Statement of Intent:

Many connective themes detectable in the literature (which includes memoirs, biographies, poetry, etc.) of women afflicted by trauma; both physical and emotional bear considerable similarities. These can manifest in the forms of self-harm, paranoia, aural hallucinations, and escaping from the common reality into one of their own devising where they perceive having more control over their lives than they may actually posses.

The Outsider Artists (usually mentally ill, criminally insane and/or nonprofessional) create works that communicate an intensity of feeling to the viewer without utilizing conventional artistic modes. One thing discovered through the study of outsider arts in parallel with the creation of original works is the necessity of confidence in the innate ability to convey and express. This confidence allows one a freedom from canonical standards in order to get at the essence of a thing.

We all know this familiar quote by Wassily Kandinsky: “Of all the arts, abstract painting is the most difficult, it demands that you know how to draw well, that you have a heightened sensibility for composition and for colours, and that you are a true poet. This last is the essential.” My works are painted emotions of women who suffer from trauma and their journey to heal. Though the subject has a personal significance for me, its importance is universal. Mental disorders which result from trauma or genetic predispositions often manifest with symptoms which are not readily apparent and treatments are not always efficient or ultimately beneficial. My intention for this research is to paint deep emotive expressive paintings based on the texts which are the catalysts for me to create. To paint extreme emotion, the artist must prepare his or her subconscious by constantly immersing his or herself in the texts. The cultural significance of this work is that this art can communicate universally without depending on cultural heritage. As William Carlos Williams said about Ezra Pound’s work, he “discloses… by its odor, by the feel of it, to MAKE his [work]. *Make* them.”

I have chosen the interdisciplinary program because I would like to place focus on Women’s issues relating to emotional and mental trauma, Outsider art movement, and Abstract Expressionism. I would like to create a body of work which reflects the statement above.