



Resume Of Sumari (Maria Susanna) Gildenhuys

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CAREER OBJECTIVE

I am a **Curriculum Designer and Educational Content Specialist** with a PhD in Art History and nearly 12 years of international teaching and curriculum design experience across South Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, UAE, China, Taiwan, and the USA. My work combines **academic depth, creativity, adaptability, and learner-centered design**, with a strong focus on making education both intellectually rigorous and personally meaningful.

Originally trained as a Visual Arts Teacher and Special Needs Educator, I have designed and taught across **IB, Cambridge, Ontario, and CAPS frameworks**, developing full Visual Arts curricula, individualized learning plans, and differentiated assessments that support diverse learners — including ESL students and those with special educational needs.

Areas of expertise include:

- Curriculum & instructional design across Humanities and Visual Arts
- Creating individualized and differentiated learning resources
- Fostering creativity, critical thinking, and innovation in the classroom
- Supporting learners of all abilities, including SEN and ESL
- Strong communication, collaboration, and cross-cultural teaching skills

At the core of my work is a commitment to **excellence, innovation, and collaboration**. I aim to design learning experiences that **motivate, inspire, and empower every student**, while ensuring alignment with institutional visions and measurable outcomes.

📁 View selected projects and sample curricula at: sumariartportfolio.com

CAREER HISTORY

Invisible Technologies (Global Research Expert Network) – San Francisco, USA

NETWORK APPROVED GLOBAL RESEARCH EXPERT September 2025 – Present

Selected through assessment for inclusion in the Invisible Technologies Global Research Expert Network; approved for **upcoming future project-based assignments** focused on **subject-specific AI training, information research, and accuracy improvement** across diverse domains (remote; **10 hours weekly** as projects arise).

Study Break – Selinus University of Sciences & Literature – Offices in Italy, U.K. & USA

PH.D. OF PHILOSOPHY IN ART HISTORY Final Ph.D. certificate, transcripts & grades to be formally authenticated during November 2025

Final Average Grade Score Achieved: **98% - 3.93 GPA**

XCL World Academy (IB Curriculum) – Singapore

M.Y.P. VISUAL ARTS TEACHER (Semester 1: Grade 6 – 10; Semester 2: Grade 6 – 9) August 2022 – October 2023

Responsible for teaching and creating the presentational content for the full M.Y.P. Visual Arts division. Served as Grade 6 Homeroom Teacher and additionally taught Grade 6 PSHE (linked to Social Studies).

Study Break – University of The People, California, USA

MASTERS DEGREE IN ADVANCE TEACHING (Affiliated with The International Baccalaureate Program.) March 2020 – June 2022

Completed the 2 remaining years of study, (part of a 3-year Master's Degree), within a 12-month period.

Final Average Grade Score Achieved: **99% - 3.97 GPA**

Sunway International School (Ontario & IB Curriculums) – Bandar Sunway, Malaysia

HIGH-SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS TEACHER (Ontario Gr.11 & Gr.9 Visual Arts.) January 2018 – June 30th 2021

Taught and developed curriculum content for Grades 11 and 9 Visual Arts. Temporarily assisted with Grade 10 Drama and High School Student Success, including 3.5 years teaching Grade 10 Civics & Citizenship and Grade 10 Career Studies

Hillside World Academy (I.B. Curriculum) – Singapore

HIGH-SCHOOL, MIDDLE-SCHOOL & ELEMENTARY I.B. VISUAL ARTS TEACHER (Gr. 1-10.) January 2017 – December 31st 2017

Responsible for teaching and creating all presentational content for Grades 1 -to 10, as the Subject Teacher for IB Visual Arts.

Deira Private School (Cambridge Curriculum) – Dubai, UAE

SUPPLYART CLUB LEADER & YEAR 2 HOMEROOM TEACHER. July 2016 – December 2016

Responsible for running the Art Club & teaching all the Year-2 Subjects, within the Cambridge Curriculum.

KCIS Private School – China

SUPPLY TEACHER IN ART & ENGLISH January 2016 – June 30th, 2016

Responsible for teaching Grade 1 & 2 Visual Arts, as well as English from Grades 4 -to 6.

The World Needs A Father Non-Profit Organization

PERSONAL ASSISTANT January 2015 – December 31st, 2015

Responsible for key communication between International Events Organizers & responsible for general Office Administration.

Duties

- Organized 12 trips abroad & other local events.
- Communicated with International Events Organizers regarding the content of leadership training programs.
- Communicated with Angela Blythe, the owner of A2B Travel, on a daily basis.
- Created detailed travel itineraries.
- Submitted summaries of travel expenses in various currencies to the Travel Tax Department.
- Submitted records of expenses from various accounts, for general tax purposes.
- Organized & assisted with catering services.

Be Sharp Beetles Percussion & Music Movement Program

MUSIC ENRICHMENT & PERCUSSION TEACHER July 2014 – December 31st, 2014

Responsible for the musical enrichment & development of children at 11 Kindergartens around the Cape Town region, (from 2 –to 6 years of age), through differing musical styles which represents various cultures.

