

## Teaching Philosophy

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As an instructor I have found that the most important thing in Art education is to help students learn about themselves as individuals – their abilities and preferences, their fears and inhibitions. My primary goal is to teach students how to learn, to help them discover themselves, to enable my students to share their world, and at the same time to learn from my students. Teaching is not only about imparting knowledge or skill to others, but also includes getting involved in an interactive learning process.

My approach to teaching can be divided into three categories: technical training, creative freedom and confidence.

The technical training includes the basic skills, techniques, and development of strong work habits. As a teacher it is very important to be able to direct the course with a certain amount of information, but allow the students to learn the necessary technology by working on his or her own idea. In this way, the student may work at his or her own pace. The best learning is through hands-on experience. The students who are struggling with the concept and the process have individual assistance.

Creative freedom is based in an interesting and exciting atmosphere of learning. The classroom is a place of interaction where each individual artist will produce work and share the discovery process with the group. The interaction among other students will help them to build their artwork based on their own personality and aesthetic concepts. Students will discover the world through using the Internet as an information reference dictionary. They will be encouraged to “break the rules” of traditional thinking as they discover new points of view toward familiar issues. Working in a sketchbook is required as an important way to organize and keep experiments with ideas, technical problems and concepts.

It is important to instill confidence and awareness within the student’s methods, concepts, and media, which intensify the quality and content of the work. An element of “moderate freedom” provides the students with comfortable exploring and experimenting within the materials used within the work. This freedom within a chosen media may be used as long as it works visually and conceptually within the framework of the course assignment goals. To expand the student’s confidence, they are encouraged to communicate their discoveries and processes with each other in class discussions as well as in more formal presentations. Teaching a student to verbalize the process is a strong confidence-building tool.

Passion and Patience also play a very important role in my teaching philosophy. Helping students develop passion in what they are interested and developing awareness of the issues that happen around them will help them collect necessary information for their work. A teacher’s passion for art and ideas translates to students through listening and open conversation. Patience with concepts and technology are key to the learning process. The working studio environment is carefully balanced to encourage curiosity and to provide successful experience, giving the student a confident foundation in concepts and technology. On this foundation creativity will flourish.