The faculty development grant which I have received from Otis was of a great help in assisting me with completing the project and with my travel to Rome for my show.

This art project is dedicated to questioning the ‘past’ with its haunting specters in relation to our present and future ‘moment’ through which cultural and political diversity is challenged in the face of globalization and its effects both ecologically.

My show Lunch with Heidegger - Dinner with Leopardi acts as a foil to probe questions concerning personal and collective identity in relation to the aesthetic and political spaces which it unfolds through.

This opposition and polarity constitutes the departure point for my show that reconstructs from both actual photographic and cinematic historical materials as well as paintings and sculptures that fictionalize the encounter with Heidegger as a ‘new’ type of evidence – the evidence of art and its space within the context of aesthetics and politics. As for Leopardi, through a series of “photo-fictions” works, he becomes a time-traveler traversing into a past-future and encounters Heidegger in an imaginary, counter-factual, attempt to correct the wrong doings of the past – possibly to amend and assist the “angel of history”.

A center piece in the exhibition is a video titled, Enchanted Forest, which weaves drone footage of Heidegger’s hut in the Black Forest (Schwarzwald), the habitat of Macau parrots in the Amazon rain forest together with an interview with Pio Monti on his ‘lunch encounter’ with Heidegger, invoking the notions of space, art, humans and animals alike.

Through a variety of media, such as painting, photography, sculpture and video, I explored in my current show the re-localization of the space of art in an age where images are exceedingly accelerated and unstable. I hope that my project will help to encourage dialogue and acceptance of ‘others’ and a more inclusive understanding of what constitute the ‘we’.