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Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Application

Artist Website and Materials for Sculptures of Biologically Possible Alien Organisms

Nature of Research:

For the past few years, I was able to create an extensive portfolio consisting of numerous sculptures. However, I have only ever displayed them in class, Ruffin, or few small-scale exhibitions around Charlottesville and downtown area. I believe the next step of my journey as an artist is to build an online presence by creating a website. As my work is highly visual, I believe I would be able to create a strong online portfolio, and use it as an opportunity to apply to new opportunities, as well as open myself to new possibilities and connections by increasing my artistic presence online. I believe that an online presence is vital to the success as an artists in the modern world, as it would bring in more networking opportunities, and well as make myself discoverable outside my small sphere of fellow students and professors. I will also take this opportunity to start other social media platforms, for example, Instagram, and link it to the primary artist website. With the minigrant, I will create a Squarespace website with curated sculpture photos, my biography, links to social media, CV/resume, and my professional contact information.

I am also requesting a minigrant to fund consumable supplies that will allow me to continue creating art. Many of the sculpting material I use are not readily available to students. For example, I use a very specific type of polymer clay, resin, and a mixture of glitter, rhinestones, and artificial pearls. While individual materials, except the polymer clay and resin, are not costly in themselves, I found that they add up very quickly, which impedes my ability to continue creating art. I've also learned the importance of using higher quality materials. The low-cost resin that I have been using is lower grade, and I found out it tends to turn from crystal-clear to yellow, like urine, over time and exposure to sunlight. I would like to invest in different types of artist-grade resin that would preserve the integrity and intention of my work. As resin is a costly material that is integral to each piece of sculpture that I create, a large portion of the grant will contribute to its funding. I am also increasing the number of sculptures and experimentalization this semester, which uses up materials faster than in earlier years. I am applying for an Artists Minigrant to fund various materials and consumable supplies that I will be using throughout the semester.

With the funding of this minigrant, I will be able to create more sculptures with better detail and realism. With these sculpting supplies and accessories, I would continue to develop and explore new concepts, techniques, and approaches to sculpture. The grant will also help me solidify my identity as an artist by allowing me to create an online presence.

Projected Schedule:

- **October:** procure materials and set up squarespace website
- **November:** begin development of sculptures and wrap up creation of website

- **November-December:** create sculptures averaging 2-3 sculptures per month
- **December:** document and compile list of sculptures to be added into online portfolio

Beyond: The website will be funded for a year, and the materials will be consumed until used up.

Budget: \$499.89

Squarespace website maintenance for one year	\$144
ArtResin - Epoxy Resin - Clear - Non-Toxic - 1 gal (3.78 L)	\$129
4 Pack of Gallon Pump Dispensers (to pump resin from gallon containers)	\$20.89
Premo Polymer Clay 1 lb White Translucent (3 bars)	20 x 3= \$60
FolkArt Color Shift Acrylic Paint in Assorted Colors (2 ounce), Red Flash (3 bottles)	7 x 3= \$21
Sculpey Premo Art Clay, White 1lb (2 bars)	20 x 2 = \$40
Art 'N Glow Clear Casting and Coating Epoxy Resin - 16 Ounce Kit	\$25
Misc. art supplies, including biodegradable glitter, rhinestones, artificial pearls, paint, consumable brushes, mixing rods for resin, armature supplies for sculpture, display materials like holders/pedestals/bottles/jars	\$60