

## CV

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### OVERVIEW

- Over 15 years of professional arts sector experience across public and private institutions (London Design Festival/Biennale, Art Fund, ArtVendôme, Frieze, MCA Chicago, Indianapolis Museum of Art) with a focus on data & insights, evaluation, strategy, digital transformation and stakeholder engagement.
  - Delivered strategic insight and internal reporting for leading cultural organisations, including authoring unpublished evaluations on engagement, impact and digital systems transformation.
  - PhD in Art History & Archaeology (SOAS); MA in Contemporary Art (Sotheby's Institute); BFA in Art History, Theory & Criticism (SAIC).
  - Researcher, educator specializing in the global contemporary arts, the visual arts of Central Asia and the Central Asian diaspora, with a focus on post-Soviet decolonization, power, gender and ecological degradation in Central Asia.
  - Wider specialisms in the arts and architecture of the Islamic world from 7<sup>th</sup> century CE to modern day, modern and contemporary art movements.
  - Interdisciplinary research approach integrating art history, politics, gender and ecology.
  - Four years of higher education teaching experience (SOAS) with an AFHEA.
  - Research and fieldwork experience in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; across the US: Los Angeles, New York, Puerto Rico as well as South Korea.
  - Published researcher for *Central Asian Survey*, Routledge, University of Pittsburgh Press and experienced peer reviewer.
  - Certified in research integrity and intercultural methodologies, excels in curriculum design, innovative teaching strategies and fostering inclusive learning environments.
  - Member of Association for Art History (AAH), Central Eurasian Studies Survey (CESS).
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### PUBLICATIONS

- Ploskonka, Kasia. *Contesting Convention: The Politics of Art in Contemporary Central Asia* (book manuscript, under discussion with Routledge and Brill; publication date TBC).
- Ploskonka, Kasia. *Diversity in Art Fund Awards: A Review of Artists, Institutions and Regions*. Internal Report, Art Fund UK, 2025.
- Ploskonka, Kasia. 'Contesting Convention: Agency in Dushanbe's Contemporary Art Scene'. In Tiesenhausen, Aliya de, ed. *The Social Role of Art and Culture in Central Asia*. London: Routledge, 2022: 97-113. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003259909>.
- Montgomery, David, ed. *Central Asia: Context for Understanding*. Pittsburgh, Pa.: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022. (Kasia Ploskonka photography contributor).
- Ploskonka, Kasia. 'Contesting Convention: Agency in Dushanbe's Contemporary Art Scene'. *Central Asian Survey* 40, no. 1 (2 January 2021): 97–112. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2020.1865270>.
- Ploskonka, Kasia. 'Post-Soviet Migration in Central Asia through the Lens of Contemporary Art.' *Nomadic Art*

*Camp 2017: Stocktaking for Broader Promotion of Sustainable Management of Mountain Resources and Landscapes*, vol. 2017 (2018): 46–48.

- Ploskonka, Kasia. 'Mankurtism, Monuments and Marketing: Identity and Power in Post-Soviet Contemporary Art of Central Asia.' *The SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research*, vol. 9 (2015–16): 47–64.
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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

### SOAS, University of London

#### Guest Lecturer in Art History & Archaeology

2022 – 2025

Delivered guest lectures to undergraduate and postgraduate cohorts (19–26 students) across modules in Art History & Archaeology, focusing on the Islamic world and contemporary visual cultures.

- Developed and delivered interactive, research-led sessions foregrounding themes such as representation, visual messaging and decoloniality.
- Applied creative, participatory teaching methods (e.g. word maps, AhaSlides, QR prompts) to foster inclusive and dialogic learning environments.
- Integrated Central Asian contemporary art into curriculum, promoting interdisciplinary, global perspectives in line with decolonising pedagogies.
- Contributed to course design through lecture content, assessment question writing and Moodle resource curation.
- Provided written and verbal student feedback; lectures inspired significant essay engagement—up to 27% of students in some cohorts selected these topics for summative work.

