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Miller Arts Scholars McKinnon Minigrant

### Exploring Memory and Cultural Identity Through Oil Painting

With the support of the Miller Arts Scholars McKinnon Minigrant, I was able to deepen my exploration of oil painting outside the classroom environment. My primary objective was to develop two personal paintings that reflect my cultural background and childhood memories using oil paint, a new but compelling medium I began studying in *Introduction to Oil Painting* with Professor Marlatt this semester. This opportunity allowed me to push past the limits of acrylics and engage more deeply with oil's material and conceptual potential.

I completed two oil paintings:

1. *Persona* – A piece inspired by traditional Peruvian clothing, translated into abstracted forms and expressive color fields.
2. *Hola! Soy Dora* – A portrait rooted in memory, exploring the relationship between color, culture, and familial warmth.

Both works allowed me to expand on my interests in cultural memory and identity, while also developing technical skills specific to oil painting, such as wet-on-wet blending, glazing, and managing longer drying times. Through this process, I learned how oil paints interact with light in ways that more accurately express the emotional layers of my subjects. Color remained central to my work, but the oil medium enhanced my palette in new and unexpected ways. I could work more slowly and deliberately, layering subtle shifts in tone and texture that I could not achieve with acrylic. The results were paintings that feel fuller, more immersive, and more aligned with the emotional weight of the themes I'm investigating. Minigrant funds were used exclusively to purchase high-quality oil paints in larger tubes, enabling sustained practice outside of class.

#### Supply and Cost

Gamblin – Cadmium Yellow Medium 150 ml \$48.60  
Gamblin – Cadmium Lemon 150 ml \$48.60  
Gamblin – Mars Black 150 ml \$20.40  
Gamblin – Cadmium Red Medium 150 ml \$55.20  
Gamblin – Titanium White 150 ml \$20.40  
Gamblin – Ultramarine Blue 150 ml \$24.60  
Gamblin – Phthalo Blue 150 ml \$24.60  
Gamblin – Alizarin Crimson 150 ml \$33.00  
Gamblin – Yellow Ochre 150 ml \$20.40  
Gamblin – Cerulean Blue 150 ml \$63.60  
Gamblin – Cobalt Blue 150 ml \$55.20  
Gamblin – Burnt Sienna 150 ml \$20.40



*Persona*. 2025. Oil on canvas. 22x24"



*Hola! Soy Dora*. 2025. Oil on canvas. 24x22"