

Grace Sellers

Miller Arts Scholars

Third Year Arts Award Outcome Report

17 March 2024

Exploring Printmaking through an Ordinary Day

Introduction

In the spring of 2023, I requested \$3000 to create a series of prints that would combine the mundane with the wondrous and fantastical. With the generous award, I was able to purchase all the materials I needed to create these prints.

Printmaking Techniques

To go alongside the materials, I learned more complex printmaking techniques and applied them in my work. Namely, I learned how to make reduction woodcuts, where I print each color separately, carve out more of the wood between the layers to reduce the wood, and reveal an image through layering each color on top of one another. An example of a reduction woodcut I created is shown below titled *Girl Pinching Nipple on the Toilet*. A second technique that I learned over the past few months is simultaneous intaglio printing. For this method, I used zinc plates and etched them in nitric acid to create three different levels. When printing simultaneous prints, we roll out three inks in varying colors and viscosities. Because of the inks' varying thicknesses, they repel each other and adhere to differing levels of the zinc plate. This allows us to print multicolor prints simultaneously. Examples of my simultaneous prints are shown below, titled *Carpal Tile Syndrome* and *Boiler Fish*, respectively.

Content of Artwork

Next, I would like to discuss how the content of my artwork evolved from my original proposal. I originally planned to create a series following one character, but I quickly realized that I wanted to explore varied people and beings. I started with the naked girl on the toilet pinching her nipple in my reduction woodcut. I was inspired by the renaissance painting of Gabrielle d'Estrées and one of her sisters by an unknown artist. The painting is a double portrait showing two half-length women who are nude.

The woman on the left is holding out her hand and pinching the woman on the right's nipple. The strangeness of this painting stood out to me, and I wondered how the image would be affected if a figure were pinching her own nipple. As I stated in my proposal, I was interested in the weirdness of the everyday. I decided to place her on a toilet because it is an ordinary, yet somewhat stigmatized, setting. I decided to further this imagery in my simultaneous print titled *Carpal Tile Syndrome*. Again, a naked woman sits on a toilet, however, here I wanted to focus more on the setting of the bathroom. I wanted the walls and the floor to feel liquidy and unstable. Overall, I am interested the unexpected, uncanny, and possibly off-putting. In this way, I think that the content of my art evolved in a natural way for me from my original proposal.

Final Budget

In terms of the budget, I ended up slightly under budget because some of the items were cheaper when I ordered them from when I initially did my research. I have about \$30 leftover, which I will use to buy more printmaking supplies as I need them.

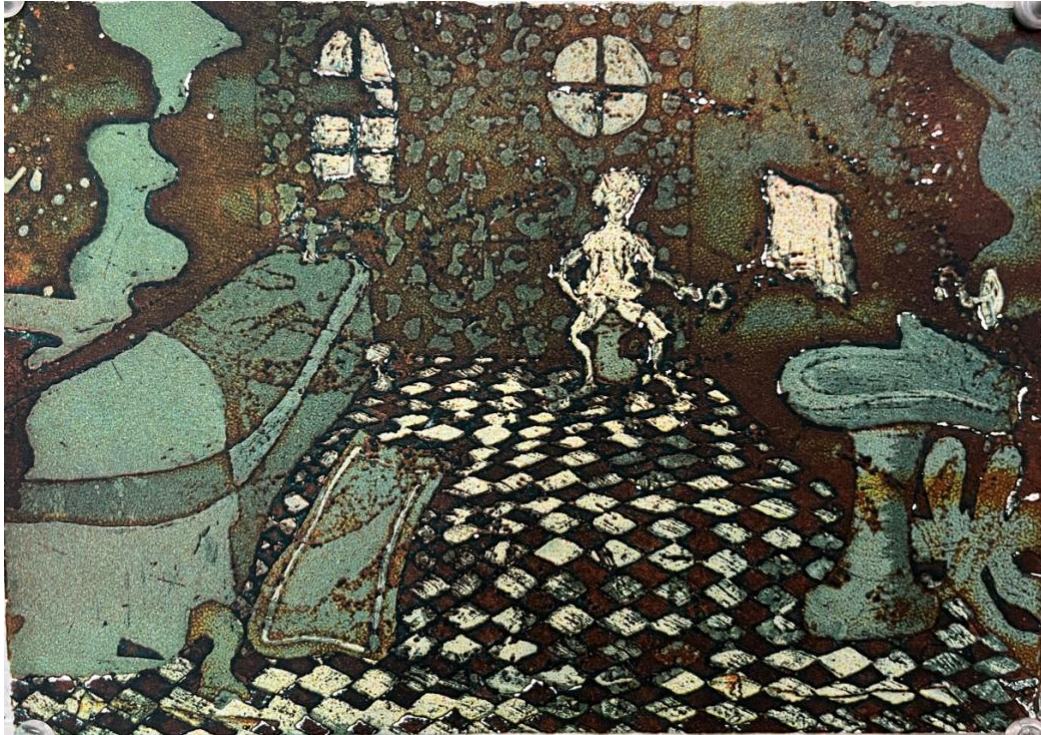
Final Budget				
Woodcut Materials		Source	Date purchased	
<i>Resources needed to create the woodcut prints</i>				
Flexcut slipstrop	Used for sharpening carving tools	Takach Press	7/10/23	\$17.00
8 inch Brayer	Rolls ink onto wood	Takach Press	7/10/23	\$249.00
Cranfield Safe Wash Relief Ink Set	Ink for printing	Blick	7/10/23	\$65.00
Sandpaper, assorted grit, 2 packs	Sands wood smooth for even printing	Blick	7/10/23	\$7.44
Newsprint, 500 sheet ream, 18"x20"	Used for printing	Blick	7/10/23	\$24.97
Drafting Film, 2 sheets, 24"x36"	Used for registering prints	Blick	7/10/23	\$8.36

