

Curriculum Vitae

Sophia Lark
(formerly Sophia Zielinski)

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D.O.B. 14th Jan 1980

Sophia Lark's illustration and writing attempt to reconcile her environmental activism with her creative skills and voice. She believes the Earth cannot speak for itself so we need to speak for it. She is inspired by wild places, wild things, the next generation and treading lightly on the Earth. Sophia's work centres around a deep need to create new stories and art which weave environmental issues into the collective consciousness. Sophia's inspiration, for becoming a teacher was largely born out of wanting to raise environmental awareness and from a deep love of children's literature. Her work comes from a deep connection to the land, plus a long-standing empathy and respect for its Indigenous custodians. She believes children's picture books are an important medium for environmental and social change. There is a world where scientific knowledge and creativity collide-this is the world of environmental picture books. Sophia encourages her students to speak up for nature's value and endeavours to challenge perceptions of nature's importance- how we interact as humans with it within it, and with each other.

Sophia lives and works in Bedfordale Western Australia. Her creative endeavours include drawing, painting, collage, costume, jewellery, sculpture, creative non-fiction and children's writing. Sophia has been an environmental activist since her late teens, worked with community and children since her early 20s and has been a formal educator since 2010. She has a Bachelor degree in Communications and Cultural studies with a double major in Creative Writing, and Professional Writing and Presentation and a Post Graduate Diploma in Primary Education. Sophia has also completed one year of university art training.

In 2006 she illustrated The Shy Mala which was shortlisted for the 2006 Premiers Award and the Environment Award. Sophia has taught art in a multitude of environments- in schools, libraries, privately, in community centres and at festivals. Including four years as a Teacher Librarian which allowed her to indulge her absolute love of picture books and education with a particular passion for installing the next generation, with a greater environmental consciousness. For more info check out sophialark.com.au

Employment Experience

Gwynne Park ESC

Creative Learning 2021-2025 Resident Artist
April-Oct 2025

Art on the Scarp
Featured Artist
May 2025

DLGSC

Creative Learning 2021-2025 Grant Recipient
Armada Primary School
April -Oct 2024

Little Lark Books

Children's Book Publisher
2024-current

Bedfordale Bush Markets

Stall holder (Little Lark Creatives)
Kids Craft Facilitator
2023-Current

Armada Bush Arts Trail

Guest artist in conjunction with Armada Primary School

The Creative Tree

Volunteer Weekly Storytime Facilitator for 0-4yr olds
2017

Mouldlab

Training and Development Facilitator
Part time
Duties included designing, developing, implementing and maintaining online staff training programs.
2016

Coraki Public School

Casual Primary School Teacher
2014-2016

Shearwater Steiner School

Part time Teacher Librarian (Acting)

Duties included preparing, implementing and evaluating a library program for years K-6, assisting high school students with research and IT, supervising volunteers, all aspects of cataloguing and collection management, ordering stock, organising functions, creating displays and other library promotions and customer service for teachers, parents, students and admin staff.

I chose to leave to have my own children.

Jan 2012-Nov 2015

Self employment -Visual Artist

Work includes artwork sales (markets, shops and galleries), guest talks and private workshops.

2004 – current

Shearwater Wearable Arts

Section 1 Winner

Nov 2013

Perth Waldorf School

Relief Teacher

Semester 2 2011

My reason for leaving was the offer of fulltime employment

Education Department of Western Australia

Relief Teacher

Semester 2 2011

My reason for leaving was the offer of fulltime employment

Australian Islamic College

Teacher

Year 7 English specialist and Years 7-10 Art Coordinator/specialist

Semester One 2011

My reason for leaving was a difference in values with some staff

Purist Gallery

Gallery Assistant

Duties included customer service, opening and closing, creating and maintaining displays, banking and ordering jewellery and fashion accessories for the gift shop.

Jan 2009-Jan 2011

My reason for leaving was to pursue my teaching career.

Yalingup Steiner School

Teachers Assistant

Duties include supervising on site activities, developing and facilitating programs and participating in the school community and looking after the general well being of the kindergarten.

