

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Samuel Enriquez

As an educator, my goal is first and foremost to serve the students, and contribute to their development as a whole person, by providing an equitable, safe, rigorous, and authentic art learning space underscored by justice and joy. I am committed to fostering a culturally responsive teaching practice by way of differentiated instruction, openness to multiple avenues of expression, and meaningful connections with my learning community.

In the classroom, I balance my roles as Coach, Teammate, and Cheerleader during interactions with students. First, the Coach guides students through learning the foundations by way of relevant instruction and demonstration, as well as through tactful and effective critique. Next, the Teammate collaborates with the students as a fellow artist by exchanging ideas, concepts, and techniques beyond the foundations. Last but not least, the Cheerleader encourages students, regardless of how well they are currently performing in the class. It is my experience that most students achieve the learner outcomes more successfully if they are receiving sincere, positive, appropriate affirmations throughout the term. I approach every new term with the understanding that a unique balance of these three roles is needed for each class as a group, and each student as an individual.

My philosophy of teaching art is student-centered, and hinges on the belief that every student can learn, thrive, and grow into their authentic selves if given the opportunity and appropriate supports. I also believe that if more students are authentic with themselves and others, the world will become a much more kind space for all people to exist. This is why I teach.