



School of Art



## **Dr. Irving J. and Ruth B. Olson Photography Scholarship for the Myers School of Art**

### **Student Application Guidelines**

In January 2014, Dr. Irving J. and Ruth B. Olson generously endowed a scholarship for Photography majors in the Myers School of Art. The *Gift Document* that defines the Scholarship and its goals reads, in part:

Dr. Olson has ... chosen to assist photography students in the School of Art through the *Dr. Irving J. and Ruth B. Olson Photography Scholarship*. In doing so, he challenges students not only to follow their dreams but, through their art and service to their community, to make a difference so that they too shall not have lived in vain.

The purpose of the *Dr. Irving J. and Ruth B. Olson Photography Scholarship* is to provide an academic scholarship to one or two photography students in The University of Akron's School of Art. In this regard, the *Dr. Irving J. and Ruth B. Olson Photography Scholarship* may be used to help defray the cost of tuition and fees.

In selecting the *Dr. Irving J. and Ruth B. Olson Photography Scholarship* recipients, consideration will be given to sophomore, junior and senior applicants, who are actively involved in the life of The University of Akron, School of Art, and/or the community, have potential for future success and who are working to help pay for their University of Akron tuition.

The *Olson Photography Scholarship* one of the most prestigious and valuable awards offered through the Myers School of Art. The application process is highly selective, and only one or two scholarships are awarded annually. All sophomore, junior, and senior Photography majors are eligible to apply. Your application materials are of critical importance: you are strongly encouraged to put your best work forward in order to be competitive for this scholarship.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible for the Olson Photography Scholarship are undergraduate students who:

- have earned at least 30 credit hours;
- have declared Photography as your first and primary major;
- are currently enrolled with at least 6 7100:xxx credits;
- are actively involved in the life of The University of Akron, the Myers School of Art, and/or the community; and
- are working to help pay for tuition at The University of Akron.

Ineligible for the Olson Photography Scholarship are:

- graduating seniors in their final term;
- post-baccalaureate students;
- students who are not in good standing with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards; and
- students who submit incomplete or late applications.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Each copy of your application must include the following:

- (1) Cover sheet
- (2) Work Sample and Artist's Statement
- (3) Letter of Interest
- (4) Resume
- (5) Academic Transcript
- (6) Recommendation Letter (needed only if the application is required for a class)

**Email a single PDF file containing all your application materials to the Chair of the Scholarship and Grants Committee, Dr. Elisha Dumser ([edumser@uakron.edu](mailto:edumser@uakron.edu)) by 12noon on Monday April 16, 2018.** No materials will be accepted in hard copy or in other digital formats. PDF files should be no larger than 20MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of submission. If you do not receive this email, please resubmit. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure your application is complete and successfully emailed by the deadline; no extensions due to technical issues will be granted.

### **(1) Cover sheet**

The requisite cover sheet must be completely and accurately filled out and signed; reformatted versions of the cover sheet are not acceptable. If you need assistance determining your GPA or earned credit hours on DARS, please a BCAS Advisor. The cover sheet can be found on the last page of these guidelines. The form must contain a true signature, since a digital signature is not sufficient.

## **(2) Work Sample**

- Submit documentation of 3-6 exemplary works, each labeled with the title, original size, medium, and date. Students shall independently select which works to include. Please submit high-quality documentation of your work, but be mindful that the final size of your digital application cannot exceed 20 MB.
- Include your artist's statement.

## **(3) Letter of Interest**

This should be a clear and concise document, no longer than two pages in length. The standard format will be: 12-point, Times New Roman font, single-spaced. In your Letter of Interest, address the following questions:

1. How are you active within the University of Akron and/or the Myers School of Art?
2. How are you active in the community outside of school?
3. Describe how you earn income to pay for your education.

## **(4) Resume**

The resume must include your full name, student ID #, UA email address, phone number, address, education history, professional accomplishments, and work history. It should highlight the following aspects:

1. *Professional Growth and Accomplishments.* Highlight the public presentation of your work in venues such as: solo and group exhibitions including those sponsored by the Myers School of Art such as the Juried Student Show, the Student Art League show, the Myers School of Art Studio Scholarship show, GAR UA/KSU exhibition, participation in conferences and research symposia, and any presentation at outside galleries or museums (i.e., AAM or CMA). Demonstrate your professional growth through: awards and honors received; travel; work history; internships; membership in professional organizations, such as Spaces Gallery or MOCA.
2. *Service to the School and Community:* Include volunteer and other experience to demonstrate your commitment to the Myers School of Art and the arts community in NE Ohio. This can include gratis art projects; internships; organizing lectures, films and/or art walks; Student Art League membership/leadership roles; Folk Photography Association membership/leadership; mentorship of fellow students; volunteering for Myers School of Art recruitment events such as Portfolio Review Day and School tours; and UA Student Organization memberships/leadership roles.

