

Proposal for Fourth Year Arts Award
Heeran Karim

Project Title: The Melancholy of Memory

Project Overview:

I propose to create a series of seven prints for my Distinguished Majors Program (DMP) show, and I hope to edition and frame each of the pieces. These prints would be presented during our Miller Arts Presentation in April 2024, framed and hung up on racks or settled on tables. The collection will have three chapters, each with two or three pieces. The collection will consist of a mixture of stories within my life depicting the ideas of loss, nostalgia, innocence, and closure. My prints will entail a melancholy and bittersweet tone and will serve to portray a series of change from childhood to adulthood. The images that I create will include a mixture of planography, relief, and intaglio, and each print will have multiple layers of textures and colors from different areas of printmaking.

The first chapter will be called *Fleeting Memories*. These first few pieces will portray nostalgic stories in my life prior to the experiences of loss I have faced. They will have a child-like tone to them, depicting spontaneous “adventures.” The pieces should make someone feel cozy and will emphasize the idea of longing to be a child again – to have never grown up. There will be reoccurring symbols that we generally associate with childhood including swings, toys, balloons, childish foods and experiences, nature, etc. The chapter will be filled with bright colors, creating a warm atmosphere.

The second chapter will be called *Absence and Echoes*. The next couple pieces will explore the complex emotions of loss. The artwork will have an empty tone to allude to the idea of loss without explicitly depicting it. As I often do work with hands, I hope to represent the idea of losing someone through the motion and different textures of hands and body parts. I further aim to include symbols of broken objects, candles, empty chairs, objects that denote time, nature, etc. This chapter will consist of more muted tones, creating a somber and reflective atmosphere.

The third chapter will be called *Fading Innocence*. The last couple of pieces will portray this loss of innocence and a sense of maturity at a relatively young age. There will be hints of closure and symbols portraying the concept of moving on. No one will simply forget someone who they have lost as all the memorabilia around us spark memories of them consistently; all we can do is to cherish the past and do the most we can to move from the sadness that accompanies loss. Although these pieces will depict closure and a sense of adulthood, they will have an empty aspect to them as well. I hope to connect the earlier pieces with the later pieces to continue the nostalgic theme. I aim to incorporate the reoccurring symbols from the first few images into these last images through a premature adult lens. The chapter will transition from the muted tones of the previous chapter to brighter, yet still subdued, colors.

I hope that my work will resonate with viewers who have lost close individuals at a young age. For children who have experienced loss, the loss of innocence may happen more rapidly as they are forced to confront mortality earlier. My artwork can further highlight the importance of cherishing those who we still have with us. When faced with the loss of a loved one, one can feel helpless and unsure of how to move forward. I want my work to further relate

to those who have not lost someone as the idea of loss is a universal theme. Through my work, I aim to evoke these emotions and connect with my audience on a deeper level. By creating art that touches on a worldwide theme, I hope to create a space for reflection and appreciation for the theme of loss and its subthemes.

Professor Akemi is my faculty mentor for this project that I am proposing. I see Professor Akemi a few times a week and am consistently able to ask her questions and update her on the work I am completing to receive advice. I have learned so much from her and am excited to continue learning about different forms of printmaking with her instruction for my DMP. I look forward to using Professor Akemi's expertise in both a technical and artistic aspect.

Timeline:

Summer 2023: I will complete final sketches for all of my pieces in my sketchbook. I will also complete the sketches on the materials I will be working with: zinc plates, copper plates, and linoleum. I will keep in contact with Professor Akemi to receive advice on my sketches before I begin them on the materials I will be using. With a small press I hope to purchase, I can possibly begin printing rough drafts and continue making edits since I will not have access to the printshop.

Fall 2023: I can begin sketching on the lithography stones I hope to use as I will not have access to them until the Fall. I hope to complete at least five pieces throughout the fall and winter – the first two chapters of my collection. During winter break, I can use the small press I hope to purchase to continue printing my pieces and editions.

Spring 2024: I aim to complete the remaining two pieces and continue curating my pieces from the Fall. I will come up with all the titles for my pieces. I will learn to create the frames for all my pieces. In early April, I will have my show, so I intend to complete all of my pieces by the last week of March to give myself time to curate and edition.

Participation in the Arts:

I have taken classes with Professor Akemi and Professor Jackson since 2021, continuously furthering my printmaking knowledge. In 2022, I received a Third Year Arts Award where I was able to create a 20 paged picture-book utilizing all the techniques I have learned from my printmaking classes while integrating new techniques I learned throughout the year with Professor Akemi's instruction. I am excited to continue creating art that ties into my personal experiences as I did with my Third Year Arts Award; however, I am intrigued to create artwork that is larger and more advanced in terms of the number of layers and forms of printmaking I aim to incorporate within each piece.

