

Matthijs Siljee has been a part of the Holocaust Centre for just over seven years. Matthijs is a designer and holds the professional positions of Senior Lecturer and Team Manager Academic at the Wellington School of Design at Massey University. He designed the Children's Holocaust Memorial (CHM) and the Anne Frank Memorial Parikōwhai.

Since the CHM was completed and launched in 2018, he has continued to support the Centre on this and other projects. He has volunteered his time in speaking at events on the CHM, and assisting our staff in seeking venues for display. He was guest speaker at our 2019 AGM. He also established a casual volunteer gardening group at the Ellice Park site of the Anne Frank Memorial, bringing people from all walks of life together.

He will be undertaking the work to design and install a display case for the Torah that HCNZ has guardianship of and the repair of the Torah woodwork.

The skills he brings in addition to his design skills are his insight and his enormous sensitivity on the topics of the Holocaust and the representation of memory and human tragedy. He displays profound empathy for the victims of persecution and discrimination.

He wrote down his family testimony in Nazi occupied Netherlands, which Founding Director Inge Woolf read in 2018, including how his grandparents tried to save Jewish girl Suze Goudsmid.

His willingness to help others, with his time and expertise, and hands-on effort is extraordinary.

We present Matthijs with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service.

25 August 2024