

Ava Reynolds  
Miller Arts Scholars  
4th Year Arts Award Proposal  
Visual Artist; Printmaking Concentration

### **Visual Explorations of Conservation**

I have always been inspired by the beauty of natural spaces, and my work is frequently a reflection of organic forms I experience in the environment. As a Global Sustainability major, I naturally think about environmental degradation, climate change, and environmental justice when engaging with natural spaces. I feel compelled to visually express the tensions between environmental beauty and environmental conflict, and utilize my semester in Tanzania, where I'm currently studying Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology, to do so. With my program, I will be traveling to several National Parks and conservation areas throughout Tanzania to research and analyze the structure of resource management, and the controversial ways in which it impacts the local culture.

From my experience studying in Tanzania, I want to create a visual comparison of conserved environments in both Tanzania and the United States, and explore how conservation is impacted by environmental degradation, climate change, and human presence. I want to explore the line between beauty and controversy that exists in conservation, in how conserved spaces can impact human communities, and how human communities can impact the beauty of conservation spaces.

Visually, I want to push this project beyond just creating landscapes. I hope to explore the beauty we preserve through conservation, and examine this beauty in the context of the social and environmental consequences of these places through abstraction, repetition, and nontraditional landscape techniques. Working as a more abstract, conceptual artist, I plan to document photographs, patterns, horizon lines, shadows, textures, and use of color to incorporate into my work, rather than creating exactly the landscape I see in front of me. Additionally, I want to explore the relationships between people and conservation as documented through interviews and observations, to inspire my work visually. Although I truly can't imagine how I will be impacted by my study abroad experience in Tanzania, I expect the direction of this project to become stronger as I further my studies in Tanzania. If awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Arts Award, I want this project to culminate in some sort of creative presentation; either a book of prints, online portfolio, interactive gallery space, or a combination of many presentations. I expect this to also become clearer with time, as the pieces come to fruition from my experiences.

Being somewhat limited on the art supplies I have access to in Tanzania, I plan to gather photographs, sketches and paintings, and interviews with local community members to influence my printmaking and work once I'm back in the United States. Over the summer, I subsequently plan to do the same; gathering visual inspiration (photos, sketches) and recorded interviews with people engaging with natural spaces to influence my printmaking. I will be working in the Greater Yellowstone area for the third summer in a row, in Grand Teton National Park, and close to Yellowstone National Park; a perfect example of what we consider conservation in the U.S. Upon returning to UVa in Fall of 2019 and Spring of 2020, I plan to compile my visual research from conservation spaces in the United States and Tanzania in a series of prints, creating a visual comparison.

As a large part of this project, the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Arts Award would enable me to participate in a printmaking workshop at Anderson Ranch Art Center in Aspen, Colorado. I would be participating in a screen printing workshop; a style of printmaking I don't have access to at UVa, and one I plan to utilize for my conservation comparison portfolio. I have been generously given the opportunity to take this printmaking workshop at Anderson Ranch Art Center through a scholarship from the UVa Studio Art Department, but it only covers tuition. If awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Arts Award, it would make attending this workshop possible through covering travel costs, room and board, and supplies for this experience. I am eager to explore a new printmaking skill in screen printing, and I plan to apply this new style of printmaking to prints based on the conservation spaces I'll have visited when I return to UVa.

To summarize my project, if awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Arts Award, I plan to do a comprehensive project comparing the concept of conservation in the United States and Tanzania. I would like to visually express several topics, such as how climate change impacts conservation, how conservation impacts local communities, and how people impact conserved spaces. After exploring these topics throughout my semester in Tanzania and over my summer in Grand Teton National Park I plan to compile these visual comparisons upon returning to UVa during Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. The 4<sup>th</sup> Year Arts Award would enable me to attend the Anderson Ranch Art Center screen printing workshop, giving me new skills to incorporate into my conservation portfolio. I want to grow as a printmaker through this project, but also as an artist who can communicate more than what meets the eye as beautiful, and push my ability to confront environmental issues through art.

#### Limitations:

I realize I will not be notified whether or not I have been awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Arts Award until May, when my semester in Tanzania will be nearly finished. No matter what, I am planning on utilizing my time in Tanzania to gain inspiration for printmaking upon returning to the states, and will be sketching, taking photos, and conducting personal interviews with communities whether or not I can monetarily continue this project upon returning to the U.S.

I also understand that to have an international component of a project students must comply with the International Studies Office requirements for international travel. As part of preparing to study abroad this semester, all ISO requirements have been met to my knowledge.

Thank you for considering me for the Miller Arts Scholars Arts Awards!

#### **Project Timeline:**

##### Spring 2019:

- Study Abroad semester in Tanzania
- Taking photographs, creating sketches and paintings to influence my printmaking when I return to the U.S.
- Conducting interviews with local communities to find more inspiration in learning about the controversies over their conservation spaces

Summer 2019:

- Interning in Jackson, WY, next to Grand Teton National Park; using this location to engage with a comparative conservation space and capture this through photographs, sketches and paintings, and conducting interviews with local communities and visitors, similarly to how I will be working in Tanzania's National Parks
- Participate in Anderson Ranch Printmaking workshop *Squeezed*, a screen printing workshop June 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fall 2019:

- Consolidate work from Tanzanian National Parks, Grand Teton National Park and conservation spaces visited in the summer, and begin to visually analyze and compare these experiences
- Create prints and paintings from these experiences; working towards a show or a book that represents the visual comparison between conservation in Tanzania and national parks in the U.S
- Enroll in Advanced Printmaking
- Enroll in Painting I

Spring 2020:

- Continue to build work within this portfolio; finalizing prints, visually responding to interviews from Tanzanians and visits to natural spaces over the summer; consolidate show
- Take Independent Study Printmaking course to continue time in the studio
- Finalize final show / outcome report / presentation by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Enroll in Painting II

### **Participation in the Arts:**

Coursework: Drawing I, Drawing II, Printmaking I, Printmaking II, Intermediate Printmaking, Art History: Art and Pop Culture, Art Since 1945

I have been taking studio art classes at UVa since my very first semester, and declared my printmaking Studio Art major Spring 2018. I have been involved in the Arts Grounds Guide service. This past summer, I was nominated to participate in the two-week artist in residency program at Mountain Lake Biological Station, ArtLab, as the printmaking representative. I have been nominated to participate in a printmaking workshop at Anderson Ranch Art Center this upcoming summer, 2019. I was also a member of the Cavalier Marching Band for two years.

In the Miller Arts Scholars program, I have completed CASS 1010, and will take the second seminar in Spring of 2020. This will be my first grant I'm applying for.

## Proposed Budget

Item	Amount	Notes
Travel Cost (to Anderson Ranch from Jackson, WY, where I'll be interning for the summer, to Aspen, CO)	\$615	Amount predicted on Kayak.com
Anderson Ranch studio fees / room and board	\$1,410	Studio fees: \$100 Registration fee: \$545 Room and board: \$765
Printmaking supplies for Anderson Ranch	\$200	Paper: \$100 Inks: \$50 Misc. (Newsprint, supplies to transport work, etc): \$50
Printmaking Supplies** (Fall 2019 and Spring 2020)	\$665	Paper: \$200 Inks: \$110 Zinc/copper plates: \$200 Wood & linoleum blocks: \$55 Supplies for culminating portfolio, preparing show / booklet / digital portfolio / framing supplies: \$100
Supplies for conservation related portfolio prep this summer	\$110	Paints, small easel, paper / canvas, etc*

\*as predicted by Dick Blick art supply store and the Art Box

\*\*as predicted by the Art Box and previous supply purchases

Total: \$3,000