

Business

BY PATRICIA L. FRY

Grants for artists.

If a lack of money is hampering your art career, grants offer you an opportunity for money that doesn't have to be repaid. A grant is, in essence, a gift to you to help reach art goals—an undertaking of new art studies, ability to have more time for your art, acquisition of larger studio space or financial aid for art promotion.

The grants system for the arts was established for the talented, motivated and self-disciplined artist, and consists of two basic types. First, and most common, are donations given in the form of money to art organizations and individuals, with awards ranging from \$100 to \$1 million. The money comes from the main contributors to the arts—private foundations and the government.



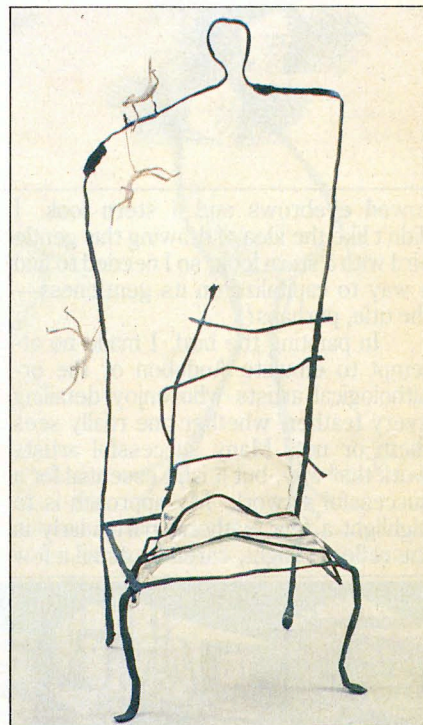
Lisa Yuskavage was chosen as a Fine Arts Work Center fellow in 1986-87 for her work *White Light* (oil, 16x12). The Provincetown, Massachusetts center provides seven months lodging and a \$450 monthly stipend to its fellows.

The second kind of grant—one that is more than a monetary donation—is the Artist-in-Residence Program. In this type, luxury and semi-primitive retreats, scattered throughout the United States and the world, are made available to artists so they can work on projects for a specific amount of time, free from distractions and daily responsibilities. A monetary stipend may or may not accompany this type of grant.

Who qualifies for artists' grants? Individual, talented artists who work in most any artform. Some foundations restrict their donations by awarding grants only to people who fit into special categories, such as women artists, artists who are mothers, artists with a particular ethnic or religious background, those born in certain regions, those involved with specific artforms, artists residing in a particular part of the country, or even artists of certain ages.

Once you decide to try for a grant, you need to find the ones most appropriate to your art and situation. Start your search by visiting your local library. Ask to see the most current editions of: *The Annual Register of Grant Support* (Marquis Who's Who, Inc., 200 E. Ohio St., Chicago IL 60611), which covers both government and private programs; *The Foundation Directory* (Columbia University Press, 136 S. Broadway, Irvington NY 10533), a catalog of federal and domestic assistance; *The Grants Register* (St. James Press, Inc., Montague, Rensselaer, NY 12157); and *Awards, Honors and Prizes* (Gale Research Co., Book Tower, Detroit MI 48226). These four reference books contain listings that furnish the name and address of the grantmaker, a description of the grant, to whom it is offered, how many grants are available, how much money is given out each year, and so on.

If your library doesn't carry the most current copies of these books, check a nearby university library, or write directly to the publishing companies to find out where you can view the latest editions. You can also request information from the publishers about purchasing your own copies (but be aware that these reference books are expensive and current for only one year). It's vitally important to use a cur-



Leslie Hawk received a \$6,000 grant from the Jerome Foundation for *Untitled* (steel and glass, 32x11x12), above. She was one of the 1987-88 awardees for the Foundation program administered by the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

rent copy because facts change quickly in the world of grants and grantmakers.

Next in your search, contact local and state arts agencies and ask what grants are available to residents.

Also subscribe to artists' publications and newsletters. Academic Research Information, Inc., for example, produces a publication titled *Creative Arts and Humanities Report* (ARIS Funding Messenger, The Redstone Building, 2940 16th St., Suite 314, San Francisco CA 94103). Though the cost is \$105 per year for eight issues, the report I received contained 46 pages and included more than 150 federal and private funding sources.

Word of mouth is another way to find out about grants. Tell everyone that you are looking for a grant and don't be surprised if your networking is a success—it often is.