

Pursuing a Material Investigation

This year, I have been working on building relief sculptures. Rooted in themes of class and gender, the sculptures are composed of construction materials and craft materials, and they serve as material studies that interrogate how construction materials are differently valued depending on their context and how they are being put to use. In order to make more sculptures, I am applying for a Miller Arts Mini Grant to offset the cost of wood, paint, screws/hardware, sand, concrete, glitter, adhesive materials, and drill bits.

In terms of process, the sculptures are made by cutting down wood—with saws and tools I already have access to—and then, I form wooden canvases by screwing the cut pieces of wood together. Once my wooden canvases are made, I work into them with a sander—which I already have—concrete, glitter, industrial hardware, sand, paint, and other drawing utensils. These sculptures are process-oriented, and my goal is to produce a lot of them so that I engage with my materials in different ways. I am interested in doing more thorough experimentation with different configurations of concrete, glitter, sand and paint to create different kinds of texture. At large, I am trying to see how I can use sand, concrete, and hardware in ways that subvert their conventional status as industrial materials—and this investigation is more rigorous when I have the resources to make a lot of work.

With the help of the Mini Grant, I will be able to buy materials so that I can pursue this body of work/investigation without financial hindrance. I hope to create 20 new sculptures by the end of the semester, so approximately 3 a week, and with the help of my studio DMP critiques, my outcome report will include a selection of my top sculptures. Essentially, with Miller Arts' support, I will be able to continue my material study and make these relief sculptures in bulk.

Budget:

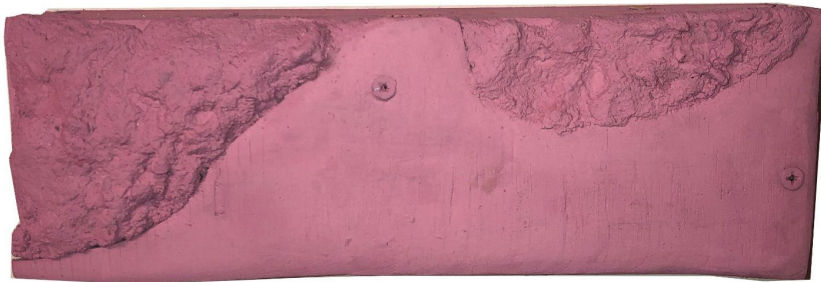
<p>Wood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 pieces of ReliaBilt 1/4-in x 2-ft x 4-ft Plywood Underlayment x \$9.44 • 20 pieces of ReliaBilt 2-in x 2-in x 8-ft White Furring Strip x \$3.48 	\$164
<p>Concrete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 containers of Fast Setting Gray Concrete Patch (10-lb) x \$7.70 	\$77
<p>Sand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 bags of sand x \$4.68 	\$9.36
<p>Glitter/Paint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 bottles of Glitter x \$2.99 • 10 Bottles of Spray Paint x \$3.99 • 2 packs of foam brushes x \$5.98 • 20 tubes of Acrylic Paint x \$1.59 	\$113.56
<p>Glue/Adhesive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Elmer's Glue Gallon x \$10.89 • 10 Tubes of Liquid Nails x \$2.98 • Caulk Gun x \$9 	\$49.69
<p>Assorted Drill Bits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15.98 for pilot holes • \$14.99 for phillips/flat head bits 	\$30.97
<p>Hardware Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I purchase hardware odds-and-ends, screws, and bolts at places like the Habitat for Humanity Restore—I'm factoring in the rest of the budget for that expense 	\$55.42

= \$500

I have included a sampling of the relief sculptures I have made so far below:



2 feet x 10 inches x 4 inches; fabric, concrete, hardware, wood, dollar bill (on side)



10 inches x 4 inches x 4
inches; paint, concrete,
wood, screws

18 x 8 x 4 inches;

Concrete, wood, hardware, sand, paint, glitter



4 feet x 2 feet x 2 inches; wood, concrete, fabric,
hardware, paint, chalk