

Upon entry to the Queens College Master of Fine Arts Program, Social Practice Concentration, I will have two and a half years of experience as a public high school visual arts teacher, while pursuing my own burgeoning personal art practice synchronously. I possess a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and a Bachelor of Science in Art Education from the State University of New York at New Paltz. The experience of living, teaching, and creating as a New Yorker for the past several years has inspired my decision to further pursue my education at Queens College. Many of the educators and administrators with whom I work on a daily basis are Queens College graduates. The reputation of and respect for your institution among my peers has made me all the more intrigued about the opportunities Queens College has to offer. I feel that the Social Practice MFA program at Queens College is a perfect fit for me for many reasons, and I would be honored to be able to commit to the Graduate Studio Art Program for my post-bachelor's education.

The Social Practice Queens Program stood out to me because, while my BFA is in photography, I enjoy working across different disciplines in my arts practice. I am interested in an MFA program where I would be able to use multiple mediums to explore ideas and experiment with new ways of creating. A majority of my personal work is rooted in social issues relating to the LGBT\* community. I feel that this program would help me more critically analyze my personal practice through the lens of urban research. While I have been exploring my personal identity, as well as my identity as a member of a marginalized community, in my work for quite some time, I feel that I am at a point where it is time to explore new ideas, topics, and facets of the world around me. I feel that the Social Practice Queens program would give me the tools necessary to truly dig into research and material exploration as I make new discoveries about the direction of my life as an artist.

My position as a public school educator is an important part of my identity. I believe that teachers have a huge impact on the lives of their students,

and it is my primary goal as an educator to help students learn and grow as individuals. I feel that the Social Practice Queens program would allow me to make artwork relating to the Queens community that I'm already invested in, and also allow me to discover ways to strengthen and give back to it through the service learning and community art aspects of the program.

I am passionate about making art related to things that I truly believe matter, and in bringing to light voices and realities over which society often tries to cast a shadow. I believe that concentrating in Social Practice Art in the Queens College Master of Fine Arts Program will truly allow me to continue making this important work at a new level.