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Fall 2024 Mini-Grant Proposal

## **Capturing Calmness through Oil Painting**

### **Project Summary:**

This semester, I am enrolled in Advanced Painting I with Professor Neal Rock, where I am developing a series of oil paintings that delve into the serene beauty of everyday domestic scenes. My goal with this project is to take a significant step beyond my focus on realism and explore a more atmospheric approach to painting. Throughout my practice, I have often found myself confined by representational techniques, driven to perfect every detail in my pursuit of realism. While this practice has provided me with a solid foundation in painting, I now seek to push the boundaries of my work, embracing a looser, more expressive style that emphasizes mood, light, and the subtleties of emotion.

This project is particularly meaningful to me because it represents a shift in my artistic focus. Having never received formal training before coming to UVA, my time here has been transformative. I've had the opportunity to immerse myself in art theory and art history, learning not only about the technical aspects of painting but also about the power of art to evoke feelings and shape perceptions. UVA has provided me with a wealth of resources and inspiration, and this exposure has made me realize that while realism is a valuable skill, I also have a deep desire to explore the intangible qualities that make a scene feel alive.

With this project, I hope to capture those fleeting, yet profound, moments of tranquility that are often overlooked in our busy lives—like the warm light that filters through a window on a quiet afternoon, or the peacefulness of a room settling into evening shadows. I aim to translate these moments into oil paintings that invite viewers to pause, reflect, and find a sense of calm. The soft transitions of light and the muted tones will be key elements in creating a gentle, immersive atmosphere that allows the viewer to feel as though they are stepping into the scene itself.

### **Timeline:**

October-December 2024:

- Gather visual references
- Plan compositions and experiment with color palettes
- Paint, focusing on the interplay of light and shadow

- Refine the paintings. Prepare the final pieces for presentation, documenting the series for potential displays or portfolios

Spring 2025: Continue to paint

May 2025: Studio Art Graduation Exhibition

**Budget:**

Oil Paints: \$150

- This will cover professional-grade oil paints in various colors, necessary for creating vivid, long-lasting pieces.

Canvases: \$300

- Funds will be used to purchase multiple canvases in different sizes, providing flexibility in compositions.

Miscellaneous Supplies: \$50

- This includes essential materials like brushes and new palette knives to support the painting process.

Total: \$500

Receiving this grant would provide me with the opportunity to bring this project to life without the financial strain of material costs. It would allow me to fully focus on the creative process and the exploration of a new direction in my work. By taking this step beyond the constraints of realism, I hope to create paintings that offer a sense of calm and reflection, both to myself and to those who view them. This project is not only an important part of my artistic growth but also a way for me to share the beauty of simple, serene moments with others. I am excited to continue my exploration in the art world, and I hope that this grant will support me on this journey towards a deeper understanding of art's emotional power.