1/2"x4'x8' Birch Plywood	Wood for woodcuts	Home Depot	7/10/23	\$69.78
Shellac	Used to seal wood	Amazon	7/10/23	\$11.27
Mulberry Paper Roll	Paper on which to print woodcuts	Hiromi Paper	7/10/23	\$94.00
Flexcut Carving Tools	Tools for carving wood	Amazon	7/10/23	\$60.25
Kasoyo Five Piece Power Grip Carving Set	Tools for carving wood	Amazon	7/10/23	\$36.06
Framing and Storage Materials	<i>Resources needed for making frames and storing prints</i>			
Eternity Archival Clamshell Art Storage Box 20x24"	For storing prints	Jerry's Artarama	7/10/23	\$69.99
Cachet Studio Portfolio - 31" x 23"	For transporting and storing prints	Blick	7/10/23	\$28.90
Glassine Interleaving Paper - 36" x 10 yd, Roll	For interleaving prints during storage	Blick	7/10/23	\$35.90
6-Strathmore Museum Mounting Board - 32" x 40"	Mats for framing	Blick	7/10/23	\$84.54
12-2-in x 4-in x 4-ft Pine S4S Lumber	To make frames for the prints	Lowes	7/10/23	\$33.96
48 in. x 96 in. x 0.118 (1/8) in. Clear Acrylic Sheet	For making frames	Home Depot	7/10/23	\$149.00
Lineco Gummed Paper Hinging Tape	For making frames	Blick	7/10/23	\$10.98
Logan 301-1 Compact Classic Mat Cutter 32"	For cutting mats for frames	Jerry's Artarama	7/10/23	\$99.99
3-Acid-Free Foam Board - 32" x 40" x 1/8", Antique White	For making frames	Blick	7/10/23	\$31.65
Paste Finishing Wax	For making frames	Amazon	7/10/23	\$14.98
Camera				

Sony a6100 Mirrorless Digital Camera	Ability to take quality reference photos and take professional quality photos of the finished artwork for presenting	B&H Photo Video	7/10/23	\$734.99
Etching Materials				
<i>Materials needed to create intaglio prints</i>				
EC Lyons Etching Scraper	Tool for etching	Blick	7/10/23	\$10.94
EC Lyons Etching Needle	Tool for etching	Blick	7/10/23	\$7.30
EC Lyons Curved Burnisher	Tool for etching	Blick	7/10/23	\$9.82
Sharpening Stone	Sharpens etching tools	Blick	7/10/23	\$21.38
Copper Etching Plate - 18 Gauge, 18" x 24"	Etching plate for intaglio prints	Blick	7/10/23	\$151.20
Zinc Etching Plate - .064 Thickness, 18" x 24"	Etching plate for intaglio prints	Blick	7/10/23	\$201.69
100 Sheets BFK Rives Printmaking Paper	Paper on which to print etchings	Blick	7/10/23	\$514.00
Gamblin Etching Inks - Black, Red, Yellow, Blue, White	Ink for printing etchings	Blick	7/10/23	\$116.02
Total				\$2,970.36
Budget Income, Funding, or Other Awards				
<i>Include income from private sources, the funding you're asking from Miller Arts Scholars, and income from other awards.</i>				
Income item:	MAS Third Year Award			\$3,000.00
Total				\$2,970.36



Girl Pinching Nipple on the Toilet, reduction woodcut, 16"x20"



Carpal Tile Syndrome, simultaneous intaglio print, 6''x8''



Boiler Fish, simultaneous intaglio print, 9''x12''