



LEE GRAS CV

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a designer training as a secondary teacher through the Master of Teaching at Deakin University, with teaching areas in Visual Arts and VCE Vocational Major.

Originally from the Netherlands and now based in Melbourne, I bring over a decade of experience in design, creative education and digital culture into school settings. My background in design communication and education program development informs a structured, process focused approach to studio learning and classroom support.

SKILLS

- Materials preparation and studio setup
- Safe and organised classroom environments
- Student support during practical lessons
- Project and workflow coordination
- Clear communication and team collaboration
- Task prioritisation in busy environments



www.learningbydesign.nl



leegras@proton.me



[linkedin.com/in/helen-gras](https://www.linkedin.com/in/helen-gras)



EDUCATION

Master of Teaching (Secondary)

Deakin University 2026 (in progress)

Teaching Areas: Visual Arts – VCE Vocational Major
Teacher education program preparing for secondary Visual Arts, integrating curriculum studies, classroom practice and supervised placements.

Master of Arts, Design Communication

HKU University of the Arts Utrecht

Validated by The Open University (UK) | 2008

Research-based program exploring design, communication and cultural theory. Focused on artistic research as a method for connecting creative practice with social and educational contexts.

Bachelor of Design University of the Arts Utrecht

Utrecht School of the Arts (HKU), NL 2008

Comprehensive training in design thinking, prototyping and material exploration. Combined textile design, visual research and creative direction, with an emphasis on process-based learning.

Propeduse in Cultural and Social Education (Undergraduate Certificate, HBO)

Hogeschool van Amsterdam 2001

Introductory teacher education studies in pedagogy, psychology and communication, focusing on the social role of education and creative learning environments.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

I see art education as a structured space where students learn to work carefully with materials, think critically about images and develop independence through process. In a rapidly digital world, studio practice offers time for focused attention and deliberate decision making.

Through prepared environments and clear stages of development, students build technical skill while also reflecting on how visual choices shape meaning and culture. My approach values structured independence, close observation and material engagement, supporting students to grow in both confidence and awareness.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Eligible to teach in Victoria under Permission to Teach (PTT).
- Australian & Dutch citizenship

INTERESTS

- Yoga & wellbeing – fostering balance, resilience and mindfulness in learning.
- Visual Arts and Textiles practical making combined with exploration of materials, colour and technique.
- Cultural Theory & Media Studies – linking creativity with identity, society and global perspectives, helping students critically navigate a tech-driven world.



CREATIVE INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Co-founder | Open Youri (in partnership with Lukida) *Amsterdam | Jan 2024 – Sep 2025*

Designed learning materials supporting digital and visual literacy for Years 5 to 8. Developed AI supported resources for media analysis and digital resilience, and collaborated with teachers to create clear, structured lessons in visual communication.

Project Leader & Managing Assistant | Lukida *Amsterdam | Jan 2022 - Sep 2025*

Supported director with coordination of education projects and operations. Oversaw planning, logistics, and communication across multiple initiatives

Design Communication | Social Design

Hello Helen Here · Freelance

Aug 2012 - Dec 2021

The Randstad, Netherlands

Worked across concept development, cultural research and visual communication. Explored how narratives and symbols shape meaning in visual and digital contexts, building skills in visual analysis and interpretation.

Web content creator | Espresso Fashion

Oct 2011 - Sep 2012

Created editorial content and online campaigns, adapting visual composition and messaging for different audiences. Developed a strong understanding of how visual communication shapes interpretation.

