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Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Proposal

Deconstructing the Artist Book

Project Description

'Logophile,' is an uncommon term meaning lover of words. I love words as language, as symbols, as texture. They find their way into my art time and time again; in my book project from my last minigrant, I used the studio's typewriter whenever I could and pushed it to go beyond just producing words and sentences. I manipulated the paper and machine to create overlapping textures and images composed of letters and punctuation. I'd like to build upon what I learned and produced using my last minigrant by delving deeper into the usage and possibilities of typewriters within the realm of books. I want to stretch and challenge the idea of a 'book' and what that means by using traditional bookmaking materials to create more two-dimensional works. What is a book? What are words? How can I manipulate and change their traditional meanings?

I would like to ask for support to purchase various bookmaking materials, including paper, thread, and wax, as well as funds to purchase my own typewriter; despite having access to one in the studio, I would like my own to further explore the options without commandeering it from the rest of the class and so that I may pursue this work beyond the classroom on my own time and terms both in and out of school. I also have acrylic paint and medium in my budget for staining paper. I will use materials I already have for etchings and other prints.

My objectives would be to produce numerous works exploring the idea of language and symbols. This project will allow me to extend my knowledge of the craft of bookmaking to a more experimental level of the art. I could think of this project as a sort of deconstruction of the artist book. I would aim to produce works of varying sizes, starting with smaller objects to serve more as studies, and then larger works to put together my findings, ultimately creating about ten final works. I also want to research a bit on typewriters and past use of them; how have artists incorporated them in the past? What is it that draws people to them? How can I reconcile such a specific set of symbols with other ink-based work?

Schedule

I plan to complete this project over the course of two months or so (I'd like it to ultimately be ongoing, but for the sake of this grant, I will aim to produce the aforementioned ten works). During the first week I will purchase materials and stain paper. Over the course of the next few weeks I will begin making proofs and complete the smaller prints. In the final week or two, I will finalize, finish, and curate the remaining prints.

I would like to note that I have turned in my outcome report from my last minigrant.

Thank you for considering me for a Miller Art Scholars Minigrant!

Budget

Typewriter	\$300
Paper	\$130
Thread	\$20
Acrylic paint	\$20
Acrylic medium	\$15
Wax	\$15
Total	\$500