

DENNIS M. BURKE

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- **Name:** Dennis Michael Burke
- **Address:** 2605 S Indiana Ave, unit 904, Chicago, IL 60616
- **Phone:** (708) 400 - 2030 (primary)
- **Email:** dennismburke@yahoo.com, email@dennismburke.com
- **Website:** www.dennismburke.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:

Dynamic Interdisciplinary Arts Instructor with over two decades of experience fostering creativity and innovation in diverse educational settings. Committed to student-centered learning, I integrate interdisciplinary approaches while promoting inclusivity and collaboration. My passion lies in merging artistic practice with education to cultivate the next generation of creative leaders through authentic and reflective learning experiences. As an educator and artist, I believe in the transformative power of art and education to inspire change and foster a deeper understanding of the world. My educational philosophy is rooted in both perennialism and progressivism, emphasizing a balance between timeless knowledge and student-centered learning. I strive to create an engaging and inclusive environment where students are encouraged to explore their creativity, develop critical thinking skills, and embrace their unique identities. My goal is to empower students to become proactive learners and thoughtful contributors to society, equipped with the tools to navigate and shape their futures. Through collaboration, experimentation, and reflection, I aim to cultivate a passion for lifelong learning in every student I meet.

EDUCATION:

- **MEd, Visual Arts Secondary Education**, DePaul University, Chicago (June 2023 - Present, Expected Graduation: Dec 2025) | GPA: 4.0, TEACH Grant recipient (2023 - 25) | Key Courses: Teaching Elementary ELL, Introduction to Elementary Education, Teacher as Artist, Learning Through the Arts, Assessment Practices, Independent Studio Topics
- **MFA, Interdisciplinary Arts and Media Studies**, Columbia College Chicago (Sept 2011 - May 2014) | Thesis Project: HomeSweetHouse | Cumulative GPA: 3.744 | Key Courses: Screen Media, Performance Aesthetics, Media Performance, Art as Practice, Screen Media Laboratory, Public Art, Art As Discourse, Image, Time and Motion, History of New Media, Thesis II
- **BFA, 2-D Studio Art**, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston (Sept 2001 - May 2005) | Total Earned Credits: 127 | GPA: 2.79 | Key Courses: Drawing I, Life Drawing, Painting I, Sculpture I, Art History I, Modern Art II (1960 - 1990) | Recipient: Ruth C. Boyd Excellence in Fine Arts Scholarship (2001 - 05)
- **Certificate, Painting & Drawing Studies**, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Sept 2006 - May 2008) | Courses: Figure Studio, Drawing and Painting Critique, Drawing and Painting Studio STAB, Advanced Painting & Drawing
- **Study Abroad:** Advanced Painting and Drawing, Lorenzo De' Medici Art Institute, Florence, Italy (Sept 2004 - May 2005)
- **Continuing Education in Portraiture**, Moraine Valley College (July 2002)
- **High School Diploma**, Carl Sandburg High School, Orland Park, IL (1998 - 2001) | Programs: AP and Independent Study in Studio Art

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- **Substitute Teacher**, Consolidated High School District 230 (Oct 2024 - Present)
 - Lead classroom sessions across multiple subjects, provide individualized support to students, adapt teaching methods to meet diverse learning needs, support classroom discipline and engagement.
- **Visual Arts Instructor**, Park District of Highland Park (May 2023 - Nov 2024)
 - Conduct specialized art instruction sessions, support learning progress records, adapt teaching methods for inclusivity and engagement, work with diverse age groups and skill levels.
 - educational performance, use technology in teaching, providing students with diverse resources.
- **Theatrical Set Designer**, Chicago High School for the Arts (Jan 2023 - Nov 2024)
 - Manage project budgets and oversee construction builds, ensure safety protocols, enhance student theatrical performances through creative design.
- **Theatrical Set Designer**, Chicago Theatre Company (Jan 2022 - Dec 2022)
 - Streamlined workflow processes, eased collaboration between faculty and students, managed technical rehearsals, ensured adherence to safety standards.
- **Chicago Teaching Residency**, Chicago Academy High School (Sept 2023 - Nov 2023)
 - Assist mentor teacher, conduct lessons, help students.
- **Production Coordinator**, Columbia College Chicago, Cinema & Television Department (Oct 2018 - Aug 2022)
 - Developed extensive interactive production planning process, improved workflow and collaboration among faculty and students, supervised students to proactively find and resolve obstacles and safety concerns, assisted with industry regulations and municipal compliance.
- **Budget Manager and Executive Assistant**, Columbia College Chicago, Facilities & Operations Dept. (Oct 2016 - Oct 2018)
 - Managed budget planning cycles for annual operations of plant budget (over \$13 million), developed reports for senior leadership decision-making, led administrative support to staff, faculty, and contractors, aided with managing construction projects.

