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#### Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Application

##### Returning to my Roots

My first set of professional acrylic paints was one of my most treasured assets. It was gifted by my mother at the very beginning of my artistic journey, and the graduation from craft paints felt like a validation of my aspirations to be an artist. I spent years getting to know the paints and filling the walls of my home with various paintings, learning what techniques I love and what motivations I have when creating art. Since I felt such a deep connection to acrylic painting, I was determined to double major in Studio Art with a concentration in Painting at UVA. However, I unexpectedly found myself in the Sculpture concentration and fell in love with the new materials I was experimenting with. And with the demand of being a full-time student and part-time worker, I restricted my art to class assignments and projects, leaving what little was left of my paints to gather dust under my bed. I used the fact that I did not have the funds to replace the paints or create an at-home studio space as an excuse for not practicing in two years, and I've found that it has dampened my creative stamina and led me to experience frequent burnouts when creating projects for classes. Although I still love the projects I am working on in class, I am seeking to work on a project that is not bound by deadlines and rubrics in order to reinvigorate my creative spirit.

With this minigrant, I hope to reconnect with the medium that first ignited my passion for creating. Although my concentration is in Sculpture, I have recently felt as though I had abandoned my initial love for painting and replaced it with sculpting. I'm also afraid that the years I spent teaching myself techniques may have gone to waste, so I am planning to challenge myself with a painting that requires paying attention to colors, shadows, details, and accuracy. With the funding, I hope to acquire a painter's easel and storage cart to help me create a small space in my room dedicated to me exploring my creative expression freely. With no place to prop up canvases or my palette, the only paintings I created in Charlottesville were made hunched on the ground with my materials sprawled around me. If I had a dedicated space, I feel as though I may be more inspired to spend more time on personal projects. I also hope to purchase new paints, a canvas, and several other tools to replace my current supplies that have been battered and bruised over the past seven years. I will use these supplies to create a 20x30 painting of my snake and plants in a realism style because those two things have defined my home in Charlottesville. To achieve this, I will take photos of my plants and snake and sketch them onto the canvas. My usual method is to figure out how I want to place the objects of my reference photo onto the canvas, which I will start with lightly drawn shapes. I will print the reference photos and tape them onto the easel, which will allow me to constantly reference my photo easily. I will then begin blocking in colors and creating the underlayer of the painting, focusing on shadows. I then plan on doing a couple layers of coloring across the entire canvas before targeting one plant at a time, focusing on details and shades that will help it look realistic. I hope that by challenging myself to work on the details, I will reconnect with how it feels to get lost in working with no one else's expectations but my own.

This minigrant will endow an opportunity that would otherwise not be possible due to my financial restrictions. I believe that this personal project is the motivation I need to rekindle my passions and inspire me to bring better creative ideas to my classes. I also hope to incorporate painting into my sculpture pieces for my fourth-year thesis exhibition, and I would love to get

the opportunity to reintroduce myself to painting before then.

**Timeline:**

- Week 1** Place orders for listed materials.
- Week 2** Receive materials, set up at-home studio area. Take reference photos.
- Week 3** Sketch plants and snake onto 20x30 canvas. Begin underpainting.
- Week 4** Finish underpainting (primarily focusing on lighting, shading).
- Week 5** Begin painting (I will start with large areas of color all over the canvas before focusing on smaller areas for detailed painting).
- Week 6** Finish 50-70% of the canvas (focusing on the plants).
- Week 7** Finalize painting (focusing on the snake).
- Week 8** Final touchups, varnish.

**Budget:**

Item	Price	Justification
Liquitex Professional Heavy Body Acrylics Set of 12 (0.74 oz each)	\$90	This is a brand that I am familiar with and am hoping to use as I have used a couple of their paints before and loved the viscosity and brilliance of colors.
Malibu Heavy Duty Extra Large Adjustable H-Frame Studio Easel	\$150	I currently do not have a surface to paint on.
Disposable Palette Pads	\$18	I have a palette box but no longer have palette pads to line the bottom with.
20 x 30 Stretched Canvas	\$45	This canvas size is optimal for the level of detail I would like to challenge myself with.
Brushes	\$60	My current brushes have gotten lost and mistreated over the 7 years that I have been using them— this budget will allow me to purchase 5 brushes of different sizes.
Storage Rolling Cart	\$50	A storage cart would allow me to create a small studio space in my room.
Additional Colors and Tools	\$80	Because each additional 2 oz tube of Liquitex Heavy Body Acrylic paint ranges from

		\$17-\$25, I would like to use this portion of the budget to purchase additional colors outside of the 0.74 oz tubes included in the set. I would also use this to purchase palette knives, pencils, and varnishes.
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$493</b>	