CHARLES COOPER

Visual Artist | Educator

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Mercer County Community College — West Windsor, New Jersey
Adjunct Professor, Art 105: Two-Dimensional Design | 2025–Present

University of the Arts — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Faculty, School of Art / College of Art, Media and Design | 1997–2024

- **Associate Professor** | 2024
- **Assistant Professor, School of Art, Fine Arts** | 2020–2024
- **Director, First Year Experience** | 2019–2020
- **Co-Director, Core Studies / First Year Experience** | 2016–2019
- **Adjunct Associate Professor, Core Studies** | 2013–2015
- **Visiting Assistant Professor, Core Studies** | 2012–2013
- **Visiting Assistant Professor, Foundation Program** | 2005–2012
- **Master Lecturer, Foundation Program** | 2005
- **Senior Lecturer, Foundation Program** | 1997–2005
- **Adjunct Professor, Painting Program** | 1998–2002

Courses Taught

Drawing: Objects and Space; Drawing: Natural Forms and the Human Figure; Drawing Ideation; Drawing A and B; Two-Dimensional Design (Black and White and Color); Color in Art, Film and Design; 2D Image/Time; Fundamentals of Design; Freshman Oil Painting.

Moore College of Art and Design — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Adjunct Professor, Watercolor Painting and Painting on Paper (Mixed Media) | 1995–1996

Mercer County Community College — West Windsor, New Jersey
Adjunct Professor, Typography I and Production Process | 1995–1996

Yale University School of Art — New Haven, Connecticut
Teaching Assistant, Introductory Painting; Supervisor: John Hull | 1994

EDUCATION

Yale University School of Art — New Haven, Connecticut
MFA, Painting and Printmaking | 1995

University of the Arts — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
BFA, Illustration, with Honors | 1988

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & SERVICE

University of the Arts

- Director, First Year Experience | 2019–2020
- Co-Director, Core Studies / First Year Experience | 2016–2019
- Curriculum Committee | 2016–2019
- Executive Council | 2016–2019
- UCAT Subcommittee on Technology Literacy | 2015–2018
- Dean Search Committee | 2021–2022
- Criteria for Hiring, Renewal, and Promotion Ad Hoc Committee | 2021
- Fine Arts Exhibition Committee | 2021–2024
- Fine Arts Special Project Space Coordinator | 2022
- First Year Painting Advisor | 2020–2024
- Illustration Full-Time Faculty Search Committee | 2018
- Curriculum development for Image/Time; Color in Art, Film and Design; Observational Drawing; and Drawing Ideation | 2011–2013
- Sweeney Award jury, multiple years
- Admissions, open house, and portfolio reviews
- Section and freshman advising in Foundation and Core Studies programs

AWARDS & GRANTS

Individual Artist Fellowship in Painting
New Jersey State Council on the Arts | 2024
Fellowship award: $27,000

Third Place Award
6th Annual Juried Exhibition, Cerulean Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 2018

Third Place Award
4th Annual Juried Exhibition, Cerulean Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 2016

Faculty Enrichment Grant
University of the Arts | 2011

Venture Fund Grant
University of the Arts | 2002

Two Purchase Awards and Work of Distinction Award
Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, New Jersey | 2001

EXHIBITIONS

2026

Family Ties
Cerulean Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Group exhibition.

Cerulean Arts' 20th Anniversary Exhibition
Cerulean Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Group exhibition.

Fall Annual Juried Exhibition
Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, New Jersey. Juried exhibition.

Mercer County Community College Faculty Exhibition
Mercer County Community College, New Jersey.

2025

No Vessel Can Hold the River
Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mercer County Community College Faculty Exhibition
Mercer County Community College, New Jersey.

Shapes of Color
Nancy Devine Gallery, Rhode Island.

2024

Freedom of Expression
Dupree Gallery, Lambertville, New Jersey.

The Figure: Portraiture and Narrative
Wayne Art Center, Wayne, Pennsylvania. Juried exhibition; juror: Scott Noel.

2023

Two by Two
Cerulean Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Group exhibition.

14th Annual Contemporary Drawing Exhibition
Tucker Cooke Gallery, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.

55th Annual National Drawing and Small Sculpture Show
Joseph A. Cain Memorial Art Gallery, Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, Texas.

2022

Drawn Together: School of Art Faculty Exhibition
School of Art Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Art at Kings Oaks
Newtown, Pennsylvania. Curated by Alex Cohen and Clara Weishahn.

2021

Familiar Faces
Cerulean Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2018

6th Annual Juried Exhibition
Cerulean Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Art Alliance UArts Faculty Show
Art Alliance at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2017

Time Line: Looking Forward Through the Rearview Mirror
Painting Gallery, Anderson Hall, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Perpetual Subject
Hamilton/Arronson Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2016

Beyond the Blues: African American Music and Culture
Columbia Art Center, Columbia, Maryland.

140 University of the Arts, Faculty at the Kimmel
Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Faculty Exhibition at MCCC
Fine Arts Gallery, Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

Celebration of Color
Dupree Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

4th Annual Juried Exhibition
Cerulean Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2014

Our Journey: 75 Years of African-American Art
The Jack and Jill Exhibition and Auction, New York, New York.

Passage: My Journey from Grief to Recovery
Drawings and Prints, Willingboro Public Library, Willingboro, New Jersey.

2010

Works on Paper
Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, New Jersey.

2009

N.C.A. Invitational: Past and Present
Dupree Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Faculty Exhibition
University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2007

About Face
University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2004

Inner Space
Arts Council of Princeton, Princeton, New Jersey.

2003

Esther M. Klein Art Gallery
University City Science Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2001

Works on Paper
Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, New Jersey.

Faculty Exhibition
University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1999

Adjunct Faculty Exhibition, Painting Department
University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1995

The Faculty Exhibition
Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1994

Student International Art Biennial
Art Gallery–Skopje, Republic of Macedonia.

Yale Graduate Student Show
New Haven, Connecticut.

1992

Contemporary Abstractions
Esther M. Klein Art Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mixed Media Center for the Arts in Southern New Jersey
Marlton, New Jersey.

American Drawing Biennial II
Muscarelle Museum of Art, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

1990

Cumberland County College Art Exhibition
Cumberland County College, Vineland, New Jersey.

1989

Africasmericas Festival: Spiritual Rebirth
Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Afro-American Experience
Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1986

The Perspective Figure: Paintings and Mixed Media
Penn State Berks Campus, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The Rights Movement: Past Dreams, Present Vision
Lawrence Gallery, Rosemont College, Rosemont, Pennsylvania.

PUBLICATIONS & REVIEWS

New American Paintings, Northeast Edition, No. 170
February/March 2024. Editor's Pick; juror: Amy Sherald.

Toho Journal
Volume 2, Issue 2, 2020; online edition, Fall/Winter 2020.

"Charles in Charge," Roberta Fallon
Philadelphia Weekly, April 23, 2003.

"Willingboro Artist Captures Prizes for 'Works on Paper,'" Gail T. Boatman
Burlington County Times, September 30, 2001.

AUTHORSHIP

Passage: My Journey from Grief to Recovery
Poems and drawings. Authored and published by Charles A. Cooper | 2014.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, Delaware.
- Newark Museum, New Jersey.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

New Jersey State Council on the Arts
Intern; Visual Arts Coordinator: Tom Moran | 1994

Educational Testing Service — Princeton, New Jersey
Publication Artist | 1991–1993
Mechanical Artist | 1989–1991

African American Historical and Cultural Museum — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Graphic Designer and Assistant Exhibition Coordinator | 1985–1989

United States Marine Corps
Sergeant; Honorable Discharge | 1980–1984