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## **Teaching Philosophy**

*Cogito ergo sum* - René Descartes

Lee's primary goal in teaching is to instill the "joy of making" because fulfillment gained from creating with one's hands leads to curiosity and the desire to employ one's mind.

The act of making art results from and influences our thought processes rationally and subconsciously. As in Lee's education, concepts from art making were extended to the sciences, math, English, and other subjects in school as well as to the evaluation of values and principles encountered in his life. More importantly, the act of making art allows the human mind to be freed from its reliance on logical thinking and lets the imagination shine through. "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand," said Albert Einstein, a genius with both analytical and imaginative faculties. The act of making allows for another way to comprehend abstract ideas in addition to that gained through text book exercises alone. Learning from exploration with one's senses is a method that should not be dismissed lightly.

Finally, art results from inspiration, but it also inspires. Pragmatic improvements are made using innovations from all areas of design; social consciousness is inspired by icons like the Statue of Liberty. With art, Lee wishes to guide his students towards curiosity, awareness, and thought by first helping them feel the "joy of making."

