

## **Art Education Philosophy**

Kate Duffy

I am an experienced art educator with 14 years working in the public schools and art-based community nonprofits.

I believe that every person should have access to a creative outlet. The regular practice of visual and performing arts advances skills in creative thinking and problem solving. I have seen firsthand that the arts promote curiosity, persistence, empathy, executive functioning, and confidence. I know the arts can reduce anxiety and the reduction of anxiety will increase a person's ability to learn. Enrollment in an art class can increase a young person's overall attendance and engagement in school. The arts can reach those on the margins. Those that are differently abled, English as a second language learners, socioeconomically challenged and everybody else. I think art heals. I am a person who is able to provide the guidance and facilitate an experience for that healing through making.