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Fall Minigrant Proposal

### Camera Upgrade

As an artist, I have evolved to make abstract renderings of the world around me with the aid of a camera. My photographic process is inherently spontaneous, and I translate what I see into ambiguous images as I navigate through my everyday life. I am interested in fragmenting the spaces around me because it revitalizes the mundane.

I have always taken photographs with a 35mm camera. Last semester, however, I was enrolled in ARTS 2112, and I was introduced to color photography and working with a Twin Lens Reflex Camera (TLR). Working with this medium format camera allowed me to create images with so much more fine detail; after previously using 35mm film, upgrading to a 6x6 negative resulted in crisper, more captivating images. Also, using the TLR forced me to slow down and contemplate the composition of my images more critically. The nature of the TLR forces the photographer to look down to compose an image which is more tedious than a conventional 35mm camera. Plus, the TLR utilized 120 format film, which holds about 12 pictures per roll, as opposed to 36 images on a 35mm roll of film, so I had to be more precise when shooting. However, throughout the semester, I encountered challenges in asserting a sense of authorship when composing pictures with the TLR, so I want to invest in a camera that acts as a compromise between the TLR and the 35mm camera.

I am requesting a Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant to purchase a 6x7 Medium Format Camera, a 6x7 negative carrier for my enlarger, and black and white 120 format film. After considering my history with photography this far, I think this camera would be a good equilibrium between the TLR I was exposed to and the 35mm camera I used priorly; because of this, working with this camera would be an asset in furthering my work. Essentially, this camera would allow me to work with a larger negative, like the TLR does, but it will also allow me to have more authorship because the camera composes images more similarly to a 35mm camera. Having access to this camera would impact my artmaking practice long term because it would allow me to produce images that are better quality and more seamlessly reproduced at larger scales. Along with the camera, I would purchase a 6x7 negative carrier for my enlarger and 120 format black and white film with the remainder of the minigrant. I have the capacity to develop my own black and white film, and I also find myself more captivated by the way silver gelatin prints look—so I want to use the camera to return to working with black and white imagery. Finally, I

want to purchase a 6x7 negative carrier for my enlarger so that I can create silver gelatin prints of my images in the darkroom.

All in all, I want to be able to enhance the quality of my photographic prints while also having the experience of shooting with a different type of camera. With the aid of this minigrant, I would be able to expand as an artist by having access to a camera that enhances the quality of my photographs and also forces me to acclimate to a new camera—which would encourage growth and evolution in my imagery.

Thank you for your consideration!

**Budget:**

6x7 Camera	\$309.98
6x7 Negative Carrier	\$29.00
T-Max 400 B&W Film • 25 Rolls @ 34.95 for 5 rolls	\$174.75

~ \$513.73 (I'm prepared to cover any excess costs)

\*Exact prices will fluctuate, as I am planning to purchase the camera & negative carrier used through eBay. I plan to adjust the amount of film purchased per the final price of the camera/negative carrier\*

**Timeline:**

Late October- Purchase camera, film, and negative carrier

November- Shoot & develop film

December- Make prints & scan finished prints for inclusion on my website

*I would also utilize the camera long term and continue to make work with it even after the minigrant period!*