hazel@thebetteredit.com thebetteredit.com

Specialist editorial services for art and art history

From a handful of object labels to a million-word catalogue raisonné, I offer meticulous editing that combines sensitivity to context with rigorous technical precision. With almost two decades of experience among prestigious publishers and authors globally, I can deliver a flexible range of editorial services, from a final polish to support with a tricky bibliography to editorial project management.

Core services

- Proofreading (*a last thorough check for text and layout glitches*)
- Copyediting (*meticulous technical editing for consistency and clarity*)
- Line editing (*in-depth enhancements for flow and voice*)
- Developmental/structural editing (*holistic revisions with the readership in mind*)
- Editorial project management (*coordination of contributors, workflows, schedules and suppliers*)

Additional services and skills

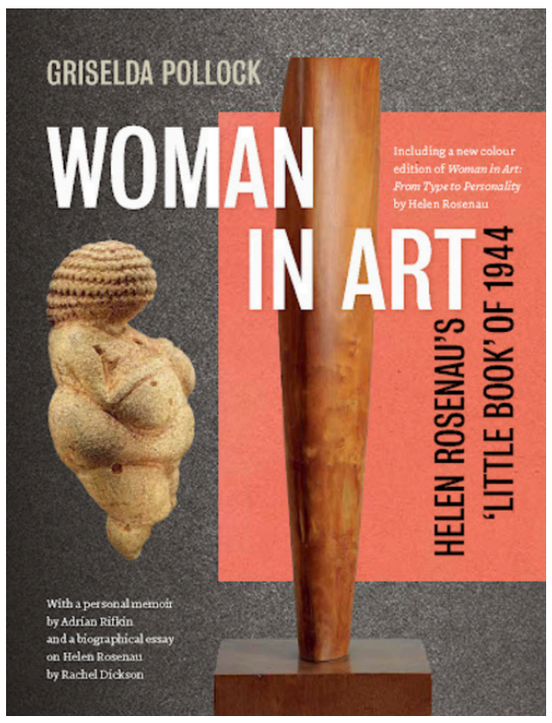
- Captions and credits
- Contributor liaison
- Data tracking (e.g. Excel, databases)
- InDesign (intermediate level)
- Proof collation
- Referencing and bibliographies
- Style guides: highly versatile (e.g. your house style, *Chicago*, *Hart's Rules*, MLA or bespoke)
- UK and US English
- XML and HTML

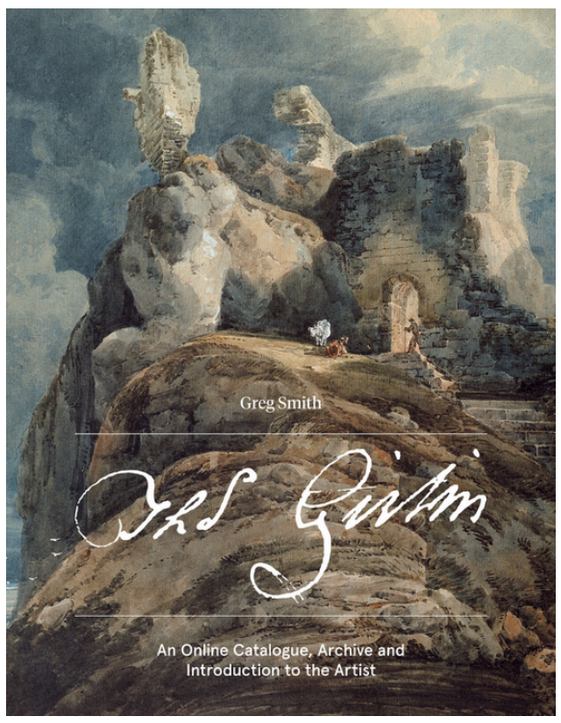
Topics

- 18th, 19th and 20th centuries
- Art education
- British art
- European art
- Fashion and costume history
- Genealogical studies
- Music
- Prints and drawings
- Social art history
- Textiles
- Women artists

'The book has been scrupulously and sympathetically copyedited with great care by Hazel Bird, who has been attentive to ensuring the fullest representation of Helen Rosenau's multi-lingual and transdisciplinary scholarship.'

