

## **Diversity Statement**

As an individual and educator I greatly value diversity and equity. I have worked in public educational institutions for most of my career and am excited to help people. I want to support students like I was supported; by talented, honest and kind teachers. I grew up in Santa Cruz, California, lived in Portland, Oregon for over a decade, and lived in New York City for 5 years. As well as teaching adults I have worked in museum, early childhood, and school-aged education. Working with the public in different fields, ways, and places has helped me cultivate a deep appreciation for people from a broad range of backgrounds and abilities that differ from mine. I will continue to support and be of service to underrepresented people, in whatever ways that I can, for the rest of my life.

I've worked in service roles in arts organizations that support gender equity and bringing art to the public. I've worked with diverse populations of youth and adults in many ways, including teaching and tutoring art, cooking, adventure, science, and reading. I have been lucky to teach about murals and gardening - activities rich with social justice and historical and contemporary backgrounds in community celebration. I like to present people of all ages with tools and methods to become involved in their communities in different ways – and then love supporting them as they explore these ideas together and autonomously.

My most recent work was in an alternative public school, where I taught students with a wide variety of learning styles, abilities, identities, and a broad range of backgrounds. As part of my work there I took training courses about inclusivity and diversity. Before that I worked in a public university in NYC, where I was consistently thrilled by the diversity of students and staff in my community. My students were from many backgrounds. Most were Spanish speakers, from many countries, many majors, and were in many age groups. I loved helping the great student population explore and learn about art and communicate visually.

Recognizing and discussing diversity is important, and I like to assign students projects that ask them to examine themselves and their histories in greater contexts. In this they can relate to others and celebrate and explore themselves more fully. I talk to students in a kind open way, and foster a classroom community that has these values. I am a woman and in that way underrepresented in art history, but I recognize my privilege as a white person and work to advocate for people who are different from me - this is not a way to other anyone, but to advocate for more people. When I teach art 90% of my slideshow examples of artists are women, people of color, lgbtq people, and people from around the world - I show these examples first in slide shows and spend more time talking about them then famous and very represented European and white men, who we also discuss.

I like to adjust lessons to suit the needs, interests and abilities of students, and consistently hope to foster community appreciation and empowerment. I teach things in a variety of ways and ask for feedback in hopes that everyone in my classroom is getting everything what they need from our time together. I am the kind of teacher who holds long critiques because it's fun, and ask questions to spur honest discussion – calmly and enthusiastically talking through all kinds of ideas. Teaching art is my favorite thing.