

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Greater success in students' development often depends on the instructors' ability to teach, communicate and engage with their audience. After spending many years as a student and as a teacher, I realized how instructional material is delivered is frequently more important than the information of the material itself. How one teaches, can greatly affect students' perception of art, encouraging them to become professional artists, or discouraging them into never touching a brush again.

Students learn best when they feel respected and valued in the process. Regardless of the artistic level of each student, each individual requires specific attention and may require different learning styles (visual, auditory and kinesthetic) in order to progress. To reach a students' full artistic potential it is essential to address a class through group instruction as well as individualized clarifications and guidance in order to identify and address specific needs.

Trained as a classical painter, I believe the instruction of technique to be an essential element of teaching practice. However, I also greatly value conceptual development. It is important to provide students a variety of possibilities in how to master the tools and materials available to them while encouraging an understanding for how art can effectively communicate content and meaning.

I believe all students have a right to pursue higher education, if that is what they desire, regardless of origin, race, age and gender. It is my obligation to guarantee "quality" education through a dedicated commitment to the development and progress of each individual student.