Griselda Pollock on my copyediting of *Woman in Art: Helen Rosenau's 'Little Book' of 1944*





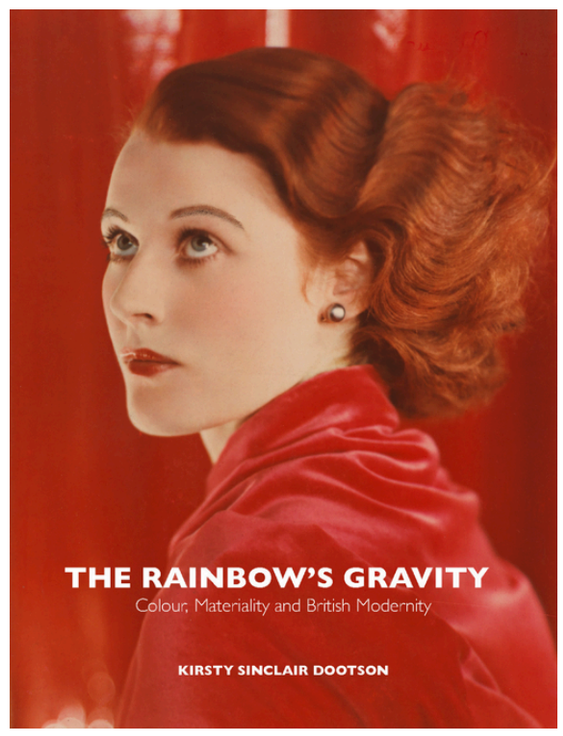
Editorial services for art and art history

the better edit

Portfolio (selected)

- Hamish Miles (ed. Alex Kidson), ***David Wilkie**: The Complete Paintings* (Paul Mellon Centre, 2026)
- Kate Retford (ed.), ***Four Women**: Trajectories through Art History* (Paul Mellon Centre exhibition pamphlet and display labels, 2026), https://tinyurl.com/4cu8sbez
- Richard Ormond, ***John Singer Sargent**: The Charcoal Portraits* (Paul Mellon Centre, 2025)
- Griselda Pollock, ***Woman in Art**: Helen Rosenau's 'Little Book' of 1944* (Paul Mellon Centre, 2023)
- Kirsty Sinclair Dootson, ***The Rainbow's Gravity**: Colour, Materiality and British Modernity* (Paul Mellon Centre, 2023)
- Greg Smith, ***Thomas Girtin** (1775–1802): An Online Catalogue, Archive and Introduction to the Artist* (Paul Mellon Centre, 2022), www.thomasgirtin.com
- Richard Hickman (ed.), ***The International Encyclopedia of Art and Design Education*** (Wiley Blackwell, 2019)
- *Curating Contemporary Art* (**Royal College of Art** master's exhibition essays, 2016)
- Penny Huntsman, ***Thinking About Art*** (Wiley Blackwell for the Association for Art History, 2015)
- ***Elementum**: A Journal of Nature and Story*, issues 4 and 5, www.elementumjournal.com
- Various books for Paul Choy, **documentary photographer**, www.bypaulchoy.com

> 'Hazel Bird undertook the detailed editing of the manuscript, revealing and amending discrepancies and ambiguities, checking the sources and insisting on comprehensive and accurate references.'
>
> **Richard Ormond** on my copyediting of *John Singer Sargent: The Charcoal Portraits*

