

Bill Guy

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am pursuing a full-time, tenure-track position as a professor of photography. As a recipient of a Master of Fine Arts in photography from Columbia College Chicago, I have an active exhibition record, diverse teaching experiences, and a firm grasp of both traditional and digital photographic craft.

I am proficient in darkroom processes including traditional gelatin silver printing, film processing, and chromogenic color darkroom printing. I also have a strong knowledge of digital programs including Photoshop, Lightroom, Dreamweaver, and basic HTML programming. I am experienced with small-, medium-, and large-format cameras, as well as digital SLR cameras. I am also interested in book arts. I created a limited edition artist book of my series *Finding Walden: Photographs from the Chicago Park System*. I worked on all aspects of the book: sequence, design, editing and printing of the digital files, and binding. The book is now in the collections of the *Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum* located in the city of Chicago, along with the *Thoreau Society* in Massachusetts.

Since finishing school, I taught as an adjunct professor of photography at both Columbia College Chicago and St. Xavier University. I taught both black and white and color darkroom photography at the foundations level, as well as digital photography. I see a semester at the foundations level as two distinct halves: In the first half the students explore and learn aspects of photographic craft and vision. The second half they learn to apply those means towards creative ends. It is my philosophy that a successful course will fill the student's photographic toolbox, while simultaneously teaching them to see and present things in a unique way. This skill set is then applicable to all phases of photography: both commercial and fine art and whether they are trying to sell a product or an idea. Working with diverse groups of students shows me that each student and group must be approached differently. My students at Columbia are looking to be professionals in the arts, whereas my students at St. Xavier come from other fields. The way that I run my class, along with the goals and expectations, are molded by the specific needs of a group of students.

As well, I worked as a teaching artist at Gallery 37 Center for the Arts' Advanced Arts Education Program. There, I co-taught a class of twenty AP high school students from area Chicago Public Schools. It is a rigorous program that meets two-hours a day, Monday through Friday. It is our primary goal to make sure that each student goes to college. Last year, our small group of approximately 250 students collectively earned over \$2.5 million in scholarship money. Our program has sent students to schools all over the country. And recently we had one of our graduates attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago on a full-ride scholarship. The experience of working with high school juniors and seniors helps me to understand younger college students. I find that the needs of a high school senior are quite similar to those of a college freshman.

I have a strong background in literature, as I received a Bachelor of Arts in English during my undergraduate studies. I impress upon my students the need to have strong reading and writing skills. I also impress upon them the benefit of studying other fields such as literature, philosophy, history and the sciences. This broadens their intellect and expands the pool of ideas that they can draw from for their creative works.

I also have strong administrative abilities. Outside of my classroom management skills, I worked as the Photography Department Assistant at Columbia College Chicago. This position involved academic advising within a department of over 700 photography majors. I also meet with potential Graduate students to discuss Columbia's MFA program. I manage the departmental mailing list of over 1,500 names and oversee departmental mailings such as the poster for our visiting lecture series. And I assist the department's Director of Administration as needed. Being on campus more allows me to foster lasting relationships with students, something that is important to me, though is generally difficult for an adjunct professor.

I would welcome the opportunity to be a full-time faculty member at a college or university, and to contribute my vision and passion for photography. I can be reached at the contact number or email address above with any questions, or to schedule a meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Guy