

Dr. Naomi Zouwer

Artist, Researcher, Arts Educator

University of Canberra (2022 - 2025)

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Education

2019 PhD School of Art and Design, College of Social Sciences, Australian National University

Making Home: (re)collections of objects in painting and textiles

1997 Graduate Diploma in Education, Newcastle University, Australia

1996 Bachelor of Arts Visual Arts, Newcastle University, Australia

Academic Positions

2022-present Lecturer Teacher Education–Creative Arts Specialists, Faculty of Education, University of Canberra, Australia.

2020 Lecturer Teacher Education, Visual Arts Specialist, Australian Catholic University.

2017-2020 Lecturer Art and Design, School of Art and Design, College of Social Sciences, Australian National University.

2010-2020 Lecturer Creative Industries, Canberra Institute of Technology, Australia.

Research Outputs

Artistic Practice

Solo Exhibitions

2022 *The enchantment of things*, Megalo Print Studio, Canberra

2021 *Discovery*, Michael Reid Murrurundi, NSW

2021 *Unwrapped (mini release)*, Michael Reid Northern Beaches, NSW

2020 *Strange Days Indeed*, M16 Gallery, Canberra

2019 *Objects of Empathy*, Curated by David Broker, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra

2019 *In search of lost time*, Gaffa Gallery, Sydney

2018 *Making Home PhD Graduation*, The ANU School of Art & Design Gallery, Canberra

Selected Group Exhibitions and Prizes

2025 The Earth Teaches, The Art Museum of Jyväskylä, Finland

2024 The Goulburn Art Award, Finalist, NSW

2023 National Emerging Art Prize, Finalist, Sydney

2023 Ravenswood Art Prize, Finalist, Sydney

2023 Burnie Print Prize, Finalist, Tasmania

2022 *Beyond the Verbal*, Finnish Embassy, Canberra

2022 *Today*, M16 Artspace Studio Artists Exhibition, Canberra

2022 *The Succours, Material Purpose*, ANCA, Canberra

2022 *A painted Table*, Grainger Gallery, Canberra

2022 Muswellbrook Painting Prize, Finalist, NSW

2021 M16 Drawing Prize, Finalist, Canberra

2020 *Small Works*, Beaver Galleries, Canberra

2020 The Waverley Art Prize, Finalist, Sydney

2020 The Goulburn Art Award, Finalist, NSW

2019 *Geo: Art of the collection*, Project Gallery, ANU, Canberra

2019 *Shelflife*, May Space, Sydney

2018 The Lethbridge Small Scale Award, Finalist

2017 The Kate Derum Tapestry Award, The Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne, Finalist
2016 Little Things Art Prize, Saint Cloche Gallery, Sydney, Finalist
2016 ANU School of Art and Design Drawing Prize, Finalist
2016 *Petite*, Wangaratta Art Gallery, Victoria, Finalist
2015 ANU School of Art and Design Drawing Prize, Finalist (Highly Commended)
2015 Contemporary Textile Award, Wangaratta Art Gallery, Victoria, Finalist
2014 *Petite*, Wangaratta Art Gallery, Victoria

Reviews

Grishin, S. (2022) Everyday object become enigmatic creations. *The Canberra Times*.
<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7825042/everyday-objects-become-enigmatic-creations/>
Hall, V. (2022). *Found in translation*. *Imprint Magazine*, 57(4), 42–45

Journal Articles

Walshe, R., Hill, A., Turner, B., **Zouwer, N.**, Foley, M., & Enge, P. (2025). But what about the ecological capabilities? Relationality and school-based food gardening in the Australian Early Years Learning Framework." *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Open*
Zouwer, N. (2020). Small objects as a transmitter for stories of migration and belonging. *Interiors: Design, Architecture and Culture*, Taylor & Francis

Reports

Lorenza, L., Carter, D., Baguley, M., deBruin, L., Levido, A., Meiners, J., **Zouwer, N.**, Booth, E and Stanton, L. (2023). *Stage 1 Initial Findings Report for the Emerging Priorities Program: An examination of primary teacher, student and parent experiences of arts learning online during COVID-19 lockdowns*. Central Queensland University. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.23699763>

Book Chapters

Withycombe, L., & **Zouwer, N.** (2020). Through Children's Eyes. In Coates, I (Ed.). *Endeavour voyage: the untold stories of Cook and first Australians*, National Museum of Australia

