

Grace Sellers

Miller Arts Scholars

4th Year Award Proposal

29 March 2024

A Puppet's Life

I am requesting \$3000 to make a series of prints that investigate the psychological effects of control and obedience through representations of puppets, exaggerated facial expressions, theatrical scenes, and gothic elements.

Introduction

What does it mean to have control over others? How does being controlled affect the psyche? And what choices does any individual really have? Growing up as a dancer, I always wanted to impress my teachers, vying for any compliment or critique. I yearned for their attention and approval. Though I didn't realize it at the time, I was completely under the spell of my teachers' commands. I am interested in exploring how I can realize these experiences and my beliefs at the time in my art. I would like to use puppetry as a symbol for control and exaggerated facial expressions to communicate emotion. Through the series of prints I can create with this grant, I will investigate the effects of these experiences on my own psyche and how they have affected the decisions I've made throughout my life.

Project Description

I plan to create around six or seven prints, including relief, intaglio, and lithographs. I would like to explore more printmaking techniques like multi-plate intaglio, where multiple plates are printed on the same piece of paper to make a complete multi-color image. In addition, I would like to try multi-color lithographs made on aluminum plates. In the past, I have made lithographs on limestone. I'm interested in learning more about aluminum plate lithography because it is a cheaper and more accessible alternative to stones.

The prints will depict scenes of marionette puppets, people with exaggerated facial expressions and gestures, and fantastical settings. I believe that through the images of puppets I will be able to

communicate my feelings about controlling and being controlled. I aim to push the compositions to be more complex by playing with perspective and atmosphere.

Faculty Mentor

My faculty mentor will be Akemi Ohira who is a Professor of Printmaking at UVA. I have had the opportunity to take her Intro to Intaglio Printmaking and Intermediate Printmaking classes. Additionally, I am currently enrolled in her Advanced Printmaking class. She is an amazing teacher who has taught me many new printmaking techniques. I am confident that she can help me with any problems that may arise. She has been a great mentor in classes so far because of her extensive printmaking knowledge, and she would be the ideal guide for this project.

Presentation

In my presentation, I will present the completed artworks. I will describe my process from the beginning to the end working with my mentor. I will explain challenges I faced along the way and how I responded to them. As well, I will discuss how my ideas and prints evolved to result in the finished works.

Timeline

Summer 2024	Order materials Take reference and inspiration photos Make sketches for each print
Fall 2024	Carve wood, draw lithographs, etch plates Begin printing
Spring 2025	Finish printing Curate prints Photograph prints Prepare presentation

Budget

Miller Arts Scholars Budget - 4th Year Arts Award

Intaglio Materials		Source	Date accessed	
5-Zinc Etching Plates - .064 Thickness, 18" x 24"	Etching plates for intaglio prints	Blick	3/16/24	\$1,008.45
100-BFK Rives Printmaking Paper - 22" x 30", White, 280 gsm	Paper on which to print etchings	Blick	3/16/24	\$625.00
Woodcut Materials				
4-1/2 in. x 4 ft. x 8 ft. PureBond Birch Plywood	Wood for woodcuts	Home Depot	3/16/24	\$269.52
4-Mulberry Thick Paper Rolls (38" width)	Paper on which to print woodcuts	Hiromi Paper	3/16/24	\$294.40
Lithography Materials				
10-Ball Grained Litho Plates 30 X 36 X 0.015 in.	Aluminum plates for lithographic prints	Takach Press	3/19/24	\$350.00

Hanco Litho Ink -- 1-1lb can each of black, white, process magenta, process yellow, intense blue for a total of 5 cans	Ink for printing lithographs and woodcuts	Takach Press	3/19/24	\$155.00
100-Fabriano Rosaspina Paper - 20" x 27", White	Paper on which to print lithographs	Blick	3/19/24	\$278.00
6-Korns Lithographic Crayons	Crayons for drawing on aluminum litho plates	Takach Press	3/19/24	\$36.00
Total				\$3,016.37
Budget Income, Funding, or Other Awards				
Income item:	MAS Third Year Award			\$3,000.00
Income item:	Personal contribution			\$16.37
Total				\$3,016.37