

## **Teaching Philosophy**

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With the sensitivity that art making is a very personal investigative process, my objective as a professor is to create an open, trusting, and non-threatening atmosphere in which the students can extend themselves through the material they are using. Additionally, it is my goal to charge the studio environment with energy stemming from my own passion for clay and critical thinking as well as the ever-developing educational process.

I acquaint students with clay and its many construction options. I teach wheel throwing, handbuilding, moldmaking, glaze and material classes as well as seminar courses within specific themes ( Installation, new genre, public art, Science/ Art), with the perspective that the student will find their own personal development in either the vessel tradition, sculptural or installation formats. I teach with both low and high fire materials demonstrating a whole spectrum of corresponding surface options.

In addition to introducing materials and technical options, I present both an historical and contemporary overview of clay which I hope, in turn, will inspire and support students' ideas. Lastly, I strive to be accessible and committed to the student not only for technical and conceptual growth but also to them as individuals, to encourage them to push themselves to take risks and meet the process of development with intensity and integrity.