Books illustrated

Hall, S. (2014). *The Rescue Ark* (**N. Zouwer**, illus.) National Library of Australia
Rees, L. (2011). *Shy the Platypus* (**N. Zouwer**, illus.) National Library of Australia
Hall, S. (2010). *10 Bush Babies* (**N. Zouwer**, illus.) National Library of Australia
Hall, S. (2009). *Old Macdonald's Aussie land* (**N. Zouwer**, illus.) National Library of Australia
Hall, S. (2009). *Where's my mum?* (**N. Zouwer**, illus.) National Library of Australia
Hall, S. (2009). *Fairy World* (**N. Zouwer**, illus.) National Library of Australia

Conference/Symposium Presentations

Zouwer, N. (2025). Cultivating confidence and creativity through art and play. A symposium for early childhood professionals and teacher in the early years. National Gallery of Australia and University of Canberra
Zouwer, N., Waterhouse, L., & Body, H. (2025). *Creative Learning Pedagogy Research Project: Collaboration between the National Gallery of Australia and the University of Canberra*. Creative Schools Conference, University of Sydney, March 2025
Zouwer, N., & Foley, M. (2024). *Drawing relations that Matter*. AAANZ Conference presentation
Zouwer, N. & Davies, M. (2023). *Art and Wellbeing*. University of Canberra Faculty of Education Research Conference: Doing things differently in Education
Zouwer, N., Lämsä, T. & Heimonen, S. (2023). *Beyond the Verbal: an intercultural education project for using creativity*. Faculty of Education Research Conference: *Dare to be curious: finding purpose in educational research*, University of Canberra.
Zouwer, N., (2023). *Beyond the Verbal: an intercultural education project for using creativity*. Finnish Embassy, Canberra. Invited speaker for the Design Canberra Festival
Zouwer, N. (2022). *The enchantment of things*. Artist talk, Megalo Print Studio, Canberra
Zouwer, N., Short, I. & Coombes, L. (2021) *Embracing Ambiguity: the role of visual arts diaries*. Australian Literacy Educators' Association Conference, Sydney.

- Zouwer, N. & Cave, W. (2020).** *The place of the Arts in a school improvement journey*. University of Canberra Affiliated Schools Conference, Canberra.
- Zouwer, N. & Cave, W. (2019).** *Creating with Creatives*. Australian Literacy Educators' Association, Canberra.
- Zouwer, N. & Cave, W. (2019).** *Voiceless voice: composing visual texts with agency and impact*. Australian Literacy Educators' Association Conference, Melbourne.
- Zouwer, N. (2017).** *Making Home: (re)collections of objects in painting and textiles*. HDR Conference, ANU Canberra
- Zouwer, N. (2016).** *What is a painter doing in Textiles?* Textile Symposium/Textile Triennial, ANU, Canberra.
- Zouwer, N. (2015)** Artist Talk, Wangaratta Contemporary Textile Award, Wangaratta Art Gallery
- Zouwer, N. (2014)** *The budgie and the Anvil: Tales of Objects and Heterotopic space*. Thesis Proposal, School of Art Graduate Conference, ANU, Canberra

Invited International Presentations

- Zouwer, N., & Driver, D. (2025)** *Connecting communities through the Arts: Nature, nurture and education*. Blended International Program, Savonian University of Applied Sciences, Finland

Media

The Conversation Articles

- Zouwer, N., & Hamilton, O. (2025).** Current cultural citizens: the importance of creating spaces in art galleries for young people. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/current-cultural-citizens-the-importance-of-creating-spaces-in-art-galleries-for-young-people-235599>
- Zouwer, N. (2025).** Is it important to read the explanatory labels next to artworks? We asked 5 experts. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/is-it-important-to-read-the-explanatory-labels-next-to-artworks-we-asked-5-experts-243694>
- Zouwer, N. (2024).** How to talk to your kids about nude art at the gallery. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-nude-art-at-the-gallery-231815>
- Zouwer, N. (2023).** How to get the most out of a visit to an art gallery with kids. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/how-to-get-the-most-out-of-a-visit-to-an-art-gallery-with-kids-214272>
- Zouwer, N. (2023).** Take risks, embrace failure and be comfortable with uncertainty: 3 activities to help your child think like an artist. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/take-risks-embrace-failure-and-be-comfortable-with-uncertainty-3-activities-to-help-your-child-think-like-an-artist-214142>
- Zouwer, N. (2023).** Holiday help! An art expert suggests screen-free things to do in every room of the house. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/holiday-help-an-art-expert-suggests-screen-free-things-to-do-in-every-room-of-the-house-202947>
- Zouwer, N., (2022).** How to set up a kids' art studio at home (and learn to love the mess). *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/how-to-set-up-a-kids-art-studio-at-home-and-learn-to-love-the-mess-196026>

