

Jacintha Biesek

ARTIST
ART EDUCATOR
CONSERVATOR



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I am a multidisciplinary researcher and practitioner with a background in Visual Cultures, Art History, and Conservation. My work spans academic research, exhibition production, artefact care, and arts education, with a focus on the intersections of materiality, architecture, identity, and storytelling. Grounded in both curatorial and creative practices, I explore how visual culture communicates across time, space, and community—shaping cultural memory and advocating for sustainable, inclusive narratives. With experience in both institutional and independent contexts, I am committed to deep research, public engagement, and crafting meaningful connections between art, history, and society.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Goldsmiths College, University of London

BA HISTORY OF ART(HONS), 2.1 - 2015-2018

Awarded Second Upper with Hons

Pursuing a degree in Goldsmiths College under the Visual Cultures department pushed my abilities. It honed my expertise and confidence as an artist and educator, expanding my lenses and capability of what innovation we can endeavour and realise across multi-disciplines, making it relevant and sustainable for this ever-changing complex world we live in today.

DISSERTATION TITLE: WINDOWS

Explored the thresholds of windows; the relationship between the looking out of our windows from the safety and comfort of our home and the onlookers who peer into our windows. The culture of surveillance and how the naive rectangular frame plays a huge role in our everyday lives by exploring art theories, paintings and sculptures of Windows. I am specialised in Urban Architecture and Revolutions, which looked at how cities are built at great length and depth, how architectures take form and shape in their physicality and in our lives and the effects and impacts on the living in the name of preserving history and heritage. I also specialised in Curatorial Spaces and Events, which studied in depth the form curatorial spaces and events take outside the gallery and museum walls.

My academic research explored architecture as a threshold between private and public lives. My dissertation, titled "WINDOWS", examined the symbolic and literal roles windows play—from architectural frames and devices of surveillance to digital screens in contemporary society. Drawing on art theory, sculpture, and architectural studies, I investigated how built environments shape our gaze, movement, and sense of belonging. I complemented this with research papers on urbanisation and its effects on identity and culture, focusing on the lived experiences of communities as cities grow denser and more digitally entangled. My studies in London sharpened my interest in how visual cultures intersect with politics, anthropology, and spatial design—values I bring into every project I take on.

National Institute of Education, Singapore

Diploma in Art Education with Credit - May 2013

Temasek Polytechnic

Diploma in Visual Communication - May 2005

Cresecent Girls' School

GCE 'O' Levels - 2001

7 Credits

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- **Conservator at the National Archives Singapore (Oct 2023 - Sep 2024)**
- Manage preventive and interventive conservation efforts for artefacts going in and out of exhibitions.
- Project Manager - Coordinate architectural projects for creating housing for documentation and archive purposes
- Attend consultation for stakeholders for archival purpose
- Conducts photography documentation, condition reports for The National Archives Singapore.
- Installation & Deinstallation for exhibitions
- Repair-work to ensure stability of artefacts for digitisation or exhibitions
- Play apart in contributing to the Outreach Efforts by creating standees using my illustration skills of conservators
- Create Deck of Slides for Outreach Tour for the various VIPs, schools, networks and community.
- Plan and execute activity booth for volunteers appreciation day

• **Art Educator in St Joseph's Institution (May 2023-Oct 2023)**
Teaching General Art Programme to FPAM students in the secondary cohort. Planning and designing the Art curriculum, creating inventive strategies to cultivate love, curiosity for Art through transdisciplinary means. Creating lessons that were relevant to the trending contemporary social dynamic and enabling Art history to help make the links even if it is of the past.

• **Art Educator in Ministry of Education, Singapore.**
Taught in National Junior College (Jan 2021- Dec 2021)
Taught in Bendemeer Secondary School (2018-2020)
Taught in Tanglin Secondary School (2013-2015)
Taught in Queensway Secondary School (2011-2012)
(Teacher Training Practicum)
Taught in First Toa Payoh Secondary School (2011)
(Contract Teaching 9 months)
Taught in CHIJ St Theresa's Convent as a Teacher Assistant
(2008-2010)

Teaching General Art Programme to Junior High 1 & 2 students and Higher Art students. Planned and designed curriculum making art learning relevant with the trending technologies pushing the boundaries. Animation using Flipaclip and Stopmotion were also taken through creating a solid narrative, making their story come alive. Prototyping using cardboard and paper to create sandal design and toy design. Taking it to another level, I had linked up with an exterior cardboard design to allow our students to animate their toy using coding and M5 technology that was intuitive. Art elective programmes were directed to enable students to use the art space to rethink art, broaden perspectives, consider broader and deeper observations and documentation strategies and skills that would eventually lead them to the execution and creation of their art. Students are taught techniques such as alternative drawing methods. Also, collate and document observation using other senses, such as hearing and translating explicitly and visually. This sort of generating and investigation allowed my students to slow down, become thinking practitioners Archives and innovate the outcome of the findings in a holistic.

Introduced Study of Visual Arts(SOVA) into the curriculum preparation and resources, using storytelling. Introduced a contemporary artist in order to expose and broaden students' perspectives, objectively highlighting the significance of artists' style and work. Created opportunities to work together with the students to curate the school's end of year art exhibition, allowing students to experience and learn about the curatorial and looking at art in the gallery spaces and exhibitions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Nominated Caring Teacher Award 2021,
National Junior College

Most Innovative Teacher 2015,
Tanglin Secondary School

Outstanding Contribution Award (Individual) 2014,
Tanglin Secondary School

Outstanding Contribution Award (Team) 2014,
Tanglin Secondary School

Skills

Planning and designing Art Curriculum, Learning Objectives, Rubrics and Lesson Plans. Administration, Organisation, Facilitation, Curatorial, Art teaching and education, Art Practice, Collaboration, Working in a dynamic team, ICT, O Level & Higher Art Exam, AEP, Outreach to schools, Interviews & Shortlistment of AEP & DSA Application, Design Thinking, Innovation, Makers' Space, Research on projects, topics, sustainable materiality. TSR. Publicity&Outreach to primary school students.

Personal Highlights

Project Manager overseeing the architectural project was an excellent opportunity to manage communication between our conservation office and the National Library Singapore who withhold the architectural project that I work on the conserved In the rare reference section for researchers and public who would need access to these information. I also had to recommend more sustainable processes and techniques conservation that were best suited for the project including the packaging to keep the documents and drawings safe.

Working on exhibition installation and deinstallation as a conservator was an eye-opener, and fascinating, it enabled me to learn to manage the collections and to ensure they were stable and secured for exhibitions, especially the rare books, paper artefacts.

Created an open gallery wall for the student's work to be showcased and made visible on the school premises, especially to recognise students' talent and effort to motivate them to strive for excellence.

Introduced sketchbook drawing exercises weekly that was theme based. Assignments were to be drawn purely from observation, either by looking at objects directly or through photographs taken independently, providing a platform for students to build confidence to increase self-belief.

Students had the opportunity to design a life-sized cardboard F1 car in conjunction with the F1 race in Singapore. It brought students to work together. Completed artwork was exhibited at the F1 Race Course and in school.

Self-Portraiture Lesson that came through introducing Artemisia Gentileschi's powerful painting Judith Slaying Holofernes. Sharing the powerful narrative in contrast with the Bible and Caravaggio's depiction of the same painting, left student's in awe and motivated to employ their own personal narratives when attempting to create their very own self-portraiture.