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## Teaching Philosophy

The process of art-making comprises much more than craft. This is why I believe that a commitment to helping students learn, explore, and interact with their world is a primary and necessary component to my teaching philosophy. Connecting with the world through idea expression and discourse is important for artists, and students who study art, to facilitate creation of meaningful and impactful work.

There is a fundamental distinction between craft and art; craft being the mastery of skill within a medium. Art encompasses the development of ideas and concepts built upon a sound and measured interaction between an artist's perspective and the use of visual, and or, other sensory media. It is fundamentally important for students to learn how to effectively and articulately develop the ideas and concepts of their art. During this developmental period, I encourage students to discuss their ideas with both their peers and myself to help them gain both a fresh perspective and the rhetorical tools to defend their ideas. I encourage students to research other artists who work in similar conceptual and visual frameworks, as this research can allow them to take their concepts further, endowing them with new ways of looking at their own work. By working through the ideation stage, before committing to a medium or visual tendency, students are able to broaden their scope and make more informed choices about a variety of visual practices.

During the creation stage, I encourage my students to work with as many media as possible. By doing so, they are more likely to find media that are most conducive to their concepts. A multidisciplinary approach allows students to work within the media that they are most comfortable with, while simultaneously pushing their own boundaries to discover something new.

I find it imperative to work closely with students in both the ideation stage and creation stage of their artistic process, because I can be present to help with conceptual or technical problems as they arise and provide constructive and constant feedback. These interactions allow students to grow and achieve the full potential of their concept. As an artist and instructor it is my goal to create a supportive and enriching environment where students are able to constantly question, explore, realize, and contextualize their own ideas.