#### Lecture Contributions:

- *Arab Painting (PG)* – “Image and Text during Times of Upheaval: From the Arab Spring to Talks of a Central Asian Spring”
- *Islam and the West (UG/PG)* – “Changing Perceptions: Orientalism”
- *Art of the Islamic World: Objects in Context (UG/PG)* – “Messaging in Motion: Textiles & Rugs Throughout Greater Central Asia”
- *Objects in Art History (PG)* – “Orientalism & Representation”

### SOAS, University of London

#### Graduate Teaching Assistant

2017 – 2019; 2022 – 2023

Supported undergraduate and postgraduate teaching across modules focused on the Art and Archaeology of the Islamic World, working closely with convenors to enhance student learning and course delivery.

- Delivered weekly seminars (10–12 students) and review sessions on key themes in Middle Eastern art and archaeology, facilitating critical discussion and collaborative analysis.
- Supported larger lecture-based courses (20–30 students), including *Arab Painting*, *Islam & the West*, and *Art of the Islamic World*, contributing to the development of learning resources, field trip planning and in-class engagement.
- Introduced an innovative participation grading matrix to assess and encourage diverse forms of engagement and contribution, fostering inclusive and active learning.
- Led on Moodle administration tasks (2022–23), including syllabus design, content uploads and assignment management.
- Organised museum visits to complement academic content and promote experiential learning.

#### Courses Supported:

- *Themes in the Art and Archaeology of the Near and Middle East (UG)*
- *Art of the Islamic World: Objects in Context (PG)*
- *Arab Painting (PG)*
- *Islam and the West (UG)*

### SOAS, University of London

#### Chief Exam Invigilator

05/2024 – 06/2024; 08/2024

Oversaw the successful delivery of over 20 university examinations, ensuring compliance with institutional policies and academic integrity standards.

- Led and supported teams of invigilators, providing clear briefings and responsive in-exam support to maintain calm, equitable environments.
  - Streamlined exam administration processes by proposing and implementing improvements for both digital and paper-based systems, increasing efficiency and minimising manual error.
  - Coordinated with administrative and academic departments to troubleshoot issues, demonstrating strong organisational and communication skills.
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## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

### IDEA Group (Global Design Forum | London Design Festival | London Design Biennale)

#### Business Development Analyst

10/2024 – 06/2025

Lead on data-led evaluation and strategic development across IDEA Group's major programmes, enhancing operational workflows, audience insight, and impact reporting.

- Developed and implemented standardized survey frameworks across LDF, LDB, and GDF to support longitudinal audience analysis and evidence-based planning.
- Rebuilt the digital Partner Dashboard, streamlining workflows and improving partner experience and internal reporting accuracy.
- Conducted a comprehensive audit of internal systems and tools, delivering a roadmap for consolidation and achieving projected annual savings of £18K+.
- Advanced CRM and impact reporting practices to support year-on-year partner ROI analysis, funding applications and strategic decision-making.

### Art Fund UK

#### Independent Research Consultant

08/2024 – 06/2025

Commissioned to evaluate the impact of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) initiatives across UK arts institutions funded by Art Fund, a major national body supporting access to culture for over a century.

- Conducted a comprehensive audit and correction of historic datasets on grants and bequests to improve data reliability for strategic funding decisions.
- Ensured GDPR compliance by anonymizing sensitive records and applying robust validation techniques including cross-referencing and sensitivity analysis.
- Delivered a 70-page internal evaluation assessing the outcomes of award programmes focused on diverse collections, contributing to Art Fund's strategic ED&I framework and policies going forward.

- Provided actionable insights to enhance future programme design and sector-wide data practices on inclusion and representation.

## ArtVendôme

### Head of Research & Strategy / Head of Exhibitors

08/2023 – 03/2024

Led research-driven strategic development for the launch of a new online jewellery auction house, combining qualitative market research with data analysis to inform positioning and operational design. Also directed exhibitor relations and engagement strategies for ArtVendôme's inaugural jewellery fair, working across client onboarding, programme curation and stakeholder communications.

