

# Road Trip Residency

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Cars have long been used by artists as medium<sup>1</sup>. Artists' fascination with cars makes sense. Automobiles are a foundational element of cultures across the globe and especially in the United States. They are the main method of transportation for people and goods in this country. Additionally, automobile history intersects with and mirrors the history of the U.S. itself—colonialism, economic disparity, environmental degradation, technocapitalism, and racism.

Cars are also places for trips, bonding, loving, listening, learning, observing, moving, and yearning. Cars are where we dance, sing, sleep, and eat. Here, in the Midwest, cars are critical to our everyday. For me, cars were one of the first steps toward adulthood—granting me a glimpse of independence from a neighborhood devoid of any public transportation.

Cars have also been one of the ways that I can afford to travel. Road trips offer a unique pace to observe and experience the United States. Artists, mostly photographers, have used road trips as subject, inspiration, and as a necessity<sup>2</sup>.

The Road Trip Residency invites artists to consider this context of cars and road trips—an undelineated amalgamation of the personal, cultural, and political. I will curate a three-day road trip through Missouri and Arkansas for three artists. The artists will be selected through an open call. The artists will make art during and/or after the trip. The work will then be exhibited in and around my car. In this way, my car is both the artist studio and the exhibition space.

As the curator, I will handle all the logistics, graphic design, documentation, marketing, administration, installation, deinstallation, driving, and community engagement. I will also be designing and printing a publication and a webpage. The artists will be paid fees according to W.A.G.E. and a material stipend<sup>3</sup>. Additional expenses include my curatorial fee, general trip expenses, insurance, marketing, printing the publication, and a contingency.

The target audiences are emerging and established Kansas City artists and contemporary art patrons, specifically those who are interested in experimental art and curation (and of course road trippers like myself).

## Income

Rocket Grant: \$6,000

**Total Income: \$6,000**

## Expense

Liability Insurance: \$300.00

Artist Fee and Material Stipend: \$3,000.00

Marketing: \$150.00

Curatorial Fee (10%): \$600.00

Lodging: \$450.00

Gas: \$200.00

Food: \$300.00

Publication: \$400.00

Contingency (10%): \$600.00

**Total Expense: \$6,000.00**

David Alpert is an artist/curator based in Kansas City, Missouri. He likes interactions, compassion, and exploring feelings. He uses Reality Club as his curatorial platform, organizing experimental art events and exhibitions including rare book tours, remote collaborations, scientific art parties, and aeronautical explorations. He has curated exhibitions, hosted interviews, moderated panels, established archives, and programmed film series.

He is a core member of Stray Cat Film Center. He holds a BA in Economics from Occidental College, and an MFA in Sculpture with an Emphasis in Curatorial Practice from the Maryland Institute College of Art.

<sup>1</sup> John Chamberlain, Gabriel Orozco, Damián Ortega, and Maurizio Cattelan, to name a few.

<sup>2</sup> Stephen Shore, Justine Kurland, Jim Dow, Todd Hido, Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs, to name a few more.

<sup>3</sup> Working Artists and the Greater Economy, www.wageforwork.com.