

## Teaching Philosophy:

As an arts educator, my mission is to provide aspiring artists with the tools to effectively communicate their ideas in a visual medium. Under my instruction, students will acquire a greater appreciation of the arts, critical thinking skills, and insight into the contemporary world. I will guide students through the ever-expanding artistic practices of the 21st century, with the hope that they can share their imagination to a larger audience.

In order to accomplish this goal, I place an emphasis on formal understanding, technical skills, and the familiarity of materials / technology. These areas of investigation help students develop an analytical eye and the skill sets necessary to devise creative solutions in a variety of mediums. Furthermore, this foundation enables students to explore their content and aesthetic sensibility with intent. I assist in refining their interests through research-based assignments, artist statements and an active dialogue.

In the classroom, I create a learning experience in which discussion, critiques, demonstrations, and independent projects are vital to a quality education in the arts. By establishing a dialogue that is open to both historical and contemporary practices, students are able to talk freely about different ideas and methodologies in creating work. This discourse strengthens their comprehension of the formal, technical and conceptual aspects of art production. Students will also become proficient in articulating their thoughts about art, through conversation and in writing. I believe that a student needs to discuss their own artistic practice in order to successfully evaluate art, whether it's their own, or that of others. Finally, this dialogue will inevitably reveal the importance in which art has on our daily lives.

With my instruction, students will work towards an objective that has been initiated by an assignment, or written proposal. Their progress will be facilitated in class by questions, suggestions and insight. I think that working with a student in collaborative manner is the most effective way to disseminate art theory and practice. Equally, it is just as important to give aspiring artists the opportunity to have creative control over their work. This freedom is paramount for their retention and engagement with the content. Nonetheless, students should also be held accountable for their commitment. Art demands hard work and persistence in order to reap the benefits as a discipline. I truly believe that students are more willing to put in the effort when they are treated with respect, encouraged, and have high expectations placed upon them.

Leading by example can be a powerful yet subtle tool in education. I know that my enthusiasm for art is fueled by a perpetual curiosity and love for painting! This excitement and dedication will energize the classroom experience with new ideas, and media integration. I am convinced that drawing and painting is just as important now, as it ever has been. All forms of two-dimensional visual communication are rooted in these areas of study and thus require continued investigation. Finally, the gratification of helping a student discover their personal voice through the creative process is unparalleled.