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**Teaching Philosophy**

It is my goal to turn the classroom into a community of learners where all present are active members. Critiques are a foundation for any visual arts course, and are key for developing this community. Critiques build communication skills, and expose the students to the ideas and criticisms of their peers. It is also a way to balance out the subjective input of the instructor. Though I believe that the instructor is there to lead the critiques, I remain open to the students' insights and encourage them to voice their thoughts. Often I approach a group of photographs with one idea, only to have that idea challenged and changed by an insightful student comment. It is this open exchange that makes the classroom meaningful for both the students and myself.

Promoting completed projects and working on current photographic projects are all part of my weekly routine. Though my busy teaching schedule does sometimes make it difficult to remain active with my personal work, I try to be creative about being creative. That means carrying a book with me at all times, and making time for photography. This could be early in the morning before I go to work, or late into the evening after. It is my belief that the strongest teachers are those who continue to create their own work. The dedication and rigor that I bring to my own work allows me to honestly push my students when it comes to their own creative and intellectual pursuits. I also enjoy sharing my own work with students and receiving their comments. This openness and appreciation helps in building the community of learners that I strive to establish.