

Kirsten Hemrich
Miller Mini Grant Proposal

Repurposing Forgotten Photographs

Diane Arbus once said that “a photograph is a secret about a secret, the more it tells you, the less you know.” I have always been fascinated with these secrets that photographs hint towards but never reveal; particularly, regarding those of vintage portrait photography. I have strong childhood memories of going to antique stores with my mother and getting lost in the vintage photography section. There was something mysterious and otherworldly about flipping through boxes of photographs of people who have been lost to time. It is captivating and unsettling at the same time to go through a box of images--moments-- that have no relation to each other aside from the fact that they are removed from the contexts they once belonged to. They ultimately represent fleeting moments of time, and the viewer is left to imagine who the subject was and what their life was like.

My project proposal is to create a series of mixed media paintings that incorporate forgotten, vintage photographs. I intend to find some forgotten portraits and snapshots and repurpose them in my own artwork. I want to visually explore the types of narratives and ideas that can be drawn from these images, despite them having been removed from any sort of personal context. I will either present these paintings in an artist’s book or as individually matted paintings depending on the threads I discover throughout the process.

To complete this project, I will be needing funds to go out and purchase vintage photographs that I find in local thrift stores and antique shops. I will also need funds to purchase some paper and paint. I am requesting funds for gouache because, as a water-based paint, I believe it will be better suited for mix media paintings and will not visually overpower the photographs.

Timeline

May 20th- 31st : collecting materials and found photographs
June 1st-14th: First painting 22”x30”
June 14th-28th: Second Painting 22”x 30”
June 28th-July 14th: Third Painting 22”x30”
July 14th-28th: Finishing touches and outcome report on project

BUDGET

Item	Amount	Cost
Forgotten photographs in antique stores.	15-20	~\$2.50 each x 20 = \$50.00
90 lb Hot Press Paper 22"x30"	3 sheets	\$7.75 each x 3= \$23.25
Gouache		
Cadmium Red	1	\$16.65
Cadmium Yellow	1	\$16.65
Cobalt Blue	1	\$16.65
White	1	\$6.99
Phthalo Blue	1	\$6.99
Flesh Tint	1	\$6.99
Bengal Rose	1	\$12.39

TOTAL REQUEST: \$156.56

Price Quotes

Paper: <http://www.dickblick.com/products/arches-watercolor-paper/>

Gouache: <http://www.dickblick.com/products/winsor-and-newton-designers-gouache/>

Vintage photographs:

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/CABINET-CARD-Vintage-Photo-Pretty-Young-Woman-in-Hat-Medina-NY-/322081048266?hash=item4afd86c6ca:g:dUcAAOSwXj5XFwFu>

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/CABINET-CARD-Vintage-Photo-Handsome-Young-Man-/381606090272?hash=item58d97ed620:g:Ub0AAOSwwpdW22Za>

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/VINTAGE-OLD-CABINET-CARD-PHOTO-HORSES-MEN-By-HEAWOOD-WATSON-HINCKLEY-Vgc-/331837203359?hash=item4d4309e39f:g:XTQAAOSwUUdXD4LG>

*the photographs listed here are just examples of the types and general prices of the photographs I will be looking for in local antique/ thrift stores.

Examples of forgotten portraits:

