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## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

**The delivery of inspiration is paramount to the success of any art student.** It is through inspiration that students find the weaponry needed to overcome obstacles and to solve problems in an engaging creative manner. Inspiration is the catalyst for creating newer and better things and enacting true substantive change. As an educator I have found no greater joy than witnessing inspiration take hold in the mind of a student and watching it fire off a creative spark.

I teach my students that inspiration is limited to only what they are aware of and thus by expanding their knowledge they are expanding their visual armory. I lecture on the importance of exploration and exposure, of trying new things, meeting new people, and that inspiration can come from anywhere and anyone. I believe that exposure to design is crucial to the development of a student, thus I encourage them to participate in the design industry, sponsoring numerous trips to design conferences, student competitions and encouraging them to subscribe to design magazines, annuals and countless design blogs.

I try to cultivate a sense of community among my students to help them understand that inspiration can also be found in better communication with their fellow classmates and that this may also lead to a better college education and experience. Through classroom discussions, field trips and other activities students are able to better cultivate their thoughts together and create a cross pollination of creative ideas.

I teach them that creativity isn't bound by software limitations and that the answer to executing an idea can come from something as simple as a palette knife. I believe in order for a student to truly manifest something from their mind they must have an adequate understanding of all the tools needed to create. In simplest terms one can be inspired to build their dream home, but without knowledge of how to use a hammer and nails it can be a daunting task. I've come across many students who have had concepts of how a logo should look, yet had an inadequate understanding of typography, computer programs, and even basic drawing skills to bring that concept to fruition. Because of this, I preach the importance of a solid studio art foundations and teach the fundamentals and tools of design in class and in evening and weekend workshops.

It would be an egregious error if inspiration were wasted due to a teacher's inability to teach the basics. This is why it is my goal and challenge as a teacher to show my students the power of inspiration and the misfortune it would be to waste it. My goal is to show students that inspiration can be found everywhere and with the right knowledge it can be manifested every time.