Radio interviews

- Zouwer, N. (2025)** *How art galleries can engage and young visitors*. 2ser 107.3 Melbourne [Radio broadcast] <https://2ser.com/how-art-galleries-can-engage-and-inspire-young-visitors/>
- Zouwer, N. (2023)** *Canberra Calling To You: Naomi in Dickson*. [Radio broadcast] ABC local <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/canberra-sundaybrunch/canberra-calling-to-you-naomi-in-dickson-/102493472>

Outreach

Selected Public Programs and Community Engagement

2018-2025 Haig Park Experiments: I have worked with Professor Cathy Hope formally from the University of Canberra and City Renewal on the reactivation of Haig Park since 2019. I designed and delivered community art events in Haig Park including; Christmas crafting, makers table, drawing forest dwellers, drawing to music, drawing with ink and stick, drawing with bubbles and things that go pop!

2022-2024 Australian Parliament House: I designed and developed a suite of programs for community engagement with the House and the memorial collection including the children's Holiday Programs and Adult workshops for the Enlighten Festival.

Coleman, J. (2023, October 6). *Here's your chance to have a brush with fame and hang with the PMs at Parliament House.* Region. <https://region.com.au/heres-your-chance-to-have-a-brush-with-fame-and-hang-with-the-pms-at-parliament-house/709436/>

Doherty, M. (2022, April 6). *Art classes for kids at Parliament House these school holidays.* The Canberra Times. <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7688861/art-classes-for-kids-at-parliament-house-these-school-holidays/>

HerCanberra. (2024, February 1). *Enlighten Festival is back for 2024 – here's what you need to know.* <https://hercanberra.com.au/city/enlighten-festival-is-back-for-2024-heres-what-you-need-to-know/>

The Canberra Times. (2024, February 29). *What's on: Highlights of Canberra's 2024 Enlighten Festival.* <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8529645/whats-on-highlights-of-canberras-2024-enlighten-festival/>

2018-2019 National Museum of Australia: Between 2018 and 2020, in collaboration with the exhibition curators, we co-designed, developed and delivered a suite of art workshops for children in Canberra, La Perouse, Sydney and Cook Town, Queensland to generate artistic responses to the Endeavour expedition in 1770. These responses were included as the children's voice in the Exhibition. *Endeavour voyage: the untold stories of Cook and First Australians.*

2021-22 ACT Parks and Conservation, creative project: I co-designed and developed a series of creative activities for Rangers to deliver to children at community events or during school holidays. The activities were designed to provide a fun way for staff to interact with the public and to give them an opportunity to communicate essential messaging about nature reserves. The aim was to educate and influence community attitudes and behaviours towards nature reserves.

Teaching

2022-2025 University of Canberra, as a lecturer in teacher education, I have convened the following units:

Bachelor of Primary Education (Creative Arts) (323JA.5).

(321JA.5); Creative Arts Principles (9865); Creative Arts Specialist (9866); Arts Education Integration (9858); Arts Education Internship (9859);

Bachelor of Primary Education PCK Arts (9885); International Professional Practice - Creative Arts (12084).

Master of Primary Teaching (EDM001.1); The Arts and the Curriculum (11337); Curriculum and Primary Education (11336)

Master of Education (Research) (927AA); Qualitative Research (10440)

2021 Ralla, Finland, Online Education Designer and Producer

I developed an international partnership with Education Company Ralla to design and produce an Elearning course for teachers that been translated into Finnish.

2020 Australian Catholic University, as a lecturer in teacher education, I developed workshops for the Creative Arts Education degrees including the Early years (0-5) and Primary years (5-12).

2017-2020 Australian National University, School of Art and Design, College of Social Sciences, as a lecturer Art and Design, I developed, delivered and assessed content for subjects in the Textiles, Foundation and Design Workshops including; Contemporary Design in Context, Figure and Life

Drawing, Hand Stitch and Embroidery, Maker to Market, Print Surface Design and third year studio classes. I also supervised Honours students.

2010-2020 Canberra Institute of Technology, as a lecturer in creative industries, I designed and delivered creative subjects to early school leavers and adult learners, online and face to face. I designed and delivered content for Degree, Advanced Diploma, Diploma and Certificate levels across subjects including Art and Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Copyright and Ethics for ICT, Cyber security and Gaming.

Academic service

Peer reviewer of textbooks and journal articles

Interiors: Design/Architecture/Culture, Taylor Francis; *Axon: Creative Explorations*, The Centre for Creative & Cultural Research, University of Canberra.; *Local Environment*, *The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*. Taylor Francis and Text books for Cambridge University Press

Affiliations

Art Association of Australia and New Zealand; Creative Agency Research Hub; National Associate for Visual Artists; Megalo Print Studio (Board Member since 2024)