
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

- **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