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“The American Flag, Dahlonega, and The University of North Georgia” A Project Exploring the Gold History of Dahlonega and the Civilian and Military History of UNG through a large format painting of the American Flag.”
**Narrative**
As a visual artist my research is not only the artwork I produce as a painter, but also the research that goes into creating the artwork that I make. I have been an artist for twenty-seven years. Banderas or Flags is a large format series of paintings that I have been specifically creating for the last five years. The flags deal with the symbolism found in different local, national, and international flags (American, Mexican, Venezuelan, and Confederate, to name a few). The flags also deal with socio-political issues and are meant to discuss and provoke new thoughts and questions. There is also a visual fusion of some flags to create new flags and in turn new symbols and meanings. Because of the strong symbolism attach to flags in general, we propose to create a large American Flag painting to show pride in the United States, the newly formed University of North Georgia, its military and civilian history, and the Gold History of Dahlonega. We will superimpose on the USA flag images of Dahlonega’s Gold and Mint History and the Military and Civilian heritage of the University of North Georgia.

**Significance**
The painting is meant to point out the positive aspects of Dahlonega’s Gold History and also the military history of the University. The image of the American flag will be a vehicle to show pride in the United States as well as Dahlonega and the University of North Georgia. The creation of the painting also fits within the goals of many local, regional, and national art departments in institutions of higher education to create and exhibit significant public artwork for the enjoyment of students, faculty, and staff. Finally, art students Jillian Conner and Sydney Dye will develop invaluable professional studio practices that are usually not obtain at the undergraduate level and will become familiar with the ins and outs of producing high quality artwork, in this particular case a large format painting. This in turn will better prepare Jillian and Sydney for graduate work if they decide to continue their education. It is also important to point out the long apprenticeship tradition of learning in the art world through the centuries, where more established artists would have one or more apprentices. For example Leonardo Da Vinci worked under Andrea del Verrocchio. At the age of 16, Vincent van Gogh began an apprenticeship with Goupil & Cie international art dealers. Benjamin Franklin served as a printers’ apprentice to his elder brother James Franklin. The apprenticeship method of learning in the arts is still alive and well today and can be found throughout the world. This method of learning can also be used in many other fields of study.

**Goals and Expected Products**
Besides the main goal of Ms. Conner and Ms. Dye getting hands-on experience in all the aspects of creating a large format painting including research, the second goal is to complete a beautiful, high quality large format painting to be hung at the University of North Georgia, Dahlonega campus. There are three possible locations for the painting. The first location could be the Military Sciences Building. I have met with Coronel James T. Palmer and he is open to the possibility of displaying the final product there, he is also willing to be a consultant on the project and my students and I will be working with Coronel Palmer in the development of a design. A second location could be the Hoag Student Center, I have also communicated with Wesley Thomas and that could be a location although not permanently. Finally, the Library Technology Building could also be a location but I have not heard back from them. It is also important to mention that the painting will be done on canvas and will be easily removable, so it could actually have several locations until a more permanent location is found. Hopefully the painting will become an iconic piece of artwork at UNG Dahlonega campus that students, faculty, staff, cadets, and community can be proud of. I also hope that the painting will enrich the visual arts at the UNG campus in Dahlonega and the Department of Visual Arts. Even though the painting will be donated to the UNG, the image will become part of the “Banderas” series, part of Ms. Conner’s and Ms. Dye’s portfolio, and part of my portfolio as well. As part of our portfolios, we could include the image when applying for funding, graduate school, online art competitions, etc. If we are awarded the grant we could possibly present at the Southeastern College Art Conference in Greensboro, NC in October, 2013, and possibly at College Art Association in 2014. The finished painting will also be a collaborative piece and Ms. Conner, Ms. Dye and I will sign it. Finally, as has been the case with one of my flags in the past, the image of our flag could be used by the UNG for fundraising and advertising by creating t-shirts, sweatshirts, and all sorts of merchandising.

**Plan for faculty-student collaboration and mentorship**
As an adjunct art faculty and visual artist, my position will be that of mentor and technical expert. The “Banderas” large format paintings that I have created so far require research and extensive amounts of preparation and time, which will create considerable amounts of interaction, collaboration, and mentorship with Ms. Conner and Ms. Dye. My goal will be to closely work with Ms. Conner and Ms. Dye and expose the students to a variety of studio practices and the ins and outs of creating large format paintings as well as painting techniques. Ms. Conner, Ms. Dye, and I will spend considerable amounts of time painting, which might seem like dead time. However, during these long periods of time I will bring up a variety of different subjects related to the business of being an artist and studio practices from my personal collection of
books, so we will be able to discuss and engage in conversation and learning while we are painting. We will also research and collect positive visual and written information about Dahlonega’s History and UNG and come up with a design that will fit within the American flag.

