

Teaching Philosophy

Teaching should be more than just the explaining of how to work a camera, but how to use that camera as a tool for communication. Yes, a mastery of the tool of your trade is a necessity, but while that student is learning the basics that student should also be learning how to use it as a communicator to express ones ideas and thoughts. I think a teacher should be a mentor in to the field of photography which will allow the student to explore these new thoughts and ideas. Once the student enables themselves with this knowledge they are able to share their message with others through a visual dialogue.

To reach these needs I feel that students require goals. Not just the qualifications set to pass the course or program, but to create expectations that voice the demand of their craft. Photography is a medium depended on visual response, without a strong message it gets lost in the sea of images that bombard our eyes everyday. Students do this by learning different processes, studying other photographers and photographic history to create images that raise to the surface and speak to their viewers. I believe no one can create in a vacuum. Students must open up and explore many outlets so their work reaches a larger culture.

For me teaching photography is helping expand student's horizons and forces them to critically examine their values, goals, and ideals, they learn to use photography as a device of expression, communication, and creativity. This enables the student to come fully into their own as human beings who can share with other world citizens as they retain and value their distinguished and separate identities.

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