

Statement on Teaching

Much like my research practice, my teaching responsibilities and opportunities cross several applications, from the formal responsibilities of the classroom to the pedagogical vision of the museum. The cohesive tie that unites all of the teaching that I do is serving as a connection point between students and a broader, often professional, world. As such, a primary focus of my teaching is utilizing my experience as an artist and curator to incorporate experiential projects into both classroom and museum-based education. By including curation, interpretation, and other publicly focused methods with more traditional scholarship like reading and writing, I prepare students for professional opportunities while using the format of the exhibition as a platform for discussing contemporary topics in art.

As an Assistant Professor, I have taught multiple courses in both the Departments of Art and Art History and have served on graduate committees in Art, Art Education, and Dance. Although previously split between units, since spring of 2022 my teaching has been dedicated to the Department of Art, primarily serving the graduate program. FSU is unusual in having a practicing curator located in the studio art department, and so I strive to use my professional experience to bring a unique element to the graduate program. For example, in a seminar course for the first year MFA students, the final assignment was to curate an exhibition for the gallery of the William Johnston Building on campus. In leading up to this project, we studied the history of museums as para-governmental organizations and the role of the curator and institution in shaping contemporary discourse. The students then curated, designed, installed and interpreted the exhibition collaboratively, reflecting professional best practices. In developing courses and assignments, I always consider how I can bring my museum experience to the classroom and offer students a slightly different perspective on the place visual art holds in cultural production.

I also teach extensively through the museum itself. As curator, I develop educational programs for the general public as well as students across the university. From inviting guest artists and scholars to give lectures to designing in-gallery educational activities, a large part of my job as curator is an extension of my role as teacher. Over 3000 FSU students attend educational programs at the museum each semester, making my reach in this capacity extensive. I also host classes at the museum and routinely give guest lectures in courses across the university. For example, I have worked with faculty in the College of Medicine to use the museum to instruct nursing students in inquiry-based observation techniques, I have given guest lectures to Art History graduate students on the changing technologies of online exhibition platforms, and I have discussed the arts and community resiliency with Urban and Regional Planning students.