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TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

As an artist, I strive to make work that stays true to myself. As a teacher, my main goal is to provide structure to assist each student with finding ways to express his or her uniqueness in terms of ideas, beliefs and stylistic sensibilities. I want to turn the ineffable into something more tangible and malleable for students to use as they see fit.

The best art programs are those that provide a framework for each student to carry forward an informed and relevant individual agenda. Part of my job, as I see it, is to help the student bring their ideas and voice into being – to make them more real. I construct my introductory level courses to give every student the core of the “how to” or the technical side of artistic practice as well as the conceptual and theoretical foundation to achieve a unique expressive voice while avoiding triteness of vision.

Visual art is a language of expression that is tied to art history and theory. Because of this, I see contemporary artistic practice as an ongoing conversation. I want my students, especially the advanced students, to realize they aren't making work in a bubble and that their work is part of the advances of art history. I regularly introduce contemporary artists to students in the form of lecture and discussion. I believe that in a studio course, theory compliments artistic practice. Outside of those practical reasons, vigorous discussion about art and ideas is fun. I expand on this by requiring a research component in almost all of my classes. Students are asked to engage an art theory topic or investigate contemporary artists and present their feelings and stance to their peers.

I teach a broadly diverse range of students with a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, different races, genders, sexual orientations and religions. I focus upon the individual learning process of each of my students. I believe that by careful attention and close mentoring, each potential and future artist will graduate with the skills and creative capacity needed to then form a meaningful and successful future in the visual arts.

You can view examples of student work on my web blog:

<https://plus.google.com/102531686967518592745>