First, I am highly inspired and motivated to make this artwork for Highland hospital, because my mother was a regular and grateful recipient of health care at Highland. The center of my artwork inspires a cultural affirmation (including my own Native American and Japanese background), a sense of beauty, calmness, and appeals to a broad spectrum of people. I believe my painting can make an inspiring and symbolic contribution to Highland hospital. The joy of contributing to a public collection such as this is a revered opportunity for me. Highland hospital is an amazing place that makes a real difference to peoples’ lives. Having my work there and making a contribution to the staff, patients, and visitors to Highland has more meaning than I can dream about.

I am proposing to create a series of four oil paintings on aluminum panel, 40" x 50" (Option: 5 paintings 26" x 37") that are based on visual influences and inspirations of the image of indigenous, and tribal blankets from America, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. I like the idea of blankets, as being both cultural iconography, and spiritual objects. In fact, I would represent my own tribal history with a blanket from the Choctaw community. Blankets are also as comforting and healing. They are used in childbirth, and to keep people warm. In this way my paintings will align with the goals of the Alameda County’s public art commission for Highland. I have included visual samples to illustrate my intentions, and you have seen examples of my original work and digital samples. Textiles have influenced my artwork in the past as well. This specific proposal is directly related to the work I have done.

The style of my work is expressive contemporary Abstraction, but my work can also be seen as cultural symbols in contemporary painting. Its important to say that style cannot be collapsed into one way of seeing my work. It is a combination of cultural history and something entirely new. The paintings in this proposal can be thought of as contemporary paintings of handmade blankets. I have included some examples of influential blanket images for your review.

My process includes oil painting and glazing on the metal and allowing some of the metal to show through as color luminance. I also make my own rubber marking tools that are customized sizes to fit each proportional metal panel. This proposal fits squarely in the goals set for this public art project, in that it will be affirming to all patients, staff, and visitors to the hospital. Being a culturally mixed person myself, I am sensitive to all combinations of cultural iconography. These works will be beautiful, glowing, elegant, and full of heart for the Highland Hospital setting. The metal is particularly glowing, and illusory allowing the viewers to enter and appreciate the work in all its varying qualities depending on the time of day. The color changes a little bit with the quality of light. I believe my group of paintings will be representative of all the citizenry of Alameda County.

Number of Artworks, Size, and Budget

Option 1: Four paintings at 40" x 50" for a total budget of $24,000
   (Each painting is priced at $6,000. Budget includes the $2,000 fabrication cost of metal panels. If I receive a commission for the full budget amount of $24,000, I will include the fabrication cost myself.)

Option 2: Three paintings at 40" x 50" for a total budget of $20,000
   (Each painting is priced at $6,000 plus $2,000 to manufacture the metal panels.)

Option 3: Five paintings at 26" x 37" for a total budget of $24,000
   (Each painting is priced at $4,800. Budget includes the $2,000 fabrication cost of metal panels. If I receive a commission for the full budget amount of $24,000, I will include the fabrication cost myself.)

Option 4: Four paintings at 26" x 37" for a total budget of $21,000
   (Each painting is priced at $4,800 plus $1,800 to manufacture the metal panels.)

I will have aluminum panels made by Bay Fab Metals, an Alameda County Metal Manufacturer. They will be painted with oil paint and will be extremely durable. This is based on the retail value of my work, and the past sales of my paintings. The value of my work is slightly above the schedule above, but I feel good about this. I regularly sell a 47" x 65" painting for $9,000 through gallery dealers.

I wanted to mention that I was recently commissioned by a board member of SFMOMA to make a monumental work for the Moldaw residences in Palo Alto, which are multi generational homes for seniors and a day care center. I made this work out of metal, manufactured by the same company, Bay Fab Metals. This was a successful process for me. The resulting work is on exhibition currently. The piece was 9' x 13' high, and was $26,000 in retail value.

The images I would like to reference are:
   a. Cambrian 2006
   b. Orion 2007
   c. Gathering 2006

I am also including a selection of textiles, or blankets that will respond to both in palette and composition. I want to make these paintings closer to the blankets that you see as influences. I am striving to make a group of paintings that will be closer to my proposal and most appropriate for the Highland hospital setting. In a sense I am tailoring my approach as a public artist would. So you see these paintings I am referencing for my style and mark making above, but please keep in my mind my intention is to be closer to the blanket panel in particular. I want to be sensitive in the paintings, soothing, calm, and with a few bright, cleaner colors, as in the blankets. Therefore please consider the tribal blankets and the images of my own work a hybrid that would work for Highland.

Examples of Reference Images

Some artists have included reference images as part of their proposal. Refer to the artist's written proposal for a description of how these images are related to the new artwork proposed.

Examples of Past Artwork

All artists were asked to refer to examples of their past artwork that are similar to the new artwork they will create for Highland. Refer to the artist's written proposal for a description of how the new artwork will be related to the images below.