Out of the Shadows: Fostering Creativity and Teacher Education Programs is a culmination of five years of research into the role teachers have played in nurturing the world’s great artistic minds. The study focuses on the evolution of creativity in teaching practices and finds that many methods are as relevant in today’s classrooms as they were ten thousand years ago. The ancient Chinese used a painting style known as Moku-Chi to nurture the creativity of their children. They were encouraged to splash ink freely across rice paper, using broad, abandoned strokes to find inspiration.

This book fuses ancient and modern techniques to inspire teachers and their students. We encourage teachers of today to learn from the lessons of the past. With a focus on Australian Aboriginal and Chinese arts and culture, comprehensive learning models and innovative teaching approaches aim to improve the art education in primary and secondary schools.

Praise for Out of the Shadows: Fostering Creativity and Teacher Education Programs:

“International and Australian research demonstrates how important it is that every early childhood and primary teacher develop the confidence and expertise to teach the arts imaginatively and embed quality arts processes and experiences across the curriculum. Dr. Wade-Leeuwen’s knowledge and expertise in this field is central to her inquiry in this book. Overall, a very impressive original work which has focused on a critical topic for the education of preservice teachers.”

—Professor Robyn Ewing AM, Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney, Australia.

Bronwen Wade-Leeuwen is one of Australia’s leading arts educators. She coordinates the creative arts program at Macquarie University’s School of Education. Bronwen has played an active role in developing essential critical and creative skills in pre-service primary teachers and works mainly with indigenous communities in Australia and the Asian Pacific Region.