Classes in the Arts:

ARTS 2000 Introduction to Studio Art with Amy Chan: A

ARTS 2610 Drawing I with Elizabeth Schoyer: A

ARTS 2650 Special Topics in Printmaking with Akemi Ohira: A

ARTS 2672 Introduction to Lithography and Relief Printmaking with Jackson Taylor: A

ARTS 2710 Introduction to Water-Based Painting with Megan Marlatt: A+

ARTS 2670 Introduction to Intaglio and Monotype Printmaking with Akemi Ohira: A

ARTS 3672 Intermediate Printmaking II with Akemi Ohira: A

ARTS 4900 Advanced Project in Art with Akemi Ohira: A

ARTS 4900 Advanced Project in Art with Akemi Ohira: Currently Enrolled

Extracurriculars in the Arts:

ArtLab Residency at Mountain Lake Biological Station Summer 2023

Cavalier Daily: Member of UVA Newspaper Graphics Team 2020 - Present

- Illustrate and develop weekly digital graphics for articles on the UVA newspaper through the program Procreate

McGuffey Art Center UVA Student Exhibition in Charlottesville, VA: Hearts 2023

- Exhibited my prints *Protrusion* and *Almost*

Third Year Miller Arts Award 2022-2023

- Created a 20 paged picture-book: *The Five Stages of Grief*

Echols Council: Previous Chair of Public Relations Committee 2020 - 2022

- Created the weekly newsletter for the Echols Program at UVA and advertise speaker events, social gatherings, and fundraisers through social media

Fourth Year Arts Award Budget

Budget Item Category 1

Intaglio Materials

18" x 24" Zinc Plates (2)	Used for etchings; dickblick.com	\$403.38
EC Lyons Mezzotint Rocker	Used for mezzotint; dickblick.com	\$141.71
Irregular Roulette Egg Shape	Used for drypoint textures; eclyons.com	\$62.45
Roulette #10	Used for drypoint textures; eclyons.com	\$55.52
BFK Rives 22" x 30" 250 gsm White Paper (50 sheets)	Used to print final etchings and proofs; dickblick.com	\$257.00

Budget Item Category 2

Relief Materials

Linoleum Roll 25 ft x 12"	Will be carved on; dickblick.com	\$106.00
Takach Hand Brayer 10 in.	Used to roll ink onto linocuts; shop.takachpress.com	\$278.00
Flexcut Micro Carving Tools	Used to carve smaller details; amazon.com	\$68.95
Mulberry Thick Roll Paper 38" Width	Used to print final linocuts and proofs; hiromipaper.com	\$147.20

Budget Item Category 3

Lithography Materials

Stones Crayons Hardness 1-7 (2 each)	Used to draw on stones and aluminum plates; shop.takachpress.com	\$42.00
Lithography Crayon Holder	Used to hold lithography crayons; shop.takachpress.com	\$15.00
Paste Tusche	Used to draw on stones and aluminum plates; shop.takachpress.com	\$15.90
Liquid Tusche	Used to draw on stones and aluminum plates; shop.takachpress.com	\$10.95
Stick Tusche	Used to draw on stones and aluminum plates; shop.takachpress.com	\$16.95
BFK Rives 22" x 30" 250 gsm White Paper (50 sheets)	Used to print final lithographs and proofs; dickblick.com	\$257.00

Budget Item Category 4

Frame Making

Pine Wood 8ft. (4)	Used for base of frame; lowes.com	\$30.32
Wood Glue	Used to glue parts of frame; lowes.com	\$4.98
Plexi Glass 8ft x 4ft	Used for frame covers; dodsonglass.com	\$260.00
Acid-Free Mat Board 32" x 40" (7)	Used for frame support; dickblick.com	\$79.03
Eye Screws #214 x 3/16 in. (4 packs of 8 pieces)	Used to support and hang frames; homedepot.com	\$5.52

Acid-Free Foam Core 32" x 40" (15)	Used for frame support; dickblick.com	\$84.00
Silver Picture Wire	Used to hang frames; amazon.com	\$8.99
Sandpaper 80 & 120 grit	Used to sand wood; lowes.com	\$14.00
Wood Stain	Used to stain wood; homedepot.com	\$12.98

Budget Item Category 5

General Materials

Glassine 36" x 10yd (1 roll)	Used to store prints; dickblick.com	\$35.90
Mylar 20" x 25 ft (1 roll)	Used to aid in creating layers for prints; amazon.com	\$24.89
Mat Cutter	Used to cut mat board and other materials; dickblick.com	\$151.40
Small Printing Press (Includes bench, bed plate, cushion blanket, catcher blanket)	Will allow me to proof pieces in my apartment; dickblick.com	\$1,000.00

Total \$3,590.02

Budget Income, Funding, or Other Awards

Include income from private sources, the funding you're asking from Miller Arts Scholars, and income from other awards

Income item:	MAS Third Year Award	\$3,000
Income item:	Personal contribution	\$590.02
Total		\$3,590.02