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## Educational Philosophy

My love of teaching stems from the same place that feeds my joy as a collaborative artist, a sheer love of the connection that comes from building and creating with others. My role as an educator is to offer students direction on their path toward the future, and to help them develop and hone the skills necessary to succeed as artists and individuals. Shaping developing minds, guiding them toward their passions, and empowering them to reach their true potential is a form of collaboration like no other.

Given that art is not a passive endeavor, the student experience should likewise not be a passive one. I encourage my students to take full ownership of their academic journey and be active participants in their own learning. To facilitate this, I subscribe to a system of clear communication, well-defined expectations, and open-ended problem solving that provides students with opportunities to actively develop their own unique skillset. By giving students a solid knowledge base and encouraging them to independently problem solve, I aim to foster student agency and give help them foster real world skills as well as a creative troubleshooting mindset.

Though we often don't like to think of education as a place for failure, I feel that there is truly no better place for it. I adamantly believe that we must

encourage our students not only to embrace failure, but to seek it out. In each of my courses I give students the time and encouragement needed to overcome the fear of failure and instead find joy in the exploration of creation. I want my students to have the freedom to build beyond their safety nets without fearing the perceived consequences. By fostering such freedom, I aim to eliminate artistic stagnation and help students retain a sense of artistic play that is so often drummed out of us.

At the core of my efforts as an educator are the students. It is my duty to meet students at their level with open discourse and an understanding of their individual needs. I work hard to be aware of my student's challenges, mental health concerns, and gender pronouns. I relish the opportunity that comes with connecting with students new and returning each semester.

Each time I teach a lesson, my goal is to encourage, excite, and inspire the students in my charge, and to give them the very best of me as both an educator and a mentor. Every class serves as an opportunity for students to take command of their own journey, delight in exploration, and find freedom in the unknown.