- **Administrative Assistant / Office Manager**, Columbia College Chicago, Facilities & Engineering Dept. (June 2014 - Oct 2016)
 - Maintained office, assigned work orders, and helped with budgets and projects.
- **Teaching Associate**, Columbia College Chicago, Television & New Media Dept. (Sept 2012 - May 2014)
 - Contributed to curriculum and conducted workshops, prepared and executed lectures on experimental video and theoretical application, performed lab demonstrations for video/image editing software, evaluated and graded examinations, assignments, and papers.
- **Guest Educator and Lecturer**, Columbia College Chicago, Interdisciplinary Arts & Media Department (Oct 2013 - Feb 2014)
 - Structured lessons and workshops for graduate students, presented demonstrations on installation and display, provided consultation for thesis work and exhibitions, encouraged student participation and critical thinking, adapted instructional strategies, named creative sources for complex subjects, engaged learners to promote dialogue, used varied educational tools for instruction.
- **Independent Contractor and Design/Fabrication**, Various Projects (June 2013 - Present)
 - Freelance designer and fabricator for theatrical productions and art installations, project management, creative design, and practical fabrication techniques.
- **Material Handling Specialist**, The Merchandise Mart (June 2008 - Sept 2011)
 - Supervised material handling teams, coordinated planning for large-scale events and exhibitions, ensured safety protocols and efficient operations.
- **Construction Trades**, The Walsh Construction Group (Jan 2001 - June 2008)
 - Participated in various construction projects, focusing on quality workmanship and safety standards.

CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES:

- Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL), IEIN# 933335, ID# 2643836 (Pre-Completion of Program, Sept 2023)
- Illinois Substitute Educator License (SU), IEIN# 933335, ID# 2654861 (Nov 2023 - June 2029)
- Google Educator Certificate: Level 1, ID# 7432606 (Nov 2023)
- Illinois Content Test (ICTS) - 214 - Visual Arts: Pass (Sept 2023)
- SAIC: Painting and Drawing Certificate (May 2008)
- CPR and First Aid Certification (valid through June 2025)
- Mandated Reporter Training Certificate (2.0 CEUs), Issued: 04/05/2023
- Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response for Illinois, Issued: 04/06/2023
- Educator Certificate: Level 1, Google (2023 - 26)

SKILLS:

- **Artistic Skills:** Visual Arts (Expert), Drawing (Expert), Painting (Expert), Mixed Media (Expert), Studio Art (Expert), Set Design (Experienced), Sculpture, Digital Photography, Collage, Conceptual Art, Abstract Paintings, Figure Drawing, Portrait Painting.
- **Educational Skills:** Teaching (Skillful), Curriculum Development, Art Education, Educational Leadership, Adult Education, Classroom Management, Differentiated Instruction.
- **Professional Skills:** Project Management (Experienced), Budget Management (Expert), Leadership (Experienced), Administration and Management, Critical and Creative Thinking, Team Leadership and Peer Collaboration, Attention to Detail and Time Management, Organization and Prioritization, Research and Analysis, Account Management.
- **Technical Skills:** Digital Media, Adobe Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, AI and ChatGPT, Video Editing, Multimedia, Microsoft Office, Mac Proficiency.
- **Additional Skills:** Artistic Direction, Creative Problem Solving, Design Thinking, Research Skills, Construction (10+ years), Art Direction (10+ years), Illustration (analogue & digital), Graphic Design, Branding, Marketing, Media Production, Budgeting, Data Entry, File Management.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

