

January, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter in support of an exceptional artist and educator, Renee Silva, a current student pursuing her MAT in Art Education and Initial License in Visual Arts Teaching for Grades 5-12 at Tufts University/ School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

Renee is a leader in our art education community since she arrived on the Tufts/SMFA campus. She is well known by all our faculty for her intellectual curiosity, diligence in her classes, and community-oriented mindset. She is a thoughtful class member who regularly supports her peers in discussion and willingly shares her own experiences from the classroom. Renee is someone who takes initiative, participates thoroughly, and brings a level of joy, excitement, and passion to everything she does.

I am aware of Renee's current work as an art teacher at Phillips Academy and know that she consistently tries out new ideas from her MAT classes in order to improve student learning. She is an avid researcher and readily absorbs ideas and concepts, easily bringing current theories into her practice. In her own teaching, Renee takes on extra challenges and works hard to know her students and meet their needs in order to help them create meaningful work. She is concerned with issues of diversity, social justice, globalism, and equity, in addition to helping students understand the complexity of today's art world. Renee is a true innovator in terms of curriculum design, pushing the boundaries of how students make connections in the art room. Her end-of-term research project expertly explored how to deconstruct the drawing curriculum to make it more inclusive and student-centered. It went above and beyond as it also laid the groundwork for curriculum development for the future. It is hard to summarize her strengths and all that she brings to the table in terms of her potential for the field of art education. She is a talented educator whose creative vision knows no bounds.

On a personal note, Renee is a pleasure to work with and is always responsible, prompt, and reliable. I admire her vast art historical knowledge, love of contemporary art, and dedication to the field. Her willingness to collaborate with all members of the community bodes well for her future in the education world. As an artist, educator, and former art teacher, I can confidently recommend Renee for a teaching position. She is more than ready to move to the next step of her career, and she is committed to being the best artist and teacher she can be. I know with all confidence that she will be an outstanding member of your community

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. I can be reached directly at (617) 501-7862 or via email, patricia.palmer@tufts.edu.

Sincerely,

Patricia Palmer

Patricia Palmer
Lecturer in Education at Tufts/SMFA