

## My Teaching Philosophy

Eileen Portelance

2025

Art is a universal language that allows individuals to express emotions, ideas, and identities. As an art educator, my mission is to cultivate an inclusive learning environment where every student feels empowered to explore, create, and find their unique voice. I believe in guiding students as they navigate their creative journeys, encouraging them to experiment and take risks while providing the tools they need to grow artistically and personally.

I strive to present a curriculum that celebrates cultural diversity and highlights the contributions of artists from varied backgrounds. By exposing students to a wide range of artistic voices, I aim to inspire them to see themselves and their experiences reflected in the world of art, fostering a sense of identity and cultural pride.

In today's visually saturated digital age, developing visual literacy is crucial. I am committed to teaching students not only how to create art but also how to interpret and critique visual information thoughtfully. This critical thinking skill empowers them to engage with the world around them in meaningful ways.

Ultimately, my goal is to create a supportive and dynamic classroom where all students—regardless of their abilities or backgrounds—feel valued and inspired to express themselves. By nurturing creativity, cultural awareness, and critical thinking, I hope to prepare my students to become open-minded, empathetic, and thoughtful members of society.