

Miller Art Scholars Minigrant Proposal

Noelle Lee, *Studio Art*

Spring 2021

Capturing Art Through a New Lens

The work of the artist does not simply end with the washing of paintbrushes and drying of canvases; rather, one of the most important parts of the art-making process is photographing the finished work. As artists are often required to submit work digitally or provide samples of their work online, good photography is vital for good presentation and professionalism in presenting one's artwork. As I continue my studies at UVA and explore new art forms within the Studio Art discipline, I aim to collect my work in a digital portfolio, through which I can document how I have progressed as an artist through the years and how I have begun to branch out from the art styles with which I am more familiar.

As I have accumulated a variety of artwork over the past few years, I am in need of a quality camera in order to best capture my pieces and present it in a digital format. Thus far, I have used my iPhone 6s camera to photograph the finished products, but I feel that the quality and nature of the camera have become outdated and insufficient for producing high-resolution photos that accurately relay the details and colors contained in my artwork. I am requesting funds to purchase a **Nikon D3500 DSLR camera**, a widely used entry-level model that is of both good quality and reasonable pricing. This camera would enable me to photograph artwork and have digital versions that properly reflect the original pieces. In order to grow as an artist and keep an ongoing, updated digital portfolio, I am planning to publish a website via WordPress that will include the artwork that I have created over the past few years. I am hoping that, if granted the funds for the Nikon D3500, I can fill the website with high-quality photos of my art.

While at UVA, I have taken several Studio Art courses, including Introduction to Studio Art (ARTS 2000), Drawing I (ARTS 2610), Special Topics in Printmaking (ARTS 2560), and Introduction to Oil Painting (ARTS 2712). These courses have encouraged, challenged, and strengthened me as an artist, and I greatly enjoyed working with new media, styles, and skills. Hoping to further expose myself to new areas of studio art, I am interested in exploring the world of photography on my own time, and perhaps through a photography class in the future. Thus, in addition to documenting my art, I would like to use the camera to experiment with fundamental elements and skills of photography and the ways it manifests as a unique form of art.

Ultimately, this camera would be a worthwhile investment for the ongoing documentation of my artwork and further exploration of different artforms, as I continue to expand the breadth of my artistic abilities and discover more about myself as an artist and individual. I would like to thank the Miller Arts Scholars program for considering this request and for fostering community within the arts at the University.

Anticipated Timeline:

March 2021: Purchase the Nikon D3500 camera; photograph the artwork in my possession in Charlottesville; experiment with camera accessories and components

- Note: I will photograph other art pieces currently at my permanent home when I next go back.

April 2021: Assemble a WordPress website; work on formatting and adding photos, artwork categorized by medium; explore photography styles and/or portrait photography

May 2021 – future: Publish the website; continue to create art and add photographs of artwork to my portfolio

Budget:

Nikon D3500 DSLR Camera: \$500.00

Note: I am still in the process of confirming the store from which I would want to purchase the camera. Listed below are the two options that I am currently considering.

- Amazon: \$629.00 Nikon D3500 DSLR Camera with 18-55mm VR Lens + 32GB Card, Tripod, Case, and More (18pc Bundle)
- Costco: \$619.99 Nikon D3500 24.2 MP Digital SLR Camera with Bag and Lens Bundle

I understand that the mini-grant maximum funding is \$500; while any amount of additional financial support would be greatly appreciated, personal funds would be used to cover the additional remaining cost of the camera.