

CIA Summer Teacher Residency Proposal Template

Feel free to use this worksheet to develop your proposal, or submit a proposal using a different method that works for you.

1. Themes + Content

Introduce your proposal by elaborating on the topics you hope to explore during your time at CIA, artists you pull inspiration from, and avenues for continued research to inform your work.

2. Materials + Methods

Give a general idea of the types of materials and methods you plan to use including the tools, software, or resources that you might need. What tools and materials will you bring? What CIA resources will you utilize? (CIA will provide up to \$150 per resident in expendable materials + ceramic firing fees.)

3. Vision for final product

Explain what you imagine the final product will be: how many pieces, how large? (Residents are invited to create work of any size, but will be asked to submit moderately sized work for the exhibition, because of space limitations.)

4. Images

Please include images of your current work and/or sketches of your planned proposal. A link to an artist's website, or photos of your current work-in-progress will work too.

Sample Proposal

Kristin Johnson, STR Proposal 2019

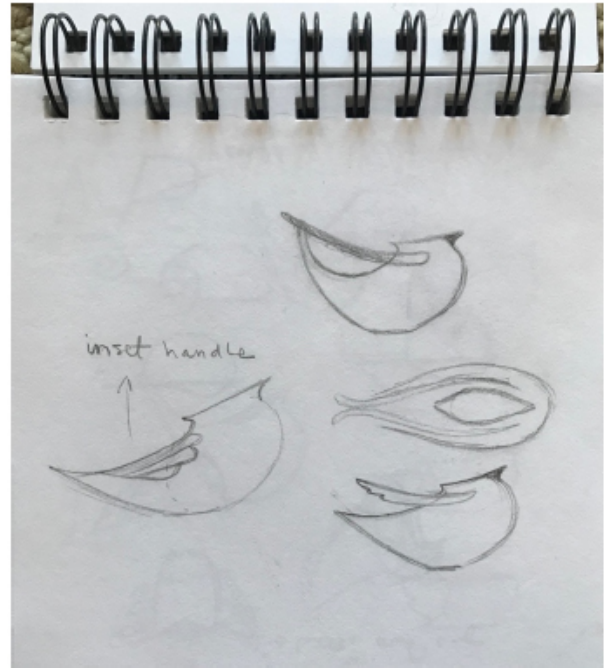
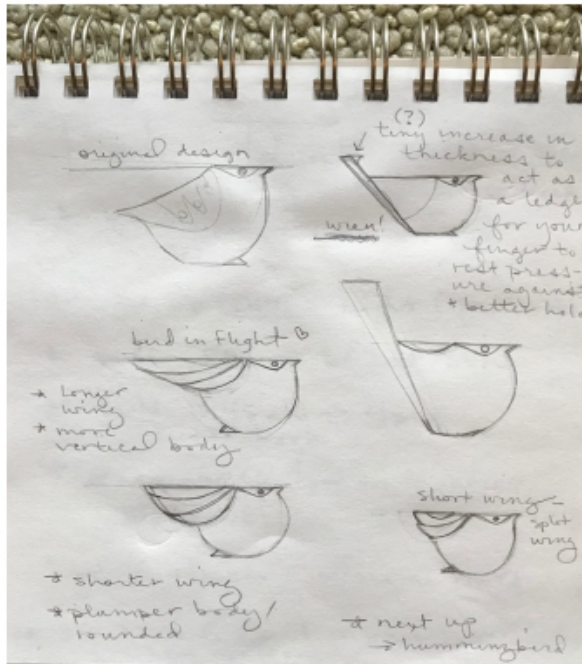
I began teaching 19 years ago. At that time, my focus shifted from creating artwork of my own to developing lessons so that up-and-coming young artists (my students) could experience the process of creation. My artwork, motivation, and inspiration lay dormant for nearly 10 years as I tweaked the art of teaching. Oddly enough, as I decided to pursue a master's degree in art education, my desire to make and push my own creativity became priorities again. During my education, I chose to specialize in ceramics. The goal was to develop a deeper understanding to share with my students, but I also ended up with a love for the medium and a reenergized drive for working in the 3D realm. I was able to centralize my master's thesis around exploring, creating, and documenting an evolving body of ceramic pieces. My experience almost felt like a working on a master's in the fine arts. Since that time, I have continued to further my knowledge and skillset by building a small studio at home, attending workshops of visiting artists, joining a local potter's guild, and beginning to sell my pieces through a gallery. Although I love the pieces I am currently making, I would like to design a few more forms of note. Things that look more like sculpture but still possess the ability to function for everyday use.

My ceramic pieces are created primarily using three methods of working: slip-casting, manipulating wheel-thrown forms, and utilizing drop and drape molds to develop form. The pieces themselves are often inspired by birds in some way. Abstracted pitchers seem to convey the posture of a proud bird, or a graceful bird, or maybe a bird in a daily habit, for instance, resting in a nest. I enjoy evoking some sort of emotion in the viewer as well. Sometimes I aim for an adorable narrative (the tiles) while other times my aim is for an aesthetic connection (the pitchers and lidded vessel) to the objects and its subject matter (birds). Other areas of interest include the relationship between positive and negative space, the concept of nesting, and the idea unifying multiple pieces as a set or body of work. If accepted into CIA's residency program, my goal would be to create 3-4 pieces that fit within this framework. Depending on the design and overall purpose, I may choose to create a plaster mold of one of the forms. I expect that the other pieces would probably be constructed on the potter's wheel and further manipulated afterward (sculpting, adding handles, etc.). I would also like to spend some time working on decorative surface treatments, for instance incorporating bird-like patterning into a piece.

There are several artists that currently inspire my vision: they are Eva Ziesel, Charley Harper, Johnathan Adler, and Chandra DeBuse. In preparing this proposal, I discovered the work of Anthony Theakston, Magdalene Odundo, Deborah Schwartzkopf, and Adam Goldberg, each of whom I plan to research further. Although it may seem like a strange connections, I am also in love with the clean, modern simplicity of the Eame's furniture designs, although I am not entirely sure how their work connects to mine.

As a full-time teacher, time is my biggest challenge in strengthening my own body of work. There just isn't enough of it. That's why CIA's teacher residency program peaked my interest so deeply. What a wonderful opportunity to spend 10 whole days focused on one's own creative pursuits! In the studio making and collaborating with like minds sounds like a dream come true, and one I hope to be a part of.

Potential Design Sketches



Truthfully, I am not sold on any of these ideas yet. I plan to keep working on design development until the residency begins, with the hope of generating a wealth of ideas to discuss and consider with my peers.

Current Work

Slip Cast



Wheel-thrown



Lidded Bird Vessel



Ceramic Tile

