

Beth Reeck
Ann Arbor, MI
May 8, 2018

Dear Professor Jing Wang,

I am grateful and honored to be a recipient of the Candy R. Wei Prize. I started my academic career at the Stamps School of Art & Design with one idea about the things I could, and would end up, doing. My time abroad changed all that. I studied overseas twice - in Gabon and Japan.

Traveling to Africa one summer then Asia the next, I have been fortunate to experience a range of human realities. I got to spend time with and befriend people I never imagined I would get to meet. I got to work together on projects with these people, and learn about their way of life and perspective. As a result, parts of my creative practice have shifted, to focus more on community engagement. I have become more curious about what art and design can accomplish outside of traditional studio and classroom settings.

Being able to have these kinds of encounters made me want to see how I could create an extended international experience for myself. That is why this fall, I will be moving to South Korea to teach English. It is a step in a new direction, and I am excited to see what I can learn about myself and the world by living abroad for a year or more.

I am truly honored to receive this award in Candy's name, and I hope I am, and will continue to be, worthy of carrying on her legacy.

My deepest gratitude,

Beth Reeck