

From: Paul Farmer, MFA
134 W. Morehouse Ave. Mooresville, NC 28117
(828) 421-8620
pfarmer@mitchellcc.edu
Instructor Site: <https://paulfarmerartist.wixsite.com/instructor>
Professional Site: <http://www.paulfarmerartist.com/>

Teaching Statement

As a Visual Arts instructor, I aim to construct classes that result in a well-rounded portfolio from which students may build upon with the goal of preparing them for a professional career in the field of fine or applied art. I believe this outcome is best achieved through student-centered learning, equity-focused teaching practices, and faculty mentors that are engaged in relevant, contemporary artistic research.

My teaching philosophy as a Studio Art instructor is such that I believe all art programs benefit from rigorous, experiential studio courses that build upon each student's visual vocabulary while also passing on new technical skills as they progress. To cultivate critical thinking skills, the pedagogical arc of my classroom assignments is that of a clear progression of problem-solving exercises, each one both builds upon the previous and informs the next. I have high expectations regarding execution and will give demonstrations when introducing new materials. Time and effort are very important in early development to produce strong results. Students must also learn how to critically assess work using terminology covering the elements and principles of art and design. I believe in grading transparency and use a rubric with personalized feedback for evaluation- assessment categories include technical skill, concept implementation, and presentation.

I believe that an equity-focused teaching practice is also essential for student growth. For contextual learning, my curriculum exposes students to artists from a variety of backgrounds. Finding relatable examples that students can identify with leads to greater course satisfaction, and, thus, increases student success. Accessibility is also important; in my own professional development, I seek opportunities to keep up to date on best practices for instructional delivery modes. Even when teaching a Traditional course, I still utilize LMS platforms to address neuro diverse learning styles. The goal is to always provide clear course objectives and outcomes; written and oral instruction; visual examples of student and professional work; and enable such tools as screen readers and video presentations with captions.

Lastly, my philosophy is also such that, as an instructor, I must continue to engage in relevant artistic research. My personal practice is always open to experimentation with new media, methods, and ideas. The topics I explore are usually concerned with nature and ecology, most recently expanding to include memory and pattern. As a student mentor, I aim for a balance between professionalism and humanness- to be a positive role model but, also, accessible and identifiable as a person. Whether it's in the classroom, serving on a committee, or organizing an exhibition, it's important for me to be engaged and of service to my institution and community.