- National Arts Education Association (NAEA) (2024 - Present)
- New Media Caucus (NMC) (2023 - Present)
- Chicago Artist Coalition (CAC) (2023 - Present)
- Illinois Art Education Association (IAEA) (2023 - Present)
- Illinois Education Association (IEA) (2017 - Present)
- National Education Association (NEA) (2017 - Present)
- College Art Association (CAA) (2011 - Present)

AWARDS AND HONORS:

- TEACH Grant, DePaul University (2023 - 25)
- 1st place, City-Wide painting competition, Florence, Italy (2005)
- 1st place, Ruth C. Boyd-Cook Memorial Painting Award (2004)
- NAEA Illinois State Representative, Metropolitan Museum of Art (2001)
- Excellence in High School Portfolio, Rhode Island School of Design (2001)
- Ruth C. Boyd Excellence in Fine Arts Scholarship, Eastern Illinois University (2001 - 05)
- Illinois Advanced Placement in Arts [Exam and Program]; Score of 5/5 (2001)

- Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL) Chicago Teaching Residency | Scholarship (2023)

PUBLICATIONS:

- Interview: Canvas Rebel (2023)
- HomeSweetHouse: Self-published digital book (2014)
- MFA THESIS CATALOGUE: Paneled (2014)
- 'Art of Fearlessness' campaign, College Art Association Art Journal (2013)
- FOUNTAIN FOUNDATION AT 916: Invitational (2013)
- STUDENT RESEARCH PAGE: Invitational (2012)
- Visiting Artist Exhibition & Catalogue, Mac Worthington Contemporary Art Gallery (2009)
- Best of America Mixed Media: Volume 2, Kennedy Publishing (2009)
- Advanced Placement Vertical Guide to Studio Art, Illinois College Board of Education (2002)
- Apple iBOOKS, HsH THESIS ARTIST BOOK: Self Published (2014)

EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED):

- GRADUATE THESIS EXHIBITION; Interdisciplinary Art & Media @ Center for Book and Paper (2014)
- MANIFEST; Christie tiles collaboration @ 33 S. Columbus Dr. (2014)
- ELEVATE, Art & Activism Popup, Columbia College Chicago (2013)
- Graduate Student Exhibition/Screening, Expo Chicago (2013)
- Fountain Foundation Project, Columbia College Chicago (2013)
- For Public Consumption; Popup Installation, Block 37, Chicago (2013)
- BRING YOUR OWN BEAMER; Raw Space @ Columbia College Chicago (2013)
- MANIFEST URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL; student stages @ Columbia College Chicago (2013)
- Oosp Group Exhibition, Solid Ground Studio, Chicago, IL (2012)
- Resident Artist, 4ART Inc. Gallery, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL (2010)
- COLUMBUS ART WALK; group exhibition @ Mac Worthington Gallery (2009)
- PHASE VII EXTENDED GROUP EXHIBITION; 4ART Inc. @ Pilsen Arts Center (2009)
- PROGRESSIVE SELF - EXPRESSION; Gallery X & Base Space @ Art Institute of Chicago (2008)
- Lorenzo de' Medici; student exhibitions @ LdM Florence (2005, 2004)
- CITYWIDE; STUDENT COMPETITION @ The American Church in Florence (2005)
- RUTH C. BOYD - COOK MEMORIAL; exhibition @ Burl Ives Art Center (2004)
- TARBLE ARTS CENTER; student exhibition @ Tarble Arts Center (2004)
- CREATIVE SELF EXPRESSION; group exhibition @ The Great Frame Up (2004)
- HUMAN ENTERPRISE EXHIBITION; collaboration @ Gallery 37 (2001)
- SOUTH INTER - CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION; @ Moraine Valley College (2001)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Eastern Illinois University (2004)
- Varsity Wrestling, Carl Sandburg High School (1998 - 2001)
- Team Illinois, USA Junior National Wrestling Championship, Fargo, ND (2001)
- Illinois State Wrestling Tournament, IHSA, Champaign, IL (2000 - 2001)
- District 230 Varsity Gymnastics, Andrew/Stagg/Sandburg High School (1998 - 2000)
- Event Worker: Boys' Wrestling - Carl Sandburg High School (2024)

