

Teaching Philosophy

I approach the classroom with passion and dedication, as being part of an art classroom is the most enriching thing I know. When I teach I appreciate that I'm lucky to be working together with curious motivated people. Whether students are young kids, entering college, or are life long learners they all come to school wanting to get the most out of their experiences there. I want to be part of this kind of learning, and educational communities rich with ideas and challenge. I hope to facilitate artistic involvement that gets us all to think more critically and communicate more fully. I feel that communities are built through hard work and discussion and am honored to be part of this process.

Through a combination of lectures, slideshows, workshops, and hands on activities I work with students to find the best solutions for the problems at hand. Learning art processes is difficult and I remind students that they are smart and capable, while asking them to push themselves. Learning is not supposed to be easy, and the challenges it poses can be fun. I expect hard work and I work hard to facilitate learning and engagement. I am quick to assist by going over techniques and assignments in many different ways, and working with students to figure out the parts that are troubling them. After students get the hang of artmaking techniques, their ideas flow more naturally and they are able to trust themselves to create good work and have fun with the processes themselves.

It's fun to contextualize with contemporary and historical examples to help students realize their places within the exciting history of art. I love talking with students about awesome things artists have done in the past, art they have learned about or are studying, and to recommend artists they might like. For example, if a class is working on large reduction relief prints, I discuss Swoon and Picasso - who both have challenged printmaking in varied and successful ways and contexts, at very different times. By providing compelling examples, and discussing work produced in critique, I hope to inspire students to work hard at making high quality thoughtful art and to understand their work in a greater context.

My own artwork focuses on nature and is very interdisciplinary, as my interests are broad. Drawing, painting, and printmaking are my favorites, I'm also interested in photography, bookmaking, zines, and fiber sculpture. I like to incorporate many media, and sometimes install them together, striving to create positive experiences for viewers and give them space to think about time spent in or with nature. I've expanded my ideas with printed sculpture, bookbinding, live plants, and stop motion animation – getting to my artistic goals through whatever means necessary. I often utilize maps and other outdoor navigational ideas, building narratives behind the work. In this way my artwork works to foster learning and self-reflection, which are qualities I also value greatly in educational environments. I am interested in interdisciplinary art practices, and art that crosses boundaries into science, literature, activism and popular culture.

I learned how truly wonderful art is from the great teachers I had from middle through graduate school. These amazing people changed my life in wonderful ways, and each made me realize different reasons to love art. Nothing is as rewarding as helping people communicate visually and trust themselves. I just love helping people learn and would jump at the chance to teach people how to do anything from my varied skillsets. I truly enjoy being a teacher and am looking to join a likeminded community of educators.