

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

As an educator, I am committed to fostering a liberal arts education that promotes freedom through critical discourse, inclusivity and community engagement. My approach to teaching is rooted in the belief that education is a powerful tool for both personal and societal transformation. I strive to create an equitable, open and democratic environment where all voices are actively heard and where diversity is celebrated as a strength.

Education is a reciprocal process where teaching and learning occur simultaneously. Drawing from my own rigorous studio practice, I aim to build trust with students, empowering them to explore problem-solving beyond the confines of assignments and classrooms. For artists, establishing a lasting practice that extends beyond the academy requires a foundation of research, enhanced visual literacy and active engagement with the community. My teaching emphasizes setting rigorous expectations early, fostering a sense of community and leading by example.

I believe in cultivating problem-finding and critical thinking skills, providing learners with tools to navigate the complexities of the real world. At the heart of my teaching is a focus on observational learning and diverse material exploration, encouraging students to discover their unique creative voices through visual language. Discussions on environmental impact and professional practice are integral, ensuring a symbiotic and sustainable approach to art research and production.

At the same time, I am deeply committed to challenging the systemic biases that perpetuate inequality. Institutions often reflect dominant structures of colonialism, patriarchy and whiteness, and as an educator, I actively resist these legacies. My goal is to create a classroom that is not only aware of these inequities but also dedicated to dismantling them through empathy, vigilance and respect for all voices. Through cross-disciplinary studies, engagement with community and a culture that embraces failure as growth, students gain a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives and the complexities of our shared humanity.

I understand the importance of protecting the rights and voices of all class members, recognizing that sometimes listening—particularly to those whose experiences differ from our own—is just as important, if not more so, than sharing. I encourage the use of diverse resources to amplify underrepresented voices and challenge dominant narratives, helping students develop a more nuanced understanding of the world.

As a queer, non-binary, Latinx first-generation American brought up in a mixed ethnic household, my personal experiences have shaped my commitment to creating an inclusive, just and empathetic educational environment. I am continuously striving to build a communal space where every student's perspective is valued and where we collectively aspire toward a more just and inclusive world. Through education, we not only nurture individual growth but also contribute to the broader freedoms necessary for a truly democratic society.

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