

Teaching Philosophy

In my role as a fine arts instructor I believe everyone has the capacity to create quality art, and it is my responsibility to do what I can to help each student reach that goal. The path to this outcome comes from an artist's development in their ability to use critical thinking skills while observing, developing, and accomplishing new work. Through courses with intuitive structures and clear goals, students will be able to make advancements in the ways they approach their art.

I believe that the most important thing a developing artist must understand is the amount of control they have over their work. At all stages of the creation process, from concept to completion, the vast majority of variables involved are directly controlled by the artist. Through formal practices in observation and technique, an artist will gain control of their medium and the ability to theorize more effectively. Having the knowledge and ability to take full control of what they make, students will develop the confidence and critical understanding to support and defend their work.

When approaching use of materials, a solid understanding of past and present practices is essential to discovering new uses. Even if experimentation is essential to a piece of work, I feel that proper experimentation is best informed by a proper understanding of known materials and processes. I also believe that instructional time should not only include technical information, but also historical and contemporary context that supports the understanding of technique while also encouraging interest in prominent art practices from past and present.

Proper critique that encourages constructive and respectful exchange is essential to developing the ability to articulate purpose and meaning. In a qualitative environment like the arts, it is important that artists are able to articulate the intentions of their own work, and also constructively analyze and respond to other artists' work. Exchanges such as this, gives every individual the chance to cultivate their own ideas in an environment of other's diverse input; allowing a supportive environment where everyone can challenge themselves while challenging each other.

Based on a course's objectives it is important to actively engage students with the tools at hand to accomplish their ideas. When engaging my students I believe it is important to openly and respectfully discuss concept, use of materials, and the viewer's perspective. At the same time, it is important to provide all students with a solid foundation, while allowing each student the ability to pursue their own ideas and interests. Furthermore, as an artist in an instructor's role I believe it is important to remain open minded about all aspects of each student's process; this encourages the students to grow as artists while allowing me to learn and grow as an artist as well.