles of Design curriculum over the years.

Rooservelt Hotel (Waldorf Astoria), New Orleans, Louisiana, 2010

Chene Vert (Creole House circa 1820), Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 2010

The earlier images (two on this page) are from Fontana, California, and present an economically depressed neighborhood where once-model homes appear neglected and abandoned.

A second set of images (following page) were taken a few years later with the assistance of a friend. We posed as a couple shopping for a Kaufman-Broad home, and toured a selection of model homes in the Corona area. I used a point and shoot camera and slide film to document unusual details of each home.

Although I never completed the project (primarily because of the distance), in March 2011 I met a doctoral candidate from Yale whose art history dissertation references a similar topic — real estate and art collecting in Southern California in the 1970’s. The scanner allowed me to digitize my images and share them with her; consequently we have had a lively exchange of ideas based on these photographs and our similar experiences.
Kaufman-Broad Homes: Art and Real Estate in Southern California, circa 1995-98; slides of various properties, Fontana and Corona, California.

Model homes in Corona: book stand with book open to an image of Manet’s *The Dead Toreador*; coffee table with Cezanne monograph; continuously running promotional video; kitchen pantry with arranged packaged food.
Scanned color negatives, Cabela’s Hunting and Fishing Store, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 2007
Images used to demonstrate analog and digital color printing in the Color and Design curriculum
Glass negatives taken in Memphis circa 1910 by an amateur photographer who just happened to be the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan; I acquired several plates from his grand daughter in 1975.

Young women dressed in Japanese costume; boats on the Mississippi River.
Miscellaneous glass lantern slides; some are hand-tinted, others are early forms of color photography.
I have a large set of lantern slides compiled and taken by one photographer, a meteorologist from San Diego.
Three of numerous photographic postcards by anonymous photographers

*Washington DC Socialite, circa 1920*

*Sailors stationed in Japan, circa 1920*

*Sailors from the USS Nevada, circa 1910*
Hand-colored tin type, circa 1910

Hand-colored tin type, circa 1870
Otis Faculty Development Grant Report

I would like to thank the Faculty Development Grant Committee for this generous grant. Their support means a great deal to me, especially in conjunction with my Sabbatical leave. This funding advances my career, and brings added value to my teaching as I share the work and technical knowledge with students and faculty colleagues. Furthermore, it provides additional opportunities to explore publication and exhibition possibilities.

Christian Mounger
Associate Professor of Art
Foundation Department

*Small Child and Vine*, unknown photographer, glass negative, circa 1900

*Ears of Corn*, unknown photographer, glass negative, circa 1900