

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

JOLYNN REIGELUTH

I believe in a method of teaching that emphasizes the importance of perseverance and fearlessness as fundamentals of art making. I draw from my own experiences and artistic practice to help students identify the unique merits of their work and urge them to explore new ways to foster those merits and communicate content. I encourage students to work in quantity, take risks, and embrace the unexpected as they expand their own skill sets.

My courses implement a balance where students can learn traditional techniques, and have a command over craftsmanship and design fundamentals, while still allowing for the discovery of content through the process of making. As students gain confidence in their technical abilities, by working in quantity and practicing fundamentals, they become more willing to take risks, learn from perceived "failures," and move beyond false boundaries of any particular medium.

As I interact with students on an individual basis I find ways to connect and encourage them based on their unique interests and abilities. I draw from students' favorite music, movies, games, outdoor activities etcetera to help them find connections between their everyday lives and their artistic practices. I have found that helping students make these connections encourages them to draw from all aspects of their multi-faceted personalities, and create work that represents their unique perspectives.

As a teacher, I encourage students at all levels hold themselves to a high standard by regarding themselves not just as students but as artists, and avid students of art history, design and the contemporary art world. I emphasize the importance of critical thinking by asking challenging questions that help students to arrive at solutions through their own decision-making. As students refine their skill sets and build a broad awareness of the art world they become able to ask critical questions about their work and others' that go beyond "Is this good enough?" Through helping students to hone their critical thinking skills, and evoke unique perspectives, I help them to discover their individual standards of quality and push their work to a high level.