

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

Every student's unique creative voice is significant, that is my conviction. To help them find their strengths and motivate them to cultivate their personal vision as an artist is the beginning of my job. Raising their awareness of our complex cultural world, and a sense of the artist's valuable place within that culture follows. From this position of mutual respect, I expect intense effort and thought from each of them, with a focus on their developing visual identities.

The assignments direct students toward finding ways of expressing their own ideas and individuality, while experiencing new processes and acquiring new skills. This is accompanied by exposure to issues and theories of contemporary art, and their historic precedents. I hope to emphasize a fertile integration of concept/process/context. Readings and class discussion are designed to raise awareness, challenge preconceptions and establish habits of critical thinking. This method serves to inspire and enlarge their outlook, and trigger their best potential.

My hope is to push students to exceed their own expectations, and motivate them with the necessary impetus to face technical challenges of various mediums and methods. I offer demonstrations, extensive support from my own experience, and sometimes direct them to sources for research, encouraging them to search out their own answers.

Critiques are a vital component; students must feel they are doing relevant work for a discerning community. A sense of camaraderie and community helps create a context of validation for experimentation. The spirit is usually fun and supportive, sometimes charged and exhilarating. They are constantly challenged, and learn to articulate both the challenge and the response. Everyone's contribution is welcome and expected. I am passionate about art, and sharing my enthusiasm makes the appreciation contagious.

My goal is to promote an atmosphere that is conducive to questioning and risk-taking, one in which a diverse group of students can challenge themselves and each other to realize their own artistic sensibilities, while building a sense of community. I strive to promote a sense of their own unique perception of the world, a confidence in their ability to manifest that through visual means, combined with an awareness of the larger cultural arena. Young artists gain the ongoing, deep satisfaction of impacting others through their work.

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