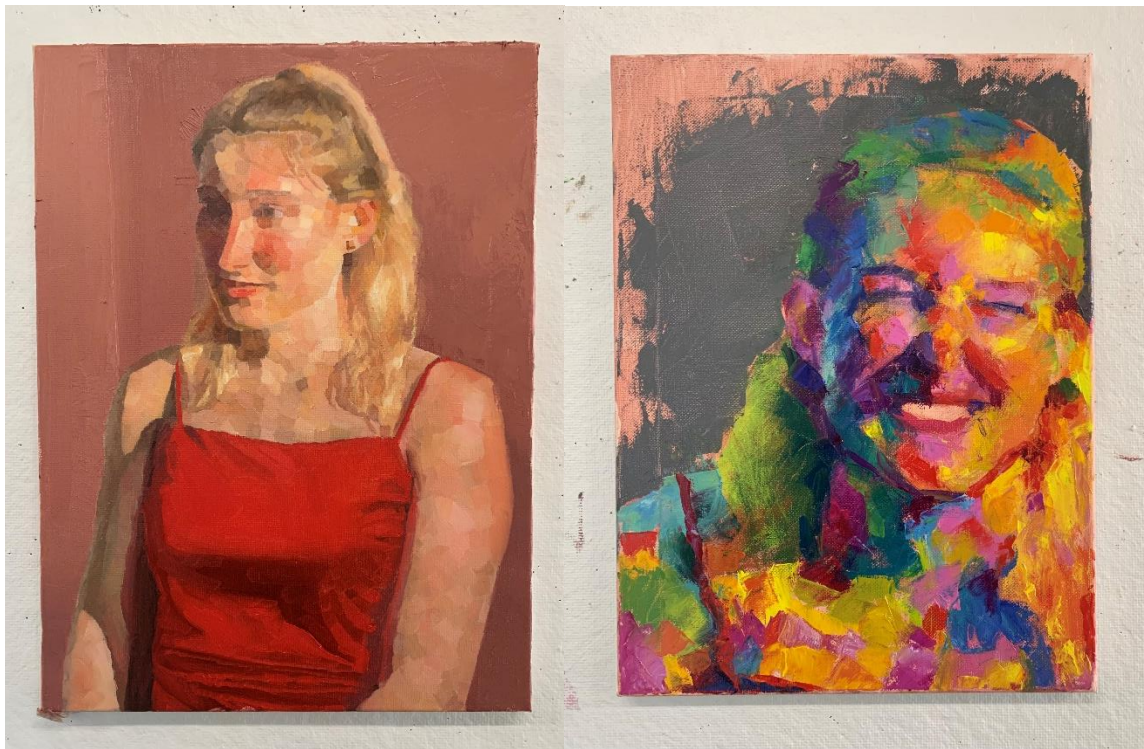


## Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Outcome Report

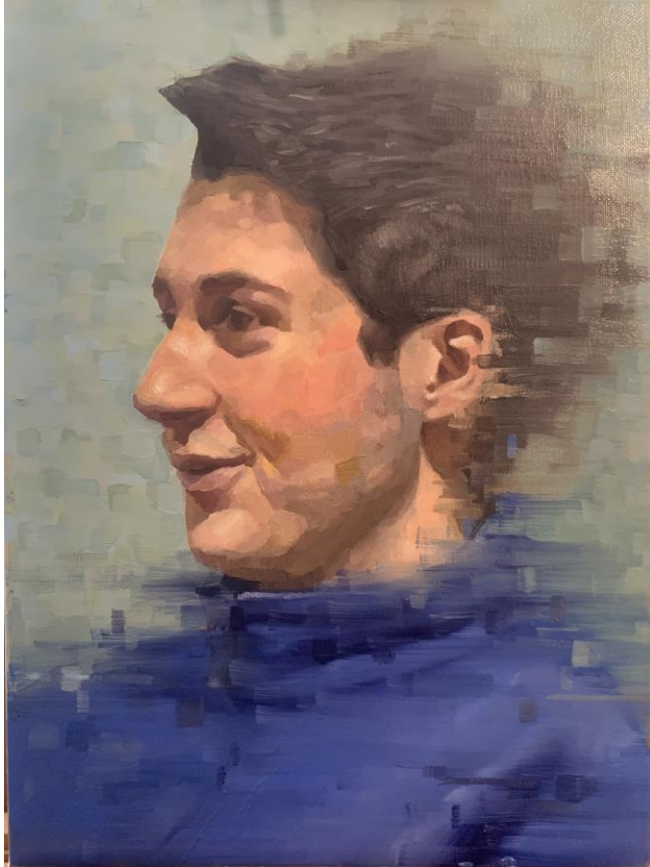
Todd Benson

Exploring Memory in Figurative Oil Painting

I applied for a Miller Arts mini grant in the spring of 2023 to continue my personal investigation into the depiction of memory in figurative oil painting. The paintings pictured below were completed in the winter of 2022, and they are the first paintings of my investigation. I experimented with differing levels of contrast and short brush strokes (left) and dramatic and unrealistic color (right) to portray the incomplete and emotional aspects of memory, respectively. I felt that both paintings were good attempts at capturing the essence of memory, but that I could push my experimentation further to achieve better results.



Most recently, I made a third painting---the product of my spring 2023 minigrant---that plays again with the incomplete aspects of memory. We can mentally visualize some memories with vivid detail, while others appear to us as mere suggestions of colors and shapes. Thus, I painted the subject's face with realistic precision while blurring out the aspects of the subject that are less memorable. In terms of my process, I first found a reference photo of my friend in my camera roll; then made a thin underpainting of the subject; then painted a thicker layer of oil paint over it, adding in the detail; and lastly, I chose areas to be blurred, streaking a flat square brush across the canvas over areas of wet paint. I am very satisfied with the results. I'd like to continue my investigation, expanding further upon the use of brush stroke and other techniques to depict the conscious process of visualizing memory.



*Ami, oil on canvas, spring 2023*

Listed below are the costs of the materials purchased with the mini grant for the purposes of continuing my investigation:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
<u>Canvas Materials</u>	
#12 Cotton Duct	38.75
Stretcher Bars Assorted Sizes (10)	21.23
White Gesso 32oz	25.91
<u>Painting Materials</u>	
Brush Washer Container	30.62
Artist tape	8.90
Paint tube twister key	3.29
Latex Gloves	4.24
Cotton Gloves	4.68
Gamblin Galkyd Painting Medium	19.20
Painting Wipes	2.99
Gamblin Gallon Gamsol	37.80
Wood painting palette	11.25
Painting Apron	12.99
Black Swan Brush Set	11.34

<u>Paint</u>	
Gamblin 150mL Cerulean Blue	57.00
Gamblin 150mL Cadmium Red Light	48.00
Gamblin Mars Black	16.80
Gamblin 150mL Titanium White	16.80
Gamblin 150mL Alizarin Crimson Permanent	28.80
Gamblin 150mL Cadmium Orange	40.80
<u>Extras</u>	
Gallon jar	4.99
<b>TOTAL (plus tax)</b>	<b>505.17</b>
\$ saved: 80.75	