

Drawing, Paintings and Portfolio Making

Nature of Research:

During my time at UVA, I have grown as an artist in many ways. I have been lucky enough to pursue drawing, filmmaking, and writing in academic settings that have fostered both confidence in my own ability and curiosity about mediums I have not yet explored. My longtime interest in drawing and comics led me to New Media, where I learned so much about making digital art and animations. These forays into digital art (which often combine drawing and work in Photoshop) have opened many doors for me as an artist, but have also left me wanting to return to more material based, physical work. This leads me to the root of my Minigrant proposal. I have several ideas for drawings that I believe would translate well to paintings. While I have never worked extensively in this medium, I am eager to explore and experiment, particularly within the world of acrylics and watercolors. The materials needed to get started with painting (an easel, canvases, brushes, the paint itself, etc.) can be expensive, which is why this Minigrant would be essential. I would plan to begin with relatively cheap materials and then buy a second round of materials once I have a better idea about what is needed. My goal would be to experiment as much as possible, and feel free to make mistakes, which is why it is important to me to set money aside specifically for painting supplies. I should also note that while I would love to take painting classes during my time at UVA, I am a studio art major concentrating in film so do not have space in my schedule to take Painting I. I have included a few drawings/ digital pieces that might serve as models for things I would like to paint.



A secondary objective of this Minigrant would be to create a professional level portfolio across multiple platforms. This would include improving my current website as well as making a small number of high quality reproductions for a physical portfolio. I currently display my work at kiawassenaar.weebly.com, which has served me well. However, given my involvement with filmmaking, I would very much like to switch to a service that would allow me to host HD video directly on my site. I have looked into “Pro” programs through Weebly, Wordpress, and

Squarespace, which would allow me to do this, as well as receive access to more professionally oriented tools and host at a simpler domain, kiawassenaar.com, which I already own but cannot use without a “Pro” plan. These “Pro” plans are relatively inexpensive, usually averaging between 8 and 12 dollars a month.

I hope that through this Minigrant I would be able to continue my growth as an artist by expanding into new mediums and by improving the digital venue in which I present my work to the world.

Objectives and Significance:

- 1) Buy painting supplies, which would allow me to produce a wider range of physical work and expand my skill as a visual artist.

- 2) Upgrade my digital portfolio, which would help me gain exposure and improve my overall marketability as an artist. Having a clean, fully integrated space to host my work would allow me to archive my art, give me more legitimacy, and improve my ability to find work during and after college.

Timeline: The portfolio portion of this project would happen fairly quickly. I would price shop and compare features before upgrading to a Pro Plan (Weebly, Squarespace, or Wordpress) on a prepaid annual plan. For the painting portion, it is difficult to give an exact timeline, but I would essentially do a first round of purchasing as soon as I received funding. This would include the most basic supplies and types of paint. Over the course of a few weeks or a month, I would experiment with the supplies I purchased, and hopefully with a better understanding of what I need, buy a second round of materials, potentially of a slightly higher quality. I would continue to buy materials as needed and as funds lasted. I imagine that the two initial rounds of purchasing would be completed by Christmas break, with new artwork to show, at which point I would write my outcome statement.

Budget:

-Paint supplies: \$350

-First round of materials; \$100: easel (\$10), most basic paint colors (likely 6-7 tubes of acrylic + gesso) (\$35-\$50), 5-7 canvases in various sizes (\$20-\$30), palette (\$2),

-Second round of materials; \$150: higher quality paints in more colors (\$50-\$75), 5-10 additional canvases (\$30-\$40)

-Future supplies/unforeseen painting expenses/watercolors potentially; \$100

(reference point for pricing is Michaels)

-Website: \$150 for annual prepaid plan.

