

Dr Jessica Webster

Academic, professional



Contact

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To whom it may concern

RE: Editor and proofreader for hire

Despite serious disability (after surviving a violent attack in 2006, I use a wheelchair), I am vigorously invested in using and understanding language. My work has straddled both academia and art, and I have had to be highly motivated and adaptable to sustain the work of both.

Throughout my career, I have honed my judgement in editing and proofing. I reregistered my PhD from creative arts to philosophy in order to write an in-depth thesis on psychoanalytic theory and Kant; my examiners strongly endorsed the dissertation and passed it with no corrections. As a Masters degree supervisor, I enable and demonstrate critical thinking, story shaping, and detailed professional-level proofing.

A key to the success of my conceptual painting practice centers in how I convey my concerns to the public not just pictorially, but verbally and in writing. My practice has received critical appraisal in this regard, some of which I include in my CV.

Lastly, I have read avidly since a young age and still read deeply and widely with books old and new. My favourite novelist is Annie Proulx. I have recently finished *Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art* (2020) by Rebecca Wragg Sykes, and I'm currently reading *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life* (2015) by William Finnegan.

I am now taking a step back from the physicality of my painting practice. I am also exploring further study. The online work offered by your company provides scope to establish a fresh work setting keenly focused on my intellectual goals.

Sincerely,

Dr Jessica Webster

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Editor & Proofreader

Sensitive reader. 10+ years of keen focus on mode and approach to the written text. PhD-level editing capability.

Education

2011-02 - 2017-11	Ph.D.: Philosophy <i>University of The Witwatersrand - Johannesburg</i> Passed, with no corrections
2007-02 - 2010-07	Master of Arts: Fine Arts <i>Wits School of Arts, University of Wits - Johannesburg</i> With distinction
2002-02 - 2005-11	Bachelor of Arts: Fine Arts <i>Michaelis Art School, University of Cape Town - Cape Town</i> With distinction

Courses

2021-09	<i>Editing Mastery: How to Edit to Perfection</i> by Shani Raja. 4 weeks online: Udemy
2021-09	<i>Writing Skills for Engineers</i> , Rice University. 4 weeks online: Coursera
2021-08	<i>Grammar and Punctuation</i> , University of California, Irvine. 4 weeks online: Coursera
2021-08	<i>Good with Words: Writing and Editing Specialization</i> , University of Michigan. 16 weeks online: Coursera
2021-07	<i>Writing in the Sciences</i> , Stanford University. 8 weeks online: Coursera

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Skills

Specific attention to UK or
US grammar and style

Academic referencing
(Harvard and Chicago,
others as necc.)

Deep language use and
meaning

Intellectual engagement;
abstract concepts

Detail-oriented

Motivated, organized, time
management

Work History

2016-02 -
Current

Master's Degree Supervisor

*University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg,
Gauteng*

- Deeply invested in understanding and guiding Master's level research in humanities
- Strong focus on language and grammar
- Critical attention to academic or literary style being deployed; detailed mode of referencing
- Create plans and communicate deadlines to ensure projects are completed on time.

Thesis/dissertations Supervised

*University of the Witwatersrand
<https://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/>, Johannesburg,
Gauteng*

Supervision of completed M.A.(F.A.) portfolios and dissertations:

- Alexandra Makhlof (2019). Dissertation and exhibition. Re-orientating the Mind's Body: Perception Without Vision in a Visual World (co-supervised)
- Nocebo Bucibo (2018, with distinction). Dissertation and exhibition. A Just Image: South African Hostels and Contemporary South African Photography
- Natalie Payne (2018, with distinction). Dissertation and exhibition. Embodied Encounters: The Self & Suburbia in Contemporary Photography

Current supervision of M.A.(F.A.) candidate:

- Beverley Butkow (2019-) Project title: Weaving Good to Bad: Expanding the Painted Surface in Contemporary South Africa (submission date Feb 2022)

Professional Artist

jessicawebsterart.com

Selected press:

- Dave Mann 2020. Process and tension: Jessica Webster's A Horse with No Name. *Artthrob*. 29 July <https://artthrob.co.za/2020/07/27/process-and-tension-jessica-websters-a-horse-with-no-name/>

- Amie Soudien 2017. The Sanctuary Disturbed: Jessica Webster's "Wisteria". *Artthrob*. 24 May. <https://artthrob.co.za/2017/05/11/the-sanctuary-disturbed-jessica-websters-wisteria/>
- Same Mdluli 2015. Painting, Digital Imagery and Text: Jessica Webster's "Murderer". *Artthrob*. 30 July. <https://artthrob.co.za/2015/08/16/painting-digital-imagery-and-text-jessica-websters-murderer/>
- Michael Smith 2009. I knew you in this dark, Jessica Webster at David Krut Projects. *Artthrob*. 15 August. https://artthrob.co.za/Reviews/Review_of_I_knew_you_in_this_dark_by_Michael_Smith_at_David_Krut_Projects.aspx

Publications by Jessica Webster

Various

- 2017. Wisteria: My art career began after I was shot & paralysed. *Sunday Times*. 09 May <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/lifestyle/2017-05-09-my-art-career-truly-began-after-i-was-shotparalysed/>
- 2017 *Approaching Trauma: South African Painting through Kant, Greenberg and Lacan*. PhD in Philosophy: University of Cape Town <https://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/handle/10539/24548>
- 2016 'Invitation: Justifying the removal of non-natives: A case-study from Hawaii' by Jessica Webster. *Jozi Jols: Cultural City Guide 7* (ed) Carole DeBois. Jozi Jols: Johannesburg
- 2016 'Tenets of Air in the Non-Objective practices of Edmunds, Morland and Murray' by Jessica Webster. *Air* exhibition catalogue [Unpublished] Standard Bank Gallery: Johannesburg
- 2015. 'Duchamp's Left Foot: Chess and Social Spectatorship in the Abstractions of Danielle Wepener'. *To the Extent*, exhibition catalogue. University of the Witwatersrand: Johannesburg
- 2014 'Under fire from all sides: A paraliterary exegesis'. *Critical Arts Journal* 28 (2). Routledge: South Africa <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0256>

[0046.2014.906346](#)

- 2014. *Grace by Jessica Webster*. Published on card and installed at Goodman Gallery: Johannesburg
- 2014 'The death of painting'. [*Working Title*] Catalogue. Goodman Gallery: Johannesburg

2015-05 -
2015-07

Editor and proofreader

Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, Gauteng

- Provided editing and proofreading to the chief curator of one of South Africa's largest museum galleries, The Standard Bank Gallery, for the purposes of his introductory essay supporting the seminal overview of historical artworks by JH Pierneef. This input helped the curator establish the hermeneutical lens for viewing the expansive collection.
- See Van Rensburg, W. 2015. *A Space For Landscape: The Work of JH Pierneef*. Standard Bank Ltd: Johannesburg

Accomplishments

- **Mellon Research Award, Wits** 2016
- **Oppenheimer Memorial Award, Wits** 2014
- **Golden Key Society, Wits** 2010
- **Wits Dean's List** 2010
- **UCT Dean's List** 2005
- **Golden Key Society, UCT** 2005
- **Judy Stein Prize for Painting** 2005

Referees

Professor Gerrit Olivier, Professor, Wits School of Arts

Gerrit.olivier@vodamail.ac.za

Dr Penny Siopis, Artist and professor, Michaelis UCT

Penelope.siopis@gmail.com

Jo Ractcliffe, Artist and lecturer, Michaelis UCT

jractcliffe@vodamail.co.za

Neil Dundas, Goodman Gallery

neil@goodman-gallery.com