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Idea Capital Funds 3 Artist Projects

Atlanta, GA—**Idea Capital**, a recently formed grassroots arts support organization, announced today the winners of over \$1500 for individual artist-initiated projects beginning immediately.

Performance artist and painter **Shana Robbins** will receive \$1000. Street artist and printmaker **Jason Kofke** will receive \$500. And painter **Rory Golden** will receive \$250 from the group. The amounts are awarded in cash directly to the artists who may spend the money as they see fit toward the completion of their projects.

Ms. Robbins will use the cash to fund a multi-media performance-based work dealing with the “Monstrous Feminine,” while Mr. Kofke has proposed a city-wide street art campaign titled “Everything Will Be OK,” which includes both permitted and guerilla art tactics. Mr. Golden will create a fictional visual narrative installation titled “You Think I Can Eat All That Chicken Here?” which includes a 150-year-old ex-slave, food addiction, and an extreme religious conversion.

“I’m glad we have an artist with a political agenda,” said Stuart Keeler, one of Idea Capital’s co-founders, referring to Mr. Golden. Several of Idea Capital’s other organizers also cited the three winners as exemplary of the group’s desire to fund risky work ignored in an otherwise conservative arts funding environment. “The second round of awards reflects the depth and breadth of the work of each artist,” said co-founder Louise Shaw, “and speaks to our potential as a community.” Keeler went on to cite Shana Robbins’ potential as a major artistic talent, stating, “the grant can build on her obvious confidence to move to another level.”

Jason Kofke admitted to being “surprised” that he won a grant. Said the artist and graduate of SCAD, “I am extremely excited to be chosen for this grant. The body of work I proposed is part of a project that I have been developing for two years. Through lack of funding and misinterpretation from the public, it has been a struggle to see this work made. I view this grant as the first significant acceptance of one of my ideas in a growing artist community.”

Idea Capital is a grassroots initiative established last spring to help jump start Atlanta-based, artist-initiated projects that might not otherwise be supported through mainstream arts institutions. The organization and its grants are entirely supported by small donations from artists and other peers throughout Atlanta’s

art community. The most recent round of grant funding represents a more than 3-fold increase over the inaugural funding level of \$500 awarded last July to performance artist Allison Rentz. “Thanks to a significant amount of support from artists and others in the creative community, Idea Capital has been able to significantly expand its giving,” said co-founder Cinqué Hicks.

Idea Capital founders and organizers intend to grow the grant in the future and plan to continue supporting non-commercial art that might not otherwise find funding. “I am pleased to see this movement grow as funding artists in a more direct way is more important now than ever before,” said co-founder Susan Todd-Raque. “Our Atlanta artists have been overlooked and need to know there is local private support for their creative efforts.”

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About Idea Capital:

Idea Capital’s founders are Susan Todd-Raque, Stuart Keeler, Pam Rogers, Louise Shaw, and Cinqué Hicks. The group was founded to encourage experimentation and investigation with funds designed to give artists permission to pursue new ideas. Idea Capital encourages new members to join the organization.

About the Artists:

Rory Golden is a painter and mixed-media artist who recently relocated to Atlanta from Brooklyn, New York. He is the winner of several artist grants and fellowships, including a Yaddo residency and Puffin Foundation grant.

Jason Kofke is a SCAD graduate with an MFA in painting. He has shown work previously at Art House Gallery in Atlanta and at the Telfair Museum in Savannah.

Shana Robbins is a painter, performance and multimedia artist whose work explores “eco-feminist” ideas and ceremonial actions. Her work has been shown at Sandler Hudson Gallery in Atlanta and Monkey Town in Brooklyn, New York.

About Idea Capital Founders:

Susan Todd-Raque is a former educator and current curator, collection consultant, and artist representative (for Sylvia Plachy, William Boling, John McWilliams, and Jerry Siegel). She is also a co-founder of Atlanta Celebrates Photography.

Stuart Keeler is an artist of public spaces with an interest in examining curatorial constructs in developing a stronger link to the production of art in the public

realm. Recent projects include: Rauschenberg Foundation NYC; Service Works, Yerba Buena Center of the Arts, San Francisco; Interiority, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago; i.e. 1A-Hong Kong, Republic of China; and A (new) Genre Landscape, Atlanta, GA.

Pam Rogers is an artist, curator, and educator. Previously working as Curator for the Jewett Art Center of Wellesley College and teaching in the Boston area, Pam lived in Atlanta for 3 years before relocating to Washington, D.C. where she is currently focusing on her studio practice and curating local exhibitions.

Louise E. Shaw has been a cultural worker in Atlanta for over 30 years. She is currently the Curator of the Global Health Odyssey Museum at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Cinqué Hicks is an artist, writer, and cultural code reader who relocated to Atlanta 3 years ago. He engages in independent curating projects and publications, and writes art criticism for Creative Loafing.



