

To: Professor Robert Cook, Chair, Faculty Research Awards Committee

From: Tina Wasserman, Visual and Critical Studies, The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston/Tufts University

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Faculty Research Award Committee Report

With support from a FRAC Grant (October 2005) for my project "Revisited," I have begun the process of producing a fifteen to twenty minute digital film. I plan to complete the project during fall semester 2006 when I will be on a one-semester leave from teaching and chair duties. With the FRAC funds I have so far been able shoot and log several hours of new footage; to convert, digitize and catalogue several hours of analogue footage already shot for this project; and finally to construct a ten-minute draft of the larger project I plan to pursue.

"Revisited" is a digital film project that uses a very strange but nevertheless real event experienced by two English school teachers while touring the grounds of Versailles at the turn of the last century (around 1901). What they co-experienced might be described rationally as a collective delusion, or 'folie a deux,' but the two women spent the rest of their lives committed to proving their shared experience had actually been a real experience in 'time-travel.' Using this strange narrative as a touchstone for a cinematic investigation into the nature of memory, this film will explore the realm of memory as it relates to image, text, object and place as well as to experience and the senses. My goal is to create an experimental cinematic essay that interweaves the Versailles narrative with ruminations on the very nature of memory, documentation, experience and representation.

My scholarly writing and work in Film Studies also interrogates issues of memory and representation and the production of this film underscores my commitment to producing work through interdisciplinary means. I thank the FRAC committee for supporting this project and for supporting interdisciplinary work.