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Interdisciplinary methods
- Contemporary art theory
- Conceptual analysis
- Image production in contemporary contexts
- Emerging technologies and new media study
- Masculinity and male identity in art
- Integration of AI in K-12 education

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

Education is a primer for transformation and as an artist and a teacher with over 20 years of experience, I've seen this transformation take place countless times—in my students, in myself, and in how we engage with the world around us. My educational journey, from working-class beginnings to becoming a first-generation college graduate, has powerfully shaped my teaching philosophy, providing me with a deep respect for the various pathways that lead students to the classroom.

My teaching practice is a blend of experiential principles of art and contemporary pedagogical methods, shaped by my diverse educational journey. From earning a BFA at Eastern Illinois University and studying in Florence, Italy, to completing an MFA at Columbia College Chicago, continuing education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and now pursuing a Master of Education at DePaul University, I've cultivated a pedagogical approach that honors artistic tradition while embracing educational innovation. I encourage my students to see themselves not as passive observers but as active co-creators in the artistic process, embodying the essence of what they produce.

This philosophy is expressed in projects that merge the boundaries between traditional and contemporary forms. Students can begin with charcoal sketches and conclude with digital manipulations, learning how to blend techniques seamlessly.

with the available technology. This 'media hybridization' approach not only equips students with a versatile skill set but also encourages them to explore the evolving nature of artistic expression. Assessment in my classroom is multi-dimensional, incorporating peer review, reflective writing, and electronic portfolios to name a few. Through pre-assessment at the start of each unit to gauge prior knowledge and ongoing monitoring, I tailor instruction to individual and group needs.

My diverse work background—from managing a \$13 million budget as a Budget Manager at Columbia College Chicago to working with groups at the Merchandise Mart to pouring concrete at Fort Bragg—has given me a unique sensitivity to applying creativity to everyday situations. Currently, as a substitute teacher in the Chicago suburbs, I continue to sharpen my skills in adapting to diverse classroom environments. This adaptability, combined with a strong emphasis on hard work and inclusion, creates a learning environment where students are both challenged and supported.

Looking to the future, I am eager to explore the potential of emerging technologies in art education, particularly in STEAM settings. Regardless of the medium, my goal stays constant: to help students understand the profound value of art in society. In pursuing this ideal, I strive to nurture not only artists but also thoughtful, creative individuals capable of navigating and shaping our complex world.

My teaching practice is grounded in creating an inclusive, experiential, and transformative space for learning and making. I encourage my students to think critically, be their authentic selves, and become fully present in their surrounding. By setting grand expectations, showing a positive learning community, and attending to individual differences, I strive to inspire each student not only to value the transformational power of learning but also to recognize their potential as artists and 'social sculptors' of their time.

ABOUT:

Born in Chicago, Illinois. Interest in the arts started at an early age, encouraged by family and Italian grandmother who also painted. Enrolled in local district classes for youths in basic drawing and art making. Later studied Advanced Placement in Drawing and Independent Study in Studio Art with an amazing high school arts teacher who played a significant role in development as an artist and student. Believes dedicating one's life to creative activity or art is the greatest act of freedom any human being can engage in. Views art as inherent in all, taking part in the "sculptural" act of thinking and idea making. Sees every individual as contributing to "Social Sculpture" (Joseph Beuys concept), molding the environment through thoughts and ideas. Considers art the ultimate act of freedom.

