

Teaching Philosophy of Molly Brauhn

Accomplished artists need a sharp awareness to coalesce life moments and human knowledge into a creative force. Students must first understand the incredible power contained within them. Often, greatness lies hidden, just waiting for the encouragement to come out of hiding and flourish. This speaks to the heart of my knowledge as an educator.

I create a communal relationship with students, seeking to guide emerging artists along their unique paths. Tunnel vision can stifle creativity so I attempt to create an atmosphere of structured freedom in order to encourage each student to observe the world from diverse viewpoints. Forcing a change of perception is a great tool in education.

Concepts are indispensable, but without the proper tools an artist cannot convey ideas properly. Process and technique are fundamental in my curriculum. As a young artist, technique and thoughts often grow together. Knowledge of processes can evolve a piece of art in new ways previously not thought of.

Teamwork and communication is fundamental in the classroom. As an instructor, it is my responsibility to provide individual discussion so that I can be assured that the students comprehend the subject matter and techniques. The environment needs to be welcoming, yet challenging; and as such, I promote discussion and debate among my students.

All of the senses must be utilized to convey lessons keeping in mind the various ways in which people learn. A student must see, hear, write, and practice to properly to learn any subject. On a typical project, I first explain process and technique, then show examples of completed works and slides, so the student may see the finished product. Accompanying the demonstration will be written instructions; and note taking will be highly encouraged in a class sketchbook. It is important to display resources so that the student's visual vocabulary increases.

Practice is necessary to learn any artistic techniques. The step-by-step process of producing physical prints or objects must be planned, developed, and researched. Maintaining a sketchbook that acts as a storage device of ideas and research is a mandatory practice for successful artists. Personal organization of materials and handouts will expand attention so that unclear descriptions can be remedied through questioning. Back and forth dialogue can add personal insights to the instructions.

Learning art fundamentals and processes of fine art mediums are the foundation that all professional artists need. Learning takes place after concentrated repetition.

Ideally, energy and focus will fill the classroom environment. Life is not a vacuum, and teaching is no different. New solutions and ideas must always be sought. All aspects of the world have relevance in art. My goal as an educator is to impact student's lives in a profound manner. Giving students tools to assist in their development as artists allows them to convey their vision to others.