

Application Summary

Dig: Paulus Berensohn, A Natural Life

It is my intention to demonstrate that craft arts are an integral solution to the climate crisis with a full length novel of historical fiction based upon Paulus Berensohn's unpublished hand-written one-hundred-and-sixteen-page memoir *The Silver Sword*. Stitch by stitch, breath by breath Berensohn was restored to harmony and health while the first whimpers of the pending, and now full blown climate crisis could be heard. Half a century later Berensohn's healing arcadia frames the path to ecological recovery on a global scale.

My research methodology to date includes gathering 2900 reference documents from the Paulus Berensohn papers at the Smithsonian Archives of American Art in Washington, D.C., attending the Hollyhock Leadership Learning Center on Cortes Island, British Columbia, Canada for the writing class, "Seriously Funny: In Writing, In Life," with Janelle Hanchett and Lisa Page Rosenberg. While my book *Dig* is about a serious subject, Berensohn was a humorous man. My writing must reflect this. Additionally, other writing study for this project includes a Master Class with Malcolm Gladwell, and one pending with Billy Collins. I've travelled to and interviewed Garth Johnson at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, NY. I've made a site visit to the Endless Mountain Farm in Scranton, PA, and met with Laurie and Larry Graham. The Grahams have extensive support material, including the entire collection of Berensohn's early work. Additionally, I've located and gone to all of the locations in San Diego where Berensohn lived. I have additional trips planned for Los Angeles and Aptos, CA.

Email correspondence has occurred with Jon Ellenbogen and Joy Seidler, two of Berensohn's closest friends. Additionally, I have site visits and interviews planned for the Penland School of Crafts, Cynthia Bringle, Meg Peterson and others. My presentation, "Paulus Berensohn: The Pebble Ritual" is accepted for NCECA 2020. I've applied for a Leave Without Pay from Pittsburg State University for the fall semester 2020 and made additional application to become a Tyson Scholar at Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, Arkansas for the fall of 2020. Further reading and research about the historical conditions of the 1970's, Berensohn's in-depth study of the philosophy and teaching of Rudolph Steiner, the healing practices Berensohn undertook in 1974–1982 such Jin-Shin Sutsyu, the Alexander Technique, and tai chi, while reading from Berensohn's bibliography of important authors: Robert Bly, Mary Oliver, M.C. Richards, James Hillman, June Singer, C.G.Jung, Lewis Hyde, John Cage, Janie Rhyne, Jose Arguelles, Michael Gelb, Frank Pierce Jones, Moshe Feldendkrais, Martin Buber, Ira Progoff and Chungliang Al Huang.

The Center for Craft Outcome is a completed first draft of the book. I'm working towards a formal abstract, prospectus and book outline that will be ready for presentation to publishers in the spring of 2020. The Dissemination of the work will include the appropriate liaison with all aspects of promotion expected by a publisher, to include, but not be limited to a wide-platform of social media, book-signings, readings and a tour. Attendance to appropriate conferences, book fairs and craft venues.