The Faculty Development Grant award contributed toward the publication of an artist book entitled “by Deborah Calderwood” in May 2012. This book completes a conceptual and critical component to my first major body of work exhibited professionally. It serves as an analytical document of the work which makes up the eponymous body of work.

The exhibition run for a month at CB1 Gallery in April 2010 and was well reviewed by Art Ltd. magazine and flavorpill.com. While these publications make insightful commentary, one missing aspect of the exhibition is brought forth: What is the relation to the original drawings? Where can they be seen to assess such appropriationist endeavor?

This book aims to address those questions by presenting the original Deborah Calderwood drawings and my work side by side. Tucker Neel’s essay is an in-depth analysis of their relation, and explores themes of appropriation as a mode of affection, and formal maneuvers taken in my work as signs of devotion, reverence, and love.

This book serves as promotional material when I meet curators and gallery owners. It is available for sale through CB1 gallery, the gallery which represents my work in Los Angeles. These are clear opportunities to get my work out into the public and educate my collector base. The colophon for this book and included cv make it clear that I teach at OTIS which promote the college as my work is viewed across the country and the book is available to students at different venues.

The book is 104 pages, full color and includes an essay by Communication Arts and LAS faculty Tucker Neel. It was designed by Hazel Mandujano, an Otis alumna and current staff.

I am not a trained designer and although there are many on-demand book printers with user-friendly templates available online, hiring a local designer who is able to meet in person and customize the book according to it’s unique needs and content is priceless! Hazel Mandujano did an amazing job well beyond anything online and my own imagination. I highly recommend taking initiative in publishing while recognizing others’ talents to establish collaborations. It is equally important to establish dialogue with kindred spirits, especially as insightful and articulate as Tucker Neel. His essay for this book upped the breath of this book. This book and collaborations would not have been possible without the support of the Otis Faculty Development Grant.
Deborah Calderwood, Age 11