Feb – Dec 2009

My reason for leaving was to complete Graduate Diploma in Education

City of Midland

Guest children's illustrator/writer Yrs 1 – 7
Book Week 2009

Broome Youth Support Group

Duties include supervising off-site and on site activities, developing, coordinating and facilitating programs and looking after the general well being of the youth. Including the Broome Through Our Eyes youth photography project and exhibition.
2008

My reason for leaving was to move closer to family.

Broome Primary School

Teachers Assistant Level 3 (Special Needs)
Working one on one with a year 4 boy with severe behavioural difficulties and developing programs to meet his unique needs.
Term 3 2008

My reason for leaving was the contract ended.

Department of Child Protection

1. Guest artist/illustrator preparing and facilitating workshops in Catherine House, St Mary's High School and Broome Senior High
Feb/March 2008

2. Children's hospice worker/ mentor for kids at risk
March-June 2008

My reason for leaving was to move closer to family.

Broome Community House

1. Storyteller/Steiner playgroup facilitator
2. Art workshop facilitator/ adults and children. Work includes *Art Stars*, *Worn Art*, International Women's Day and school holiday workshop programs
March-Nov 2008

My reason for leaving was to move closer to family.

Shire of Broome HYPE program

Duties included liaising with youth on the streets of Broome, the police and the Broome Shire and facilitating youth events and programs.
Jan –Nov 2008

My reason for leaving was to move closer to family.

Artsource: The Artists Foundation of WA.

Communications Co-ordinator
Role included administration, media, public relations, publications, policies and procedures and workshop co-ordination.
March – Dec 2007

My reason for leaving was the contract ended.

All Saints College Lit' Fest 2008

Guest illustrator presenter preparing and presenting educational workshops and talks.

Earthdance Festival

Community artist working with youth commissioned to create a puppet/float
Sept 2007

Fremantle Children's Literature Centre

Exhibition of illustrations for *The Shy Mala* and afterschool workshop age 9 – 12, and Professional Development Day for teachers and librarians.
2006- 2007

City of Fremantle

Artist commissioned to create *Monstropolis* installation for the Fremantle Festival
2006
Duties included design, production and community involvement.

City of Canning

Guest children's illustrator/writer Yrs 1 – 7
Book Week 2006
School holiday workshop 3rd term

Windy Hollow Books

Children's book illustrator
The Shy Mala
Launched Nov 2006

ArtsWa

Grant received to travel to the Tanami Desert to obtain permission to illustrate and to conduct research for a children's picture book.
Duties included conducting art/illustration workshops in local school and surrounding out stations
2005

City of Cockburn

Commissioned to create a public art piece for Beeliar Drive South Lake.
Duties included community and school workshops.
2004

Headquarters Youth Centre

Artist in Residence
2004

Australian Marine Conservation Society

Office Administrator
Duties included general administration, supervising volunteers, liaising with media and the public, record keeping, creation of promotional material and organising events.
2003

Voluntary

The Roasted Pumpkin

Soup Kitchen coordinator
2005-2007

The Wilderness Society

Volunteer Campaigner

Duties included general administration, supervising of other volunteers, liaising with media and the public, record keeping, creation of promotional material and organising events.

1997-2003

Educational and Training Qualifications

Edith Cowan University

Graduate Diploma of Education (Primary)
2010

Curtin University of Technology

Bachelor of Communications and Cultural Studies

(Double major in Professional Writing & Presentation and Creative Writing)

2003

Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) (Deferred)

Tafe

Diploma of Art and Design (deferred)

Occupational Health and Safety

Wells & Associates

Certificate 4 in Small Business Management

Working With Children Check and Police Clearance

Professional Development

Differentiating the Curriculum

Introduction to Counselling Techniques

Introduction to Motivational Interviewing Techniques

Compassionate Communication

Persuasive Writing

Asthma

Interactive Whiteboard training

Form Drawing

Time to Think-communication and team building

Therapeutic Storytelling

Celebrate Reading Conference

Anaphylaxis

E-emergency

Child Protection

Additional Skills

All aspects of professional and creative writing.

Design and illustration.

Workshop facilitation

Interests

Literature (particularly children's)

Art

Sustainable communities

Quigong

Deep ecology

Referees

Lesley Reece

Chair of Writing WA and founder of The Literature Centre

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Josephine Spencer

Teacher at Armadale Primary School

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