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Gage Academy of Art Receives Murdock Charitable Trust Grant to Support Studio Arts Intensive

\$148,000 will support an innovative approach to professional training for artists.

SEATTLE, WA – November 4, 2014 – Gage Academy of Art is proud to announce that the Murdock Charitable Trust, a Northwest foundation, has awarded the arts organization a grant of \$148,000 over three years to help launch a new and innovative full-time arts program. The 7-month Studio Arts Intensive program is designed as a low-cost way for aspiring artists get the foundational skills, market perspective, mentoring and critical tools needed to jumpstart their professional pursuit of visual arts.

The Studio Arts Intensive is a new affordable alternative for students seeking a powerful, focused program that combines foundational skill building in drawing, painting and sculpture, professional mentorship, digital skill-building, market perspective and networking to create a focused, intensive track to serious art-making. Graduates of the seven-month program leave with a bedrock of skills, a strong, competitive and diverse portfolio, a network of colleagues, artists and mentors, and the strength of community that comes from association with a vibrant art school and community.

“We are so inspired and humbled by Murdock Charitable Trust’s selection of our Studio Arts Intensive as a program for support. We’re thrilled that they recognized that there is a need for an affordable pathway program for those pursuing arts in a serious way.” said Sheila Hughes, Executive Director at Gage. “Grants like this can be powerful catalysts for change - they protect and champion new ideas in their incubation phase.”

The M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust seeks to enrich the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest by providing grants and enrichment programs to non-profit organizations that seek to strengthen the region's educational, spiritual, and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways.

Gage is an innovative and unusual arts organization that has been animating the cultural landscape of the Northwest for almost 25 years. A vibrant, independent art school that features an exceptional roster of teaching artists, Gage offers programs that serve artists of all ages and at every point along their path to artistic path for more than twenty five years, as well as serving the community through a year-round program of exhibitions, events, programs like free Teen Art Studio and The Drawing Jam, and the Atelier Program.

Gage is now accepting applications for the inaugural 2014/15 year of the Studio Arts Intensive. The program runs September through April, offers students the observational techniques, technical training, broader arts perspective, and strong portfolio that they need for the next step in their artistic journey. With a small cohort of 16 students and a strong team of five renowned Northwest teaching artists, the Gage Studio Arts Intensive supports and inspires students through an intensive seven-month program that includes these special features:

Registration for the 2015-16 academic year is open now at **GageAcademy.org/studioarts**. For more information, including scholarships and payment options, please email Olivia Beaufait, Studio Arts Intensive Director, at Olivia@GageAcademy.org.

ABOUT GAGE ACADEMY OF ART

Celebrating 25 years as a national center for classical training in the foundation principles of drawing, painting, and sculpture, Gage Academy of Art, a 501-C3 non-profit, features fine-art programs year-round that engage and inspire emerging and established artists of all ages and abilities through rigorous study and practice in the Realist tradition. For more information, connect with Gage on Facebook and Twitter, or visit GageAcademy.org.

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