- Designed and implemented a market entry strategy grounded in comparative sector analysis and stakeholder interviews, resulting in a business model projected to reduce operating costs by 30%.
- Produced a comprehensive internal strategy document aligning research findings with KPIs, launch timelines and growth forecasts.
- Created digital onboarding systems that streamlined exhibitor registration, cutting administrative time by 40% while enhancing user experience.
- Designed and evaluated engagement strategies for VIPs and fair attendees, contributing to retention planning and future audience development.

## Frieze Events Ltd.

### Transformation Lead / Data & Insight Manager / Exhibitor Relations Manager

09/2015 – 08/2023

Led research and insight initiatives for a global contemporary art company, including the delivery of Frieze Art Fairs (London, New York, LA, Seoul) and publishing activities. Oversaw strategic change management projects, embedding data-informed approaches across departments and contributing to sustainability and evaluation frameworks.

- Directed economic and social impact evaluations for Frieze's global fairs, commissioning and applying mixed-method research to inform long-term strategic planning.
- Led carbon audit initiatives across international fairs, including data collection, analysis and reporting, as part of the Sustainability Working Group.
- Designed and implemented a data transformation strategy that streamlined CRM and internal digital tools, saving over 100 working days annually.
- Developed and delivered tailored dashboards and insights for senior leadership, supporting improved evaluation of exhibitor ROI, audience engagement and business performance.
- Oversaw the digital vetting system for art authentication, reducing turnaround times by 50% and improving fair logistics.
- Managed exhibitor experience end-to-end, from application and booth design to on-site delivery, cultivating long-term stakeholder relationships.
- Coordinated teams of over 40 art specialists and scribes, ensuring authentication protocols and delivery standards across all Frieze fairs.

## Indianapolis Museum of Art

### Curatorial Assistant

07/2007 – 10/2007

Supported curatorial research and exhibition planning within the Contemporary Art department. Gained practical experience in collection management, interpretive planning, and catalogue production.

- Contributed to object research and exhibition layout development.
- Assisted with catalogue editing and image sourcing.

- Supported collection documentation and database updates.
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## EDUCATION

### PhD Art History & Archaeology SOAS University of London

2015 – 2022

Title: Contesting Convention: Contemporary Art in the Political Landscape of Post-Soviet Central Asia  
Supervisor: Professor Anna Contadini

### MA Contemporary Art Sotheby's Institute of Art, London

2011 – 2013

### BFA with an Emphasis in Art History, Theory & Criticism School of the Art Institute of Chicago

2004 – 2007

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## CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- Associate Fellow (AFHEA) Qualification (Dec 2024)
  - Evaluation for Arts, Culture and Heritage: Principles and Practice Course (Centre for Cultural Value, University of Leeds, self-led, Oct 2024)
  - CPD Pedagogical Training (SOAS, 2023)
    - How to write ILOs
    - How to design active learning strategy
    - How to decolonize your teaching using student-centered approach
  - Certificate Principles of Luxury (Sotheby's Institute of Art, Nov 2023)
  - Preparing To Teach, Learning & Teaching Enhancement Course (SOAS, Feb 2023)
  - Impact and Research Communications Workshop (Lucian Consulting, Apr 2019)
  - Professional Development in Higher Education Programme (PDHEP) (SOAS, Aug 2016 – Mar 2019)
  - Researching Interculturally Workshop (CHASE, Nov 2017)
  - Epigeum: Research Integrity - Arts and Humanities (SOAS, Feb 2016)
  - Coursera: Understanding Research Methods (SOAS, Feb 2016)
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## AFFILIATIONS

- Member of Association for Art History (AAH)
  - Central Eurasian Studies Survey (CESS).
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## LANGUAGES

- English (native)
- Polish (native)
- Russian (intermediate)
- Spanish (beginner)