Shana Robbins, "Tree Ghost," Performance Drawing, 18" x 22", 2007



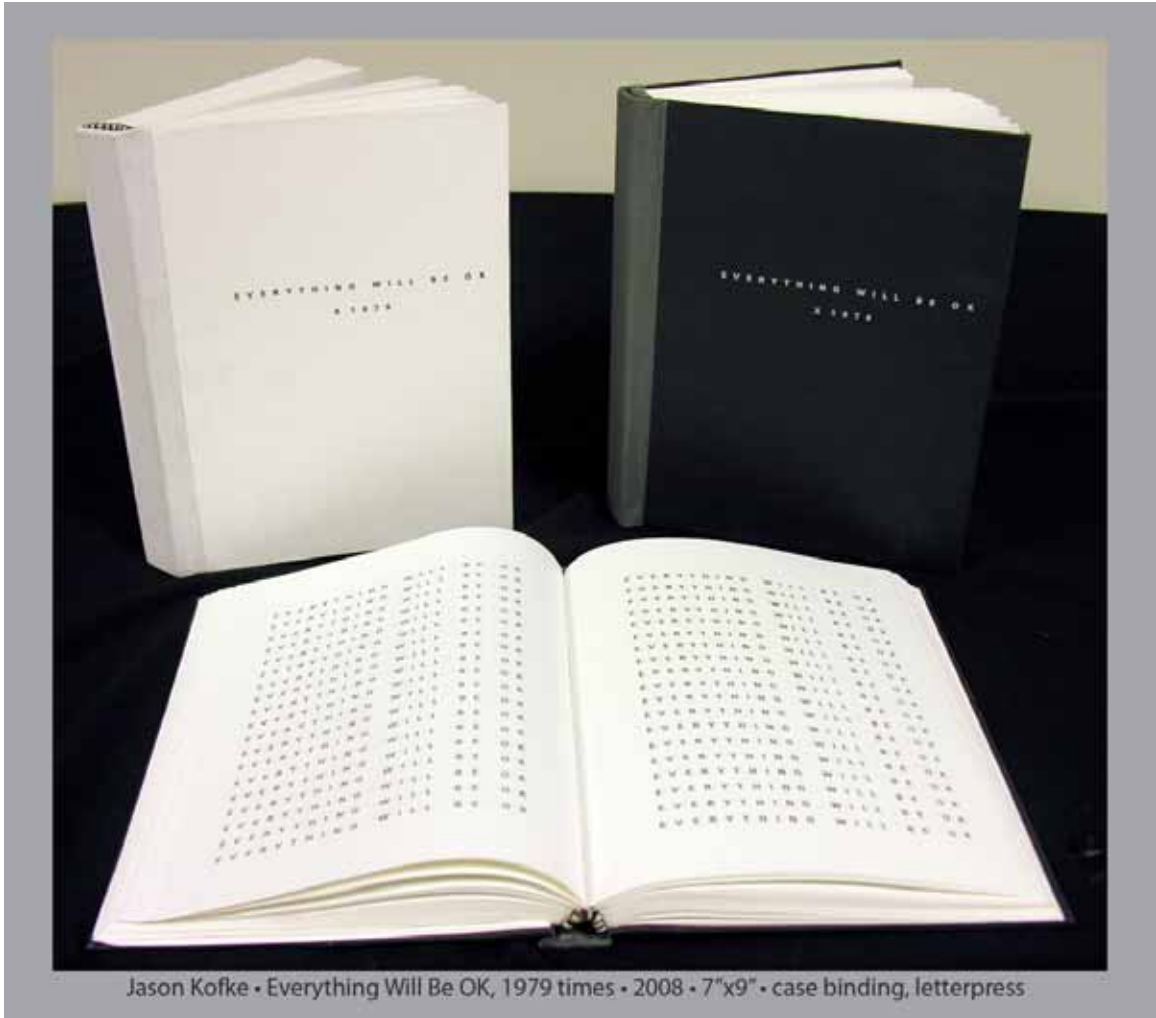
Shana Robbins, "Tree Ghost" performance view, 2008



Jason Kofke • Everything Will Be OK, MLK BLVD • 2007 • 48"x80' • wheat paste, paper, paint on wood



Jason Kofke • Everything Will Be OK, EMERGENCY • 2007 • 32"x24" • vinyl lettering on sign



Jason Kofke • Everything Will Be OK, 1979 times • 2008 • 7"x9" • case binding, letterpress



Rory Golden, "Blue David," tar, house paint, pencil and oil pain on roofing paper, 40" x 36" , 2007



Rory Golden, Untitled from "Chickenbones" series, mixed-media drawing, 35" x 32", 2008