

Chris McCreary, 2022

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My philosophy is that education, particularly arts education, is integral to the survival of our species. In a time where we are being pushed further and further into isolation, I believe education serves as an inoculation from despair and hopelessness for the future. I also recognize the enormous pressure placed on the students themselves as they navigate their own journeys of self-discovery in an increasingly impersonal and cold world. I believe that as an educator I have been placed in a position to support, guide, validate, and challenge these students on their path forward. I believe it is my main function as an educator is to build up these students as confident, curious, empathetic individuals and then get out of their way.

My educational practice is rooted in the values of ensemble: break the ice, encourage and celebrate failure, validate the space each student takes up, and allow the curriculum to be responsive to the makeup, strengths, and desires of each class. I believe the subject matter of each class provides an excuse to come together in a shared space, but the true educational work is found in empowering each student to celebrate themselves as an individual while also falling in love with being a crucial member of a larger organism.