## **(5) Academic Transcript**

A copy of your unofficial transcript, available through the Student Center in MyAkron, is required. It must include coursework from the current semester.

## **(6) Recommendation Letter**

If this application is **required for a class**, an individualized letter of recommendation from that faculty member must accompany your application materials. Only applications required for a course need to include a letter of support.

### EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

All complete, eligible applications received before the deadline will be considered by the Scholarships and Grants Committee. The evaluation rubric used to facilitate discussion of the applications within the Committee is included in these guidelines. The Scholarships and Grants Committee reserves the right to interview applicants. Committee members for Spring 2018 are:

Dr. Elisha Dumser, Chair, Assistant Professor of Art, Art History  
Del Ray Loven, Professor, Painting and Drawing  
Melissa Stallard, Associate Professor, Photography  
Dave Szalay, Associate Professor, Graphic Design  
Laura Vinnedge, Associate Professor, Painting and Drawing  
Hui-Chu Ying, Professor of Art, Printmaking

When considering applications for the Olson Photography Scholarship, the Committee may also be joined by Photography faculty, as a non-voting members.

### NOTIFICATION OF THE AWARD

Recipients will be notified by email of their Olson Photography Scholarship.

### EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**The Olson Photography Scholarship is an honor and a responsibility.** The applicants selected as recipients of this scholarship agree to the following commitments:

- You are required to submit a thank-you letter to the donor: Dr. Irving J. Olson. Dr. Olson has been a long-time, generous donor to the Photography program and thus it is critical that we continue to present the Myers School of Art in the best possible light. Your thank-you letter must express your gratitude, include a sample of at least one image, and describe how financial assistance from the *Olson Photography Scholarship* will help you give back to the community through your art and service. The thank-you letter is required within two weeks of your notification of the award, and it will be reviewed for its content and tone. Please submit your thank-you letter by email to the Area Coordinator of Photography ([mkstall@uakron.edu](mailto:mkstall@uakron.edu)) and Chair of the Scholarships and Grants Committee ([edumser@uakron.edu](mailto:edumser@uakron.edu)). **Failure to submit the thank-you letter before the deadline will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.**
- Recipients of all scholarships and grants administered by the Myers School of Art are expected to give back to the school by participating in school-sponsored events. Events can include high school visits, Portfolio Review Days, speaking to an Arts Orientation class about your award, and other events where a student's voice and perspective are valued. Your participation will be coordinated by the Manager of Student Affairs, and by accepting this scholarship you agree to serve in at least three events over the next two semesters.

### QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the application process, you are encouraged to contact Dr. Elisha Dumser, Chair of the Scholarships and Grants Committee ([edumser@uakron.edu](mailto:edumser@uakron.edu)).

## Olson Photography Scholarship Evaluation Rubric

**Purpose:** This rubric is intended as a tool to facilitate discussion among committee members during the review of applications. Not all criteria are of equal value, but all will be considered to some degree during the application review process. The numerical component of this rubric should not be over-valued in the application review process.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

### Step one: Determine Eligibility

Applicant is a photography major with sophomore, junior or senior status? Yes / No

Application is complete? Yes / No

### Step two: Evaluate Merit

Criteria	Score (1-5, high to low)	Notes
<i>Work Sample:</i>		
Quality of work and its presentation		
Quality of the artist's statement and its relationship to the body of work		
<i>Letter of Intent:</i>		
Degree of activity in the University and/or Myers School of Art		
Degree of activity within the greater community		
Addresses how student earns income to pay for tuition		
<i>Resume:</i> quality and quantity of service, exhibitions, and professional experience		
<i>Academic Transcript:</i> Strength of overall GPA and GPA in in 7100 classes		

# 2018 Olson Photography Scholarship COVER SHEET

**Instructions:** Please complete this form by typing the required information or checking the boxes. The form must include your true signature (not a digital substitute) in order to be complete.

STUDENT NAME:

STUDENT ID#:

HOME MAILING ADDRESS:

MOBILE PHONE NUMBER:

UA EMAIL ADDRESS:

MAJOR:

SECOND MAJOR (IF ANY):

MINOR (if any):

Status as determined by earned credit hours:  Senior  Junior  Sophomore

Cumulative GPA (all UA courses):

Myers School of Art GPA (all 7100 courses):

Number of 7100:xxx credits in SP18:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorization for the Release of Information:** By signing this form, you grant the Myers School of Art permission to consult with offices and units on campus as needed to administer this scholarship, including the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and the Office of Student Financial Aid.