Duties

- Created props & musical learning materials.
- Taught musical principles through educational rhymes & stories.
- Taught cross-lateral dance movements, while teaching students to play a variety of percussion instruments.
- Taught different music styles & rhythmic methods through percussion.
- Wrote weekly reports and documented individual progress.

South-African Memory Institute

FREELANCE CURRICULUM & TEACHING AID CREATOR January 2014 – June 31st, 2014

Responsible for creating all the presentational materials and teaching aid kits for a 6-month project which was launched by the South-African Memory Institute, regarding various study-methods. The project was highly successful.

Duties

- Created all lesson plans & activities.
- Created all props & teachings aid kits.
- Created all activity examples, representative of the South African Memory Institute textbook guidelines.
- Presented 10 lessons myself, at various underprivileged schools around the Cape Town region.

U.A. Entertainment – South-Africa

SINGER-SONGWRITER & PIANO PERFORMANCE CONTESTANT Duration of 2014 (@ THE 'CAPE TOWN TALENT SEARCH COMPETITION'.)

I was selected as one of the Top-10 contestants from a group of 65 pre-selected contestants who participated in the South-African Cape Town Talent Search Competition. I was expected to perform songs from a variety of musical genres as piano & vocal entertainer at 25 separate events, throughout the duration of 2014.

Herzlia Middle School

SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITATOR January 2012 – 31st December, 2013

Responsible for individualized Special Needs Facilitation & Tutoring. One of my learners' marks improved with a 50% increase in most of his subject-areas.

Duties

- Created a tailor-made curriculum for a Grade 9, I.E.P. learner, with special educational needs.
- Facilitated individual learners during lessons within all 14 subjects from grades 7 -to 9.
- Created individualized study materials.
- Provided one-on-one tutoring.

- Wrote weekly reports and documented individual progress.

Woven Ceramics

FREE-LANCE HAND-MADE PORCELAIN ARTIST September 1st, 2011 – December 31st, 2011

Assisted Karen Kotze, the owner of Woven Ceramics, in producing a variety of delicate hand-made porcelain items for exclusive upmarket display & distribution.

Au Pair America Recruitment Program

AU PAIR July 12th, 2010 – August 10th, 2011

Responsible for taking care of 4 children, between the ages of 5 and 13, while studying in the U.S.A.

Beach Calligrapher Design Studio

FREE-LANCE ASSISTANT & DESIGNER March 2010 - April 30th, 2010

Assisted with the free-hand designs of 24 illuminated scrolls for the 'Cape Town Civic Honours Awards', of which 12 remain archived within the Governmental Archives of South-Africa.

Global Kids English School, Taiwan

ENGLISH & ROLE-PLAY TEACHER July 2008 – December 31st, 2009

Responsible for full-time English Teaching to Kindergarten learners & part time English Teaching to Middle School students.

Duties

- Wrote & taught English role-plays.
- Created props, presentational materials and other teaching aids.
- Taught English phonics, grammar & all other subjects in English.
- Wrote weekly reports and documented individual progress.

Light House Centre of Learning

ARTS AND CULTURE & AFRIKAANS SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHER January 2008 – June 30th, 2008

Responsible for Teaching Arts & Culture to all Grade 4 -to 9 learners, as well as Teaching Afrikaans Second Language to all Grade 7 -to 9 learners.

Duties:

- Created all Arts & Culture Modules from Grades 4 -to 9.
- Taught varying Visual Arts forms, Drama activities & Music Enrichment activities to students from Grades 4 -to 9.
- Taught Grade 7 -to 9 Afrikaans Second Language.
- Created test papers & examination-papers across both subject-areas.
- Managed the Art Budget & Materials.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Selinus University of Sciences & Literature (Offices in Italy, U.K. & U.S.A.), 2025 – 4-Year Ph.D. of Philosophy in Art History.

University Of the People California (U.S.A), 2022 – 3-Year Internationally Accredited Master's Degree in Advanced Teaching, (affiliated with the International Baccalaureate Program).

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (U.S.A.), 2011 – I was admitted to S.A.I.C.'s 2 Year Master's Degree Art Therapy Programme, but was unable to find a scholarship until this point in time.

American Public University (U.S.A.), 2011 – Completed courses in Psychotherapy, Addiction & Substance Abuse & Personality Theories

Oakton Community College – Illinois, (U.S.A), 2011 – Completed a Web Design Course

Oakton Community College – Illinois, (U.S.A), 2010 – Completed an Advanced Painting Course

- One of my paintings were selected from amongst 8 colleges to be part of the Skyway Art Exhibition which was hosted by Moraine Valley Community College in Chicago, U.S.A.

Cape Peninsula University of Technology (South-Africa), 2007 – 4-Year B.Ed. Bachelor's Degree in Intermediate & Senior Phase Teaching.

- Final Year Subjects included Visual Art, Music Enrichment & Remedial Teaching.

Cape Peninsula University of Technology (South-Africa), 2003 – Passed all First Year Graphic Design subjects.