WHY I WANT TO BE A TEACHER:

At first, I struggle with this question because it was obvious why anyone would want to be a teacher. There are so many benefits that manifest in so many ways. In my thinking, the answer was clear. Since I cannot necessarily just say "*who wouldn't want to be a teacher*" – I gave it some thought and the first thing that came to mind is a motto I live by. "I want to bring joy to others so that I may be joyous myself." This is something I repeat often. It is the foundation by which I live daily. It is something I strive for even through the toughest of times.

When I say "bring joy" I am not speaking in general terms. I am thinking of the joys that come from overcoming challenges, inspiring oneself and others, the joy of having goals, the joy of reaching for dreams, the joy of doing something you thought you could not do. I want to bring the joy I have felt throughout the 25+ years of learning and academic accomplishment to others. I mentioned tough times, and I must say I have faced many. Without going into details, I have many of the challenges young people and students face every day (e.g., learning disability, social economic challenges, family dynamics, etc.). My challenges have only made me a stronger person, a more rounded individual, and a more successful mentor and adviser to others. This is why I want to be a teacher – could instill values and inspiring enthusiasm for learning and for overcoming challenges.

I am devoted to the idea that all students should have access to quality education, and I am determined to help them reach their full potential. The passage of knowledge is fundamental to sociological change. I want to be a teacher because I believe in the importance of education for creating a better society. Teaching provides me with an opportunity to shape young minds and inspire the next generation to become productive, successful citizens. Within the exchange between the teacher and the pupil there is a mutual transference of ideas and considerations that bloom within them both. I uphold the philosophies of artists like Joseph Beuys; *'that everyone is an artist, and that art is an act of social sculpture.'* *'To be a teacher is [the] greatest work of art.'*

CAREER OBJECTIVE:

Secure a career to inspire, encourage, and work alongside others in realizing collaborative goals and individual accomplishments. Adaptable professional with extensive experience in leadership, problem-solving, and workflow prioritization. Determined to succeed, innovate, communicate ideas, and overcome challenges. Detail-oriented, dependable, reliable, ready to learn and grow professionally.

RESEARCH STATEMENT:

Research agenda situated at intersections of interdisciplinary method, art historical analysis, new media theory, and critical reflexivity. Particularly interested in questions concerning image production; what it is, how it is constituted and reshaped, how people respond to and negotiate it – especially in current sociological contexts and under conditions of emerging technologies, multimedia adaptations, and immersive experiences. While focused on contemporary theory and digital epoch, drawing and painting form foundations of understanding creative activity, didactic ideology, and critical analysis.

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As an educator and artist, I believe in the transformative power of art and education to inspire change and foster a deeper understanding of the world. My educational philosophy is rooted in both perennialism and progressivism, emphasizing a

balance between timeless knowledge and student-centered learning. I strive to create an engaging and inclusive environment where students are encouraged to explore their creativity, develop critical thinking skills, and embrace their unique identities.

My diverse background, from working-class beginnings to becoming a first-generation college graduate, has provided me with a deep respect for the various pathways that lead students to the classroom. This journey has shaped my commitment to creating inclusive learning environments that honor each student's unique experiences and perspectives.

In my teaching practice, I blend experiential principles of art with contemporary pedagogical methods. I encourage students to see themselves not as passive observers but as active co-creators in the artistic process. By merging traditional techniques with digital technologies, I prepare students for the evolving landscape of visual arts while fostering a deep appreciation for artistic heritage.

My goal is to empower students to become proactive learners and thoughtful contributors to society, equipped with the tools to navigate and shape their futures. Through collaboration, experimentation, and reflection, I aim to cultivate a passion for lifelong learning in every student I encounter.

Looking to the future, I am eager to explore the potential of emerging technologies in art education, particularly in STEAM settings. Regardless of the medium, my goal stays constant: to help students understand the profound value of art in society and to nurture thoughtful, creative individuals capable of navigating and shaping our complex world.

