

My teaching philosophy and style is based on how I have learned about art, my self and the world. It is through the use and development of attention, sensation, and perception that can produce a thoughtful, influential and empathetic artist. This philosophy has been the cornerstone of my Master's program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and, in turn, is the way I teach.

In the classroom, I focus my efforts on the individual level, the collective level and on teaching by example. I engage my students in personalized one to one conversations so they are able to develop a clear and effective expression in their work. I help them problem solve as well as encourage them to pay attention to the details both in the process as well as in the final product. My own sculptural practice began with small objects so this attention to detail comes naturally, in fact, I insist upon it. I teach and encourage the exploration and use of a variety of materials so that my students have the knowledge and ability to continue to develop their work as they progress. The assignments I give encourage this exploration of materials.

My students learn how to present, discuss, see and empathize through regular group critiques. They develop a language with which they can, not only present their own work, but can thoughtfully react and openly dialogue about each other's work as well. This collective dialogue and perception of others work serves to further push and broaden their own pieces. This dialogue and personal voice is encouraged through writing as well so that they are able to effectively communicate ideas and present their own work within a group setting.

As a teacher, I believe it is incredibly important for me to teach by example. I will not expect anything from my students that I would not be willing to do. As I encourage my students to push and further develop their skills, I will do the same. I will constantly work to build my knowledge and experience both through personal explorations as well as through academia. In fact, in the past year, not only have I learned encaustic painting and glassblowing but have explored augmented reality applications as well as 3D printing. I feel that as artists we can enact change and technology can be a very powerful medium.

I have been making art for as long as I can remember. It is my passion and I love sharing my knowledge and experience with others. Art pulls us in, pushes us out and can even heal.