

TEACHER FEATURE with

Nina Bellisio



How did you get started in Graphic Design? My back-

ground is in photography. I studied it both as an undergraduate in New York and as a graduate student here in the Bay Area. But I've always been interested in layout, in the context in which we view images. My photo projects frequently include text and multiple images. In terms of graphic design, I feel like I'm more of a curator than a designer. I find provocative examples of design to share with my class, provide historical context and challenge them to think creatively about their own concepts and ideas.

How long have you been at Ai? I've been teaching at Ai since 1999.

What is the best thing about teaching?

Watching people learn. The most rewarding part about teaching is when you present something truly new to a student. Something that makes a connection in their mind or that opens a door to deeper understanding.

What is your teaching philosophy?

I would like to make students into thinkers or researchers. I would like students to

be able to not only find their own answers but to know how to ask themselves the right questions. School doesn't last forever (unless you're a teacher) but learning should.

When you aren't teaching, what are you doing?

More teaching. I mentor high school students that are interested in photography and teach them traditional (film) photo skills. I also cook. I love to pick out a recipe, get the ingredients at the farmer's market and spend the evening cooking and listening to music.

Where do you hope to take the Design Innovation Club?

This is starting to happen already— I would like the club to be a conduit between students and the design community. We're now an AIGA (the professional organization for design) student chapter and have been connecting with local members of the organization for lectures and studio visits. I would also like the club to be a place that showcases the best student design work, highlighting the personal projects and interests of the members.

What inspires you?

Selflessness. I'm inspired by people who are not afraid to take risks and who think about the big picture rather than about personal gain.

Where are you from? Joisey. The Jersey Shore.

What brought you to San Francisco?

The weather. And I wasn't sure what I was going to do with a BFA, so I followed some friends with more tangible goals.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Cornell University for my BFA and UC Berkeley for my MFA. I'm currently taking classes in educational technology through Columbia Teachers College.

What does the future hold for Nina Bellisio?

This is the only question I've really had to think about! I'm thinking about writing a book about teaching sustainable design, based on what I've learned from my Senior Project students here. I would also like to work more with the local community. There is an organization called Project M in which students spend their summer helping those in need with their design skills. I would like to start something like that here. There is poverty right outside the classroom and I know we can do something to help.

Nina Bellisio teaches Photography, Advanced Image Manipulation, Project Study, Senior Project and Special Topics. She is also the advisor for the Design Innovation Club.

BEAT

Because In Everything Art Thrives

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ONE LAST WORD: Editor's Note

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with the production of the BEAT Magazine since its inception. Seriously, thank you.

I've thought a lot about what to write in this message from the editor and I realized it didn't need to be a grand statement about the meaning of life, just something real and sincere. Here it goes.

Take risks, lots of them. Live in the moment and remember, as artists we have the ability to speak to the world in a unique way. Use it to its full extent. Leave your mark. Do it honestly, and design your heart out.



Submit Your Work

Submission Information:

- Files need to be CMYK
- At least 300 dpi
- You must include a signed release form which can be obtained in the BEAT faculty drive folder or by emailing: aicasf.beat@gmail.com

Ways to Submit:

- Faculty drive > AICASF Clubs > BEAT Magazine folder > 'IN' folder
- Email: aicasf.beat@gmail.com
- Questions? Contact Lorraine Woodcheke at: lwoodcheke@aii.edu or 415.276.4019

We want to include your work in the next issue!

ALL programs are welcome, and encouraged to send in any submissions they would like for possible inclusion in the Student Archive section of the next BEAT Magazine. What are you waiting for? Send it over!

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