- The first week of the project we will put together the stretcher bars and stretch the canvas over the stretcher bars. We will also attach the cross bars for support and draw over the canvas an outline of the USA flag and applied a drawing fixative to seal the image to the canvas.

- The second and third week will consist of prepping the USA flag outline image for painting. We will use masking tape and matte medium and start painting the first basic layer of paint (red, white, and blue). As we do these we will also start researching the visual History of Dahlonega and UNG to find visual images and symbols that can be incorporated into the design.

- The fourth, fifth, and sixth week will consist of, after the American Flag background is totally completed and dry, drawing and painting over the American flag images that represent Dahlonega’s gold History and UNG military history. This part of the process will require a lot of painting time and the selected students and I will spend time painting and repainting areas as needed. As part of my studio practice I spend extended periods of time painting so I expect we will meet four times a week an average of 6 to 7 hours a day to research, prep, paint, repaint, etc.

- The seventh and eighth week will consist of, after the superimpose images of Dahlonega and UNG are completed and dry, of adding a series of vertical stripes using masking tape. We will paint in the exposed areas between the masking tape which breaks up the image and gives it threedimensionality. This also allows us to have a greater variety of colors. After the masking tape is removed we will repaint any areas that need it and we will finish by varnishing the whole painting. Also after a location for the painting has been determined we will attach the most appropriate hanging mechanism for the painting and wall.
## Budget

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>Masking Tape</td>
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## Timeline

### Week One:
- **Monday:** Meet with Ms. Conner and Ms. Doe and discuss the project or painting.
- **Tuesday:** Assemble stretcher bars and cross bars and stretch canvas over stretcher bars.
- **Wednesday:** Outlined with pencil USA flag over canvas and applied fixative.
- **Thursday:** Applied masking tape and matte medium to prepare for initial layer of paint.

### Week Two:
- **Monday:** Visit Dahlonega’s Gold Museum and visit Alexis Torres studio in Atlanta.
- **Tuesday:** Start initial layer of paint (red, white, and blue).
- **Wednesday:** Research meeting and discussion (UNG History) also paint.
- **Thursday:** Continue painting the initial under layer of paint.
- **Friday:** Continue painting the initial under layer of paint.

### Week Three:
- **Monday:** Research meeting and design session.
- **Tuesday:** Finish painting the initial under layer of paint.
- **Wednesday:** Select images to go over flag and draw them.
- **Thursday:** Start prepping the area for painting.

### Week Four:
- **Monday:** Start painting the superimposed images on the flag.
- **Tuesday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.
- **Wednesday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.
- **Thursday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.
- **Friday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.

### Week Five:
- **Monday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.
- **Tuesday:** Research meeting and discussion about possible text on painting and scout possible locations on campus for painting.
- **Wednesday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.
- **Thursday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.

### Week Six:
- **Monday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.
- **Tuesday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag.
- **Wednesday:** Continue painting the superimposed images on flag and possible text.
- **Thursday:** Finish painting the superimposed images on flag and possible text.
- **Friday:** Start adding masking tape and a black border on the sides on canvas.

### Week Seven:
- **Monday:** Start adding masking tape and matte medium for vertical stripes.
- **Tuesday:** Start painting spaces between the stripes with lighter or darker colors.
- **Wednesday:** Continue painting spaces between the stripes with lighter or darker colors.
- **Thursday:** Continue painting spaces between the stripes with lighter or darker colors.

### Week Eight:
- **Monday:** Finish painting spaces between the stripes with lighter or darker colors.
- **Tuesday:** Add masking tape and black border on the sides on canvas.
- **Wednesday:** Attach hanging hardware.
- **Thursday:** Finishing touches and varnishing.
“I hereby certify that Stanley Bermudez will teach no more than 8 course hours during each summer session spanned by the FUSE program. Stanley Bermudez is committed to mentoring Jillian Conner and Sydney Dye on a continual basis during the period of the FUSE program.”

Pamela Sachant, PhD
Head, Department of Visual Arts
221 Hansford Hall

Stanley Bermudez, MFA
Art Instructor, Department of Visual Arts
221 Hansford Hall
"I hereby certify that I, Jillian Conner, will commit at least 30 hours per week to the scholarly project described in this application. I also certify that I am not enrolled in more than 4 course hours during each summer session spanned by FUSE. I am aware that failure to comply with these two requirements may result in the forfeiture of my summer stipend."

Jillian Conner

"I hereby certify that I, Sydney Dye, will commit at least 30 hours per week to the scholarly project described in this application. I also certify that I am not enrolled in more than 4 course hours during each summer session spanned by FUSE. I am aware that failure to comply with these two requirements may result in the forfeiture of my summer stipend."

Sydney Dye

Because of students taking summer session courses and also having jobs outside of campus we would be meeting Mondays through Thursdays, working 6 to 7 hours a day. We would also meet occasionally on Fridays as needed.

Stanley Bermudez