

Project title: Objects as Portraits

Project description: In this project, I intend to use color reduction linoleum prints to create a series of still-lives intended to represent people's identities through their objects. The project is a more in depth continuation of a high school independent study entitled [*Objects that Matter*](#) which was a series of oil paintings I did of the objects that people said were most important to them or described them as a person. I interviewed the people in order to understand the meaning behind the objects they picked. The objects served as an inanimate portrait, allowing the viewer to make conclusions about who the person was based on seemingly arbitrary parts of their personality as presented through what they owned.

With my interests in Studio Art as well as Sociology, I look to see how much I can learn from the process of interviewing people and their attachments to what they own and how much they feel they can be represented by such. I hope to look at people of different ages and backgrounds to see if their views differ and whether that is visible through the representations I can create. I come from a mixed race family, so I would like to explore even within my extended family on both the Korean side and Irish-English side to see differences across the board. While I would love to include travel in this proposal as a way to explore across geographical boundaries, this does not seem possible at the moment and therefore I am not anticipating that travel will necessarily be a part of this project. If travel is possible by then, I hope to drive and see them in order for them to participate. If travel is still not possible, then I will find a virtual way to contact them. At the very least, I am living with 3 people who I can enlist to be subjects in this project.

For the proposed project, I wish to do printmaking because it gives the possibilities in exploring themes of mass production and consumerism in repeating images of objects as inspired by much of Andy Warhol's work. I hope to do a total of 10 still-lives. The still-lives will be captured by digital camera as well as by prints in order to create collages. Along with the 10 still-lives, I want to experiment with the technique of color reduction in layering different prints and photos onto each other, creating a series of collaged prints along with the main 10.

Equipment necessary will be mostly materials such as carving tools, linoleum, and paper. I anticipate that the outcome report and presentation will be mainly of the final products of the work as well as description of process and anecdotes from the interviews. The report will not only be about the process, but also be a reflection on what I learned from talking to people about what the things they own mean to them and importance placed on showing identity through these objects. I'll be able to see what it means to place importance on a family heirloom or an old piece of clothing or a knick knack picked up on the street.

Within my family nearby, there are people who are Asian and there are people who are White with very different experiences. There are people ranging from 3 years old to 86 years old who I could enlist. Not only would this be an interesting observation in people's attachment to objects but, also a way for me to get to know my family and their stories and possibly create some sort of family history through my pieces.

Timeline:

Summer

Tentative travel: June 12th-14th, June 19th-21st - all day trips by car in California to visit family

By July 1st - Have taken and printed all photos and have every block planned

Fall

September 1st - start carving

November 21st - be halfway done (5 prints minimum)

Spring

March 27th - be done and on final changes.

By April 1st - Be ready to present work.

Budget:

Materials:

Digital camera: D3500 Nikon Camera \$400

<https://www.nikonusa.com/en/nikon-products/product/dslr-cameras/d3500.html#tab-ProductDetail-ProductTabs-Overview>

Paper: (for relief prints and photo)

Photo: 3 packs of glossy and 3 packs of matte \$50

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/strathmore-digital-photo-paper/>

Printmaking: BFK Rives White 42in x 36in \$165

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/bfk-rives-printmaking-papers/>

Linoleum: 12 24x36 mounted \$660

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-battleship-gray-linoleum/>

Carvers: Palm Grip Carvers

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/palm-grip-carvers/> \$50

Printing Press: Blick Baby Press Package \$369.00

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-baby-press-package/>

Other:

Travel costs by train = about \$300

TOTAL BUDGET: \$2000

If my budget ends up exceeding the award amount, then I will use money that I have made from my job. While this is not ideal, I am capable of paying the difference. At the moment, I am \$6 dollars under budget which I assume will fluctuate slightly and I am prepared to pay.