

Statements of Purpose

Art Education

What strikes me about the arts, and visual art in particular, is the continuation of the teaching and learning cycle that has lasted thousands of years- be it master/apprentice in a studio, or teacher and student in a k-12 art classroom. As an artist who has benefitted from my many wonderful teachers, it has become my mission to seek out opportunities to pass on the gift of learning that so many people so selflessly gave me. As of December, 2017, I will be pre-K-12 classroom certified as an art instructor in the state of Virginia. I don't stop there! I believe that education happens just as much outside of the classroom as it does in, and, as you'll see in some of my projects below, I love to get involved with people, learning, and art as often as possible!

As a teacher, I believe that art allows us to connect with others throughout history, and also helps us tell our individual story, process our emotions, and to be communicative and expressive in a tangible and hands-on way. The creation and interpretation of art, specifically in a visual form, is a necessary and important part of the way that humans communicate, and the purpose of art education is to give all students the tools, knowledge, and experience, to do so in a confident and competent way.

I think that the idea of giving children both roots and wings applies in teaching, too- it is my job, as an art educator, to give them the foundational and art-historical roots that they need to become independent, thinkers, problem-solvers, creators, and, most importantly for me, artists.

. What I find most exciting about art education is the potential to share something that has been so wonderful for me with my students. art- and to share it with other people in the hopes that I've awakened a little bit of creativity, curiosity, and desire to explore the world and themselves in the people and students with whom I'm working.

Scenic Art

I was first and always will be a painter. The craft, the technique, and the messy, hands-on-and-in nature of it steal my soul in a way nothing else can. As both a scenic artist and a studio artist, I love combining high-level, B.F.A trained studio technique in painting and drawing with the enormous scale and collaborative nature of the theatre. I live for color and spectacle, and I love working in unexpected or unusual ways. I strive to be a great collaborator and a strong leader, as well as a great listener and observer, learning from those I am working with, and from the world around me. I am a watcher of people and someone who looks carefully at everything. I love to make every new thing I see into a game of "how would I paint that?" Theatrical painting- and the illusion of it- is so magical and fun. I hope to contribute to and to be a part of a working environment that loves magic and the beauty of it all as much as I always have.

Studio Art

As both a scenic artist and a studio artist, I straddle representation and abstraction in a lot of ways. I do commissioned portraits and still life work to better my technical skill, but I'm absolutely in love with the textural sculptural elements of paint as well. I love the sheer power of the medium- be it painting, drawing, or photography- to tell a story- or part of one. I believe that paintings are like poetry: a little glimpse of life as it is, isn't, or could be seen.

Sometimes I paint in an effort to reveal the beauty of a moment captured and preserved in paint. None of my subjects are exceptional things- we see them every day. Trees, flowers, fields, people- but for just a moment, I think, all of these things I were exceptional- or could be- and I worked to try and capture that in a vivid way. Trees can be majestic- imposing even. Flowers can be trite. Pathways can be narrative if you take the time to let them be. These paintings are as much about time as place or subject. They are, to me, a kinetic and sensory instant of what these things were—just for a moment- before they became something else.