

### TEACHING

As a teacher in the visual arts, I have two broad goals for every student – teach them how to *see* and how to *think*. Learning how to see fits within concrete observational skills that empower a student to draw from life. If you can draw, you can create just about anything. This very basic skill must be learned in order to achieve higher levels of visual problem-solving. Students who draw well tend to be better painters, sculptors, printmakers and designers. A student who draws well solves thousands of visual problems on a sheet of paper, which helps them understand the visual world around them. I find myself able to solve many types of problems if I'm able to map it out, draw a picture of it or doodle a web graph. Not long ago, I adopted a list of action verbs that demonstrate my teaching philosophy. Many of these stem from nine years of teaching art in the public school system and for the past nine years, teaching at the university level. They are:



- *empower* students with the necessary tools and skills to be successful
- *demonstrate* creative problem-solving and its relationship to *everything*
- *instill* within students a standard of excellence
- *inspire* students with exemplary visual examples and exhibition performance
- *motivate* students to be life-long readers and learners
- *model* ethical behavior
- *develop* long-lasting mentorships

I believe it is important to model behaviors that you want your students to demonstrate. This is why I love having my studio in my office on campus. I can show them my work in various stages, whether problems are solved correctly or not. The purpose is for my students see me working. This is important to me.

### CREATIVE RESEARCH

I consider myself a tinkerer. Much of my art comes about first, through a series of sketches, then by tinkering with objects or paintings and drawings to create a 3D representation of my initial concepts. On average, I have around six to ten pieces working at the same time. This eclectic way of working allows me to make things depending on how I feel that day or how much time I have. Painting requires the largest block of time— usually three or four hours of uninterrupted moments of creativity. Tinkering, on the other hand, may only require thirty minutes or an hour to finish a certain task. The number of exhibitions I have had demonstrates the success of this model. I have had one-person exhibitions in Oklahoma, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. National juried exhibitions include venues such as in New Orleans Ogden Museum of Art; OCAF Art Center in Athens, Georgia; Tennessee Valley Museum of Art; The Fred Cline Gallery in Santa Fe; Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art in Augusta, Georgia; and the Mattie Kelley Art Gallery in Niceville, Florida.

I have been invited to lecture at McMasters University in Hamilton, Canada; Universities of Halmstad and Örebro, Sweden, and many galleries and museums throughout the south and southwest.

## **SERVICE**

### **State and National**

In 2011 I was selected to represent Alabama with Rotary International's Group Study Exchange (GSE). I traveled with a team of five to the central region of Sweden, speaking at Rotary Club meetings, presenting a positive image of the state of Alabama. I am an elected officer, the vice-president of communications, with the national conference organization *Foundations in Art: Theory and Education* (FATE). I have been involved with FATE for nearly ten years. Our past few conferences were held in Savannah, St. Louis, Milwaukee and in 2015, Indianapolis.

### **Local**

I have been very active in municipal politics with a focus on healthy lifestyles for Troy residents. I proposed and presented successfully a plan to create bike paths through the city with the eventual goal of bike lanes to city schools and the university. The city council approved the proposal June 2014. My next venture is to garner funds through grants and donations for a skate park in Troy.

In my home we house at least one international student. Currently I have a student from Vietnam staying with my family. We have housed students from China, Algeria, India, Saudi Arabia, and Sweden. We were one of the first families in Troy to house international students and have become the model for others interested in home stays through the university.

Service is an important aspect of leadership. People are attracted to people who get in the game and lead by example. I believe we should serve those we lead.

Greg Skaggs