

## Proposal for *Strange Fruit*

### Intention

In 1939 Abel Meeropol wrote the poem *Strange Fruit*, a poem describing the horrific conditions of the south surrounding lynchings. It was turned into a song, which singer Billie Holiday popularized in the same year. To this day, this song has profound impacts on all who listen. I heard it for the first time two weeks ago while scrolling through twitter. The sound of trumpet coupled with Billie's distinct voice nearly moved me to tears. The sound alone felt powerful yet sorrowful. The lyrics are incredibly mobilizing, inspirational, and morbid. I have not been able to stop listening to *Strange Fruit*. It has made me reflect even more on how the world really has not changed since this song was written. Police and white supremacists commit modern day lynchings all the time. Black people are murdered by police, killed in hate crimes, targeted in a prison industrial complex, exploited, and so much more. *Strange Fruit* undeniably speaks to our conditions today. I want to create a series of paintings that use this song as a reference. My work already is entrenched in politics and race. This song is already informing my paintings, but I would like to be able to put more intention behind that.

Receiving funding will allow me to buy the supplies necessary to create a 4 painting series. As detailed below, I will need to buy paint, mediums, canvases, and other materials to complete this series. I want to be able to make oil paintings that also include mixed media, specifically clippings from newspapers and magazines.

### Inspiration

Art by Kara Walker: <http://www.karawalkerstudio.com>

Paintings by Jonathan Lyndon Chase

Paintings and Sketches by Christina Quarles

*Transvestism in the News*, 2015. Chris E. Vargas

### Timeline

March 15:

Begin initial drawing, planning, and research. Research will specifically involve reading about Race theory, Black radical tradition, and the historical context that we are currently in. I will also be researching current radical movements surrounding race, capitalism, and empire.

March 29:

Begin painting, preferably start multiple at once, so there will be DNA of each painting found in the others.

April 12

Complete first painting. I intend this to be mixed media!

April 19

Complete third painting

April 26

Complete fourth painting

May 3

Complete fourth painting

Budget

ITEM	PRICE	LINK
Blick Back-stapled gallery Canvas 24" x 48 (2)	79.26	<a href="https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-premier-gallery-profile-cotton-canvas-40-x-60-premier-gallery-pkg-of-3/">https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-premier-gallery-profile-cotton-canvas-40-x-60-premier-gallery-pkg-of-3/</a>
Blick Premier Back-Stapled Gallery 1-1/2" Profile Cotton Canvas - 36" x 48" (2)	115.47	<a href="https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-premier-back-stapled-gallery-1-1-2-profile-cotton-canvas-36-x-48/">https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-premier-back-stapled-gallery-1-1-2-profile-cotton-canvas-36-x-48/</a>
Winsor & Newton Winton Oil colour Paint 200mL Terre Verte	19.99	<a href="https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-winton-oil-colour-paint-200ml/D249058S.html">https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-winton-oil-colour-paint-200ml/D249058S.html</a>
Winsor & Newton Winton Oil colour Paint 200mL White x2	39.98	<a href="https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-winton-oil-colour-paint-200ml/D249058S.html">https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-winton-oil-colour-paint-200ml/D249058S.html</a>
Winsor & Newton Winton Oil Colour Paint 200mL Pthalo Blue	19.99	<a href="https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-winton-oil-colour-paint-200ml/D249058S.html">https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-winton-oil-colour-paint-200ml/D249058S.html</a>
Magazines	25.00	



**Michaels**  
**Winsor & Newton™ Winton Oil  
 Colour™ Paint, 200mL**  
 Item #: D249058S  
 Color: Terre Verte  
 Size: 200 ml

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**Michaels**  
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 Size: 32 oz

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$123.90</b>
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