

Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Outcome Report

Todd Benson

Oil Painting Supplies for Personal Exploration

I applied for a mini grant so that I could affordably explore oil painting. As mentioned in my proposal, I took Introduction to Oil Painting with Professor Marlatt. I thoroughly enjoyed the class and wanted to both improve my painting skills and explore styles of painting new to me.

I am most comfortable with realism as an artistic style, and this project was an attempt to step away from that. I had intended the project to be a painting depicting the memory of a person fading. However, once I started painting, I shifted my focus. Rather than focus on the gloomy aspect of forgetting someone, I chose to focus on how we remember certain details particularly well, but not others; and how emotions play a significant part in our memory.

I photographed an important person in my life and used the images as references for two paintings. The first painting, "She Was Wearing a Red Dress..." focuses on the memory of details---in this case, a red dress. I tried to paint the red dress with more chromatic color and greater contrast than the rest of the subject's body. I purposefully simplified the painting of the subject's face by crudely blocking in color to reduce its detail and draw attention away from it. The second painting, "...And She Was Laughing," focuses on the memory of emotion---in this case, the emotions conveyed by the girl's laughter, as well as the emotions felt by the observer in response to her laughter. I painted the subject's expression with vivid, contrasting color to reflect the intensity and brightness of its emotion.



My original proposed budget included much less materials than my actual purchases. This is because I overestimated the cost of paints based on prices that were listed online. I was able to get my paints for much cheaper by buying them wholesale from Jerry's Artarama. Because everything was cheaper than expected, I was able to buy more materials, such as portables, palette knives, and additional tubes of paint. My purchases are detailed below:

Category	Cost (\$)
<u>Portables</u>	
24 X 36 in. Portfolio	-28.38
Art Supply Container	-13.52
<u>Canvas Materials</u>	
20 x 24 in. canvas	-10.56
18 X 24 in. canvas	-9.83
Single fill cotton canvas	-52.21
24 in. stretcher bar (2)	-10.78
20 in. stretcher bar (2)	-9.58
<u>Painting Materials</u>	
Brushes (6)	-25.14
Palette knives set	-24.43
<u>Paint</u>	
Gamblin 150 mL Ultramarine Blue	-20.40
Gamblin 150 mL Phthalo Blue	-20.40
Gamblin 150 mL Cadmium Red Medium	-48.00
Gamblin 150 mL Cadmium Yellow Medium	-40.80
Gamblin 150 mL Cadmium Lemon	-40.80
Gamblin 150 mL Quinacridone Magenta	-28.80
Gamblin 150 mL Cobalt Blue	-63.99
Gamblin 150 mL Burnt Sienna	-22.40
Gamblin 150 mL Yellow Ochre	-22.40
<u>Extras</u>	
Jerry's Artarama Club Membership Fee (to get discounts on all materials listed above)	-25.00
TOTAL (plus tax)	-515.59
\$ saved: 400.12	

I plan to continue exploring oil painting---and particularly depicting memory---with the materials I have purchased. Some ideas I have include painting a close-up of face in which particular features are extremely detailed and painting a portrait with more flowing and chaotic brushstrokes to grasp an impression of someone rather than a true-to-life depiction.