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Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Proposal

## Layers of Selves

### Project Description

My proposed project involves the craft of bookmaking in relation to the meaning of “self” across time and interfaces. I imagine a trail of selves extending backward and forward in time, a constantly-changing definition of who we are. In addition to time, we create various selves via the internet, freezing ourselves in cyberspace on numerous social networks and websites. I currently am asking myself, how can I portray these layers of selves? How can I show these shadows of who we are in an art form? A book makes the most sense to me, as it is literally layers: pages one after another; once flipped, previous pages are past encounters while future pages wait to be seen. I would use Coptic binding for the more open format of the book, and a more obvious portrayal of layering.

I would like to ask for support to purchase various bookmaking materials, including paper, thread, needles, book board, book cloth, and wax, as well as printing materials to create the content of the book, including pronto plates, ink, wood, and a brayer in order to explore the ideas outlined above.

My objectives would therefore be a completed book exploring the idea of layered selves across time. This project will help me improve my knowledge of the craft and technical aspects of bookmaking, and it will also help me develop the conceptual side of my art. I would ideally like to make multiple editions of the book.

### Schedule

I plan to complete this project over the course of one month. I will purchase materials and begin planning and brainstorming during the first week. During the second and third week, I will print on the pages and create the content of the book. In the fourth and final week, I will collate the pages and sew the book together to be in its final, completed state. I will make at least three editions, representative of past, present, and future.

### Budget

Book board	\$30
Curved needles	\$5
Thread	\$30
Paper	\$200
Book cloth	\$30

Wax	\$15
Pronto plates	\$20
Wood	\$10
Ink	\$18
Brayer	\$12
Virginia/local tax	\$30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400</b>