

Kia Wassenaar
Fall 2018

Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant Outcome Report: Drawings, Paintings, and Portfolio Making

With my Minigrant, I have been able to buy a wide range of materials and begin exploring the medium of painting with so much freedom to experiment. After much research, I purchased my first round of supplies in November, consisting of items such as easels, canvases, acrylic and watercolor paints, watercolor paper, and brushes. With these materials, I began a slow process of doing color studies and very small 6x8 watercolors. When I work in digital mediums, there is so much room for error and correction, but with painting I found that I had to do a more significant amount of planning before I even started. This has actually been an excellent habit to get into, because I am able to work first in Photoshop or Illustrator, and then execute in paint, leaving me with a better record of my progress. As I have gotten better on a smaller scale with watercolors, I have slowly moved into slightly larger scale works with acrylic. I still feel like I have so much to learn, but the process of experimentation has been extremely rewarding.

I am currently studying abroad in Amsterdam, and have been able to set up my small apartment as a kind of studio. I am continuing to paint, and have begun to incorporate other techniques, such as collaging, into my work. I have published finished works on my website, kiawassenaar.weebly.com, and will continue to post work as I complete it.

A small portion of my Minigrant was also dedicated to creating a more comprehensive, professional portfolio. On this front, I am still investigating my options. I tried a month on Squarespace, a month on WordPress, and have now returned to hosting my website on Weebly. I believe Weebly will ultimately be the best option for me, given the purchase of a one year subscription to their Pro plan. I am also looking into Adobe Portfolio, but have had some trouble with their video hosting services, so am close to counting them out. Perfecting my website will likely be an ongoing process, but I am very grateful for the opportunity to so thoroughly explore this world of online portfolios, and for the generosity of the Miller Arts Scholar community in general for making this project possible.

Expenses:

-Paint supplies: \$350

-First round of materials; \$100: easel x2 (\$20), most basic paint colors (7 tubes of acrylic + gesso) (\$45), 10 canvases in various sizes (\$40), palette (\$2),

-Second round of materials; \$150: Winsor and Newton paint set (\$75), 7 additional canvases (\$40)

-Future supplies/unforeseen painting expenses/watercolors potentially; \$100
(reference point for pricing is Michaels)

-Website: \$50 spent on Squarespace and WordPress trials, \$100 left to be spent on Weebly annual prepaid plan.