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Education

Master of Fine Arts
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Post -Baccalaureate in Fine Art
Maryland Institute College of Art

Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, American Studies
Barnard College at Columbia University

SKILLS

Creative syllabus and lesson plan design

Classroom Management
(In-person and Online)

Digital Art and Technology
(Adobe Creative Suite, Canva, IPad Procreate, Drawing, Printing)

Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Fiber Media
Photography (Film and Digital)

Organizing Exhibitions -
Writing Proposals and Installation

Ali O'Leary

Visual Artist and Teacher

Creative and passionate Art Educator with 13+ years of experience in the classroom and developing comprehensive art curriculum for diverse student bodies.
Proficient in various artistic mediums (drawing, painting, sculpture, fiber media), digital art tools, and integrating technology into the classroom to improve the learning experience.
Expert in developing assignments that balance gaining technical skills with creative critical thinking and guide students toward professional applications.
Engaged with the local art community and consistently developing artistic practice.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Professor of Visual Arts — University of North Georgia
Aug. 2020 - Present

- Designing and leading (both in-person and online) courses on art theory, history, critique
  - **Drawing 1, 2D Design, Color Theory, Life Drawing, Art Appreciation**
- Developing courses focused on visual techniques, implementing unique assignments
- Creating syllabi and assignments focusing on both abstract critical thinking and hard skills
- Organizing live model sessions and facilitating their compensation
- Planning supply orders, organizing props, and maintaining studio space
- Helping students with portfolio development, plan of studies, and career opportunities

Freelance Photography and Design
2015 - Present

- Family portrait photography, commercial head-shots and professional spaces
- Graphic design for logos, websites, billboard and book covers
- Illustration for children's books and toys

Professor of Foundation Studies — SCAD - Atlanta
Sept. 2022- 2023

- Leading and designing **Life Drawing and Creative Thinking Strategies courses**
- Planning and guiding off-campus field trips and extra learning opportunities
- Developing course syllabi and Blackboard pages
- Completed Teaching Success Program
- Provided guidance for students on academic and career plans, portfolio reviews

Adjunct Professor of Art — Georgia Gwinnett College
Aug. 2016 - May 2020

- Developed syllabi and led courses on art history and contemporary art practices
  - **Art Appreciation, Drawing and 2-D Design (online and in-person)**
- Designed courses with focus on the elements of art - color theory, composition, perspective, line, etc.

Adjunct Professor of Art — Georgia Military College
Aug. 2015 - May 2021

- Created original courses incorporating art history and original studio art assignments
- Fostered students critical thinking skills in discussions and research papers
- Taught how formal elements visually communicate with the viewer

Ali O'Leary

Residencies

2025, 2024 - Re:Merge Artist Collective Residency, Cumming, GA

2016 - Walthall Artists Fellowship, WonderRoot, Atlanta, GA

2014 - Strathmore Fine Artist In Residence, Bethesda, MD

Volunteer Work

Community Food Bank - CAC

Environmental Clean Up - Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

PTO - High Point Elementary

Adjunct Professor — Westwood College
May 2015 - April 2016

- Implemented technically driven **Digital Photography, History of Graphic Design, Print Publication courses**
- Guided students portfolio development
- Created and presented lectures, studio and writing assignments, utilized contemporary technology and programs

Fashion Design Studio Assistant — Banfi Zambrelli, New York, NY
June 2014 - July 2015

- Illustrated design flats (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign)
- Organized new office space, order supplies, set up and track mailings
- Systematized material filing and design/product archives

Freelance Illustrator and Creative Administrator — Avanti Press, New York, NY
May 2014 - June 2015

- Developed and illustrated concepts for greeting cards consistent with company brand
- Archived and organized photographic and illustrator files

Visiting Lecturer — University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2013

- Designed interdisciplinary and technically rigorous courses in **digital/analog photography**
- Lectured on contemporary artists and theory, facilitated discussions and critiques
- Executed image editing and digital manipulations with a variety of software
- Maintained darkroom mechanisms and chemicals, lighting studio, digital lab and equipment

Teaching Fellow and Research Assistant — University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2011-2013

- Instructed and developed courses, led group discussions and critiques, graded projects
- Guided project development, research, composition and presentation of work
- Composed grants and proposals- researched, coordinated, edited and submitted
- Organized and streamlined image databases, reference materials, digital and print archives

Writing and Thesis Mentor — Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
2010-2011

- Served as advisor, mentor, and editor to college seniors writing and creating their thesis

Reference Assistant — Barnard College Library, New York, NY
2007-2010

- Utilized library resources and archives to aid students in research and project management
- Updated library reference websites/blogs
- Organized library reference materials and maintained computers and printers