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Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant Outcome Report

I value the artistic process, from inspiration to creation, as a meditative form of expression. This idea—that the process of making is an art form in itself—is often neglected in the final presentation of a piece. In order to better appreciate this unique, and often hidden, value of creation, I created a series of photos this past spring using instant photography.

My final product included nearly 100 photos with the date and time of their capture noted. The use of instant photography was intentional to predict the unique unpredictability of each moment of creation. That being said, I had initially intended to display these photographs chronologically in a handmade book so that they could be viewed as a progression. Upon completion of my photographs, however, I realized that each photograph alone could not represent the experience I valued so deeply. There is no directionality in my method of making; it spontaneous and often accidental, and each moment interacts with both previous and future moments in a vital yet unpredictable way. Thus, I came to the conclusion that they could not stand individually; they must be viewed as one.

I chose to display the photos in unity; they were hung tightly together on delicate strings. Rather than organizing them chronologically, they were arranged based on their interactions with other moments of the creative process. The date and time of each photo was still displayed to represent that creation is still a process, but it is not organized so neatly as time might suggest. A few of my photographs are shown below in the display method I just described.



This project allowed me to analyze and better appreciate each moment of my artistic process. I feel more connected to my work as a result of this study, and I have learned to value the fluidity of creation. This heightened understanding has already proven beneficial in my process of making, and it has led to a strong appreciation for the complex culmination of many inspirations, ideas, mistakes, and thoughts—as well as the deeply meditative process itself.

I would like to thank the Miller Arts Scholars program and its donors for their generous support. This project was largely an opportunity for personal discovery, understanding, and growth as an artist that would have been difficult to accomplish without the funding I received. I hope to display these photographs as part of a larger project concerning the meditative value of art.