

Summary

This project will produce a cohesive body of 6–8 large-scale paintings, 10–15 works on paper, and one animated work investigating feminist esoteric abstraction and symbolic systems. Funding is requested for \$8,400 to support summer research activity, archival-quality materials, exhibition submission fees, and research travel to New York institutions directly aligned with the project's focus. The outcomes will include completed artworks, national exhibition submissions, curriculum integration, presentation of findings at Lincoln University, and a campus-wide workshop through the Visual Arts Workshop Series.

Faculty Development support will provide concentrated summer research time and material resources necessary to produce exhibition-ready work and sustain competitive national submissions.

I. Description of the project

This project investigates the material and symbolic strategies employed by women artists working within esoteric and spiritual abstraction, including Hilma af Klint, Leonora Carrington, Remedios Varo, and Agnes Pelton.

This work uses symbolic systems (tarot, cosmology, visionary diagrams) and intuitive processes (automatic drawing, ritualized mark-making) as compositional structures for new paintings and animated studies. Through studio-based research, archival study, and material experimentation, I examine how these strategies operate not only as aesthetic devices but as knowledge-producing frameworks that challenge dominant modernist narratives.

Recent institutional reevaluations of artists such as Hilma af Klint have reshaped conversations around abstraction and the exclusion of women from canonical art histories. This project builds upon those revisions by translating research into contemporary studio practice and generating new compositional systems, symbolic vocabularies, and material processes.

Proposed research travel includes attendance at the 2026 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the exhibition *"Tarot! Renaissance Symbols, Modern Visions"* at The Morgan Library & Museum. Direct engagement with Renaissance tarot iconography and contemporary curatorial frameworks will inform material experimentation and dissemination strategies.

The project will result in a cohesive body of paintings, works on paper, and animation that extend feminist esoteric abstraction within a contemporary context.

II. Measurable Goals and objectives for the project

The primary goal of this project is to produce a series of visual artworks, including drawings, paintings, and digital and animated studies, that critically engage feminist esoteric methodologies and spiritual abstraction within a contemporary framework. In practice, this research will generate new compositional systems, symbolic vocabularies, and material processes that directly shape the finished artworks.

Specific objectives include:

- Completion of 6–8 large-scale paintings
- Completion of 10–15 works on paper
- Completion of 1 short animated work
- Submission to at least 8 juried exhibitions
- Submission to at least 5 external grants or residencies

- Presentation at the Faculty Symposium and one regional conference or invited talk
- Development of one revised course module
- Development and facilitation of one public workshop through the Visual Arts Workshop Series

III. Timeline for the project

- May–June: archival research, studio experimentation, material testing, drawing studies, conceptual writing.
- July–August: production of paintings and animation, framing and documentation, submission of exhibition and grant proposals.

IV. How the project will enhance teaching and research at Lincoln University

This project strengthens my research trajectory and enhances Lincoln University's visibility through national exhibition and grant activity. Research findings will be incorporated into Painting I and advanced studio courses through a revised assignment and lecture module on symbolic systems and abstraction.

In addition, I will develop and lead a workshop through the Visual Arts Workshop Series, open to all Lincoln students, translating research findings into accessible studio practices and encouraging interdisciplinary engagement.

This project supports Lincoln University's commitment to academic excellence, creative scholarship, and student engagement.

V. How the outcome of the project will be measured

Success will be measured by completion and documentation of artworks; submission to exhibitions and grants; presentation at the Faculty Symposium; implementation of a revised course module; facilitation of a public workshop; and documentation of student engagement and feedback.

VI. How, when, where, and with whom the project's outcome will be shared

The outcomes of this project will be shared through multiple academic and professional channels. Completed works will be submitted to regional, national, and international juried exhibitions and external grant opportunities throughout Summer and Fall 2026.

Research findings and creative outcomes will be presented at Lincoln University's Faculty Symposium and incorporated into undergraduate studio coursework beginning Fall 2026.

In addition, a workshop derived from this research will be offered through the Visual Arts Workshop Series, a departmental initiative I implemented during the 2025–2026 academic year. This workshop will be promoted campus-wide and open to all Lincoln University students, translating research findings into accessible studio practices and encouraging interdisciplinary engagement. Attendance and student feedback will be documented.

A final project report will be submitted to the FRDC Chair and the Office of Faculty Affairs, and outcomes will be shared at the symposium in accordance with Faculty Development guidelines.