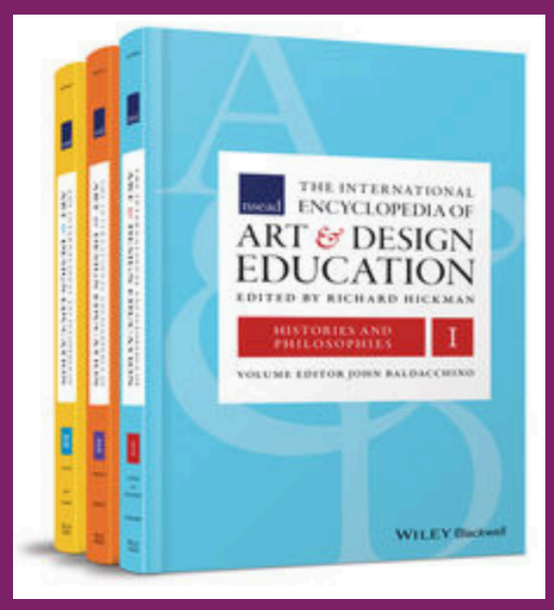


> 'Hazel has been my secret weapon for more book projects than I can remember. Seriously, I don't know how she does it; she spots things I would never have seen in a million years. I wouldn't even consider sending one of my books to print without Hazel working her magic on it first.'
>
> Paul Choy, **documentary photographer**, accredited humanitarian storyteller and International Organization for Migration Goodwill Ambassador

Spotlight on catalogues raisonnés and encyclopedias

These projects can be truly monumental, with historic importance and decades of research behind them. My approach honours this endeavour by keeping the broad perspective and the minute details in balance.

My experience extends back almost 20 years through publications of up to 5.5 million words with over 1,000 contributors apiece, as well as magnum opuses with a sole author at the helm. I can help you to coordinate vast word counts, long lists of images and multiple contributors, ensuring that the workflow is smooth and the final result is cohesive.



Publication types

- Books
- Articles
- Journals
- Catalogues raisonnés
- Encyclopedias
- Exhibition catalogues
- Wall text
- Object labels
- Member- and customer-facing materials
- Digital publications
- Websites

‘Hazel has worked on some of our biggest and most difficult manuscripts. She negotiates their complexities with clear-sightedness, patience and diplomacy, and the authors are always delighted with the results. I feel complete confidence in putting projects of this nature into her capable hands, and I know that she will bring clarity and precision to even the most challenging situations. It is a great pleasure to work with her, and I look forward to every project I am able to send her way.’

Emily Lees, Senior Editor,
Paul Mellon Centre for British Art

the better edit

Indicative rates for 2026/27

My quotations are bespoke to each project. This way, you can be sure of a service that moulds to your priorities and the text's unique features. I am also often happy to negotiate around specific budgets.

However, indicative rates for some of my services are as follows (see page 1 for brief definitions):

- **Proofreading** a 2,000-word exhibition catalogue: £210
- **Copyediting** an 8,000-word journal article: £415
- **Copyediting** a 50,000-word book with 30 illustrations: £2,000
- **Line editing** a 70,000-word book with 50 illustrations: £3,500
- **Copyediting** a catalogue raisonné of 300,000 words with one image per catalogue entry: £11,000

Please get in touch for a no-obligation quotation.

Prices are subject to VAT where applicable.

Helpful resources

- Which editorial service do you need?
- Painting by numbers: getting data right in art history books
- What does a developmental editor do?
- Copyediting and AI: a manifesto
- How to speed up Microsoft Word with Track Changes
- How to write a glossary
- Using Trello for editorial projects (free template)
- How to edit interview and survey responses
- How to hire a freelance editorial project manager
- How to find your ideal editorial project manager
- How many corrections per page are acceptable on proofs?
- Why giving better-quality feedback to freelancers means better project quality

ciep Advanced Professional Member

EFA EDITORIAL FREELANCERS ASSOCIATION MEMBER

aCES the society for editing

AAE ASSOCIATION OF ART EDITORS

ASSOCIATION FOR ART HISTORY

hazel@thebetteredit.com

thebetteredit.com

the better edit