

Xueer Zhang  
Fourth Year Studio Art Major  
Spring 2024 Mini Grant Outcome Report  
Funding My Painting Series: Serene Domestic Moments

I'd like to thank the Miller Arts program for awarding me \$500 to fund materials for my Advanced Painting I project with Professor Neal Rock. This Mini Grant allowed me to purchase the supplies needed to pursue my artistic vision, enabling me to push beyond representational techniques and create serene, atmospheric paintings inspired by domestic moments.

With the funding from the grant, I was able to purchase high-quality oil paints and raw materials to take my work a step further. One of the most exciting parts of this project was learning to build my own canvas frames from scratch. Under my art professor Neal Rock's instruction, I purchased wooden sticks from Lowe's, cut them to size, and assembled them into sturdy canvas frames. Stretching my own canvases allowed me to customize sizes and develop a deeper understanding of the craftsmanship behind painting. This process made me feel even more connected to my work, as I was involved in every stage of its creation—from building the foundation to applying the final brushstrokes.

My project, titled Moments of Serenity, consists of oil paintings that depict domestic scenes that represent different times in a day. These works emphasize the play of light on simple, everyday objects, with softened edges and a focus on atmosphere. I aimed to convey a sense of peacefulness and emotional warmth, aligning with my broader artistic goal of creating work that is pleasant and calming to look at. Two of my paintings were on display in Ruffin Hall during the end-of-semester show, receiving positive feedback from peers and faculty. This experience has been instrumental in preparing me for future exhibitions and furthering my artistic development. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to realize my vision with the support of the Miller Arts program. Any leftover materials from this grant will be used in the continuation of this series and other upcoming projects.

**Budget Confirmation:**

Professional-Grade Oil Paints: \$300.00  
Raw Wood Sticks for Canvas Frames: \$49.00  
Stretched Canvases: \$98.00  
Brushes, Palette Knives, and Mediums - \$50.00  
Total: \$497.00

My artist statement and images from the series are attached below.







