

Creative Summer School 2025: Grand Designs

Dates	Monday 11 to Thursday 14 August 2025
Times	10.30-16.30 BST each day
Location	At the museum (Studio and Galleries)
Tutors	Karly Allen, Alexander Collins, David Holah and Sarah Schiewe
Level	All Levels



Grayson Perry, *My Home*, 2024 © Grayson Perry. Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro

Course Description

Let your creativity flow and learn new skills in drawing, printmaking and ceramics, inspired by our current exhibition, *Grayson Perry: Delusions of Grandeur*.

Guided by our artists and with ongoing access to the exhibition, over four days you'll explore how art of the past can be playfully reimaged in a range of media. Exploring Grayson Perry's innovative techniques and unique storytelling, you'll delve into different themes to spark your imagination and help you express your own stories through art.

By the end of the summer school, you'll have created a diverse portfolio of vibrant drawings, prints and ceramic pieces, and will have had many opportunities for individual and group tuition on artistic processes and materials.

Monday

Our week begins with an exploration of the connections between artworks in the Wallace Collection and those made by Grayson Perry for *Delusions of Grandeur*. We'll visit the exhibition to see how Perry has woven his storytelling through a range of artworks, and consider how we might tell our own stories through art or an imagined persona. You'll investigate how drawing materials can be used as instruments for discovery by making a range of sketches.

Reflecting on Perry's interest in AI-generated image making, using our iPads you'll take photographs, and enjoy quickfire drawing activities using Procreate digital drawing tools. By the end of the day you'll have a range of drawings, both analogue and digital, and will have developed a subject matter to take forward into the rest of the course.

Tuesday

On day two, we'll focus on Perry's vibrant woodblock prints. Using Monday's drawings, you'll work these into a woodblock print of your own, creating the shapes and strong lines suitable for relief printing. You'll then be guided through the woodblock printmaking process and materials, and how to carve your own image into a block.

In the afternoon, you'll create a series of two-colour prints and, through the process, learn specific hand-burnishing and ink rolling techniques, helping you to master the concept of negative and positive spaces in relief printing.

Wednesday

On Wednesday, we'll hone in on Perry's ceramics, as well as the vast maiolica collection at the museum. We'll be joined by the Collection's Curator of Decorative Arts, Alexander Collins, who'll lead an exclusive tour of these intriguing objects. Returning to the studio, we'll dive into exploring fundamental ceramic-building techniques and surface decoration. You'll learn basic construction methods and mark-making using found objects, and be introduced to *sgraffito* – the technique for illustrating directly onto clay, favoured by Grayson Perry. You'll begin a sculptural artwork that incorporates these skills.

Thursday

On our final day, we'll complete the build of our ceramic artworks and apply a range of decorative techniques, bringing texture, pattern and narrative. This will be a chance to experiment, play and finesse your artwork. To complete the summer school, towards the end of the day we'll gather all the work that has been made for a pop-up display, and together we'll reflect on the work we've produced and the achievements of four full days of creativity.

Tutors

Karly Allen is a drawing tutor and lecturer in art history. A graduate of the Ruskin School of Art (University of Oxford) and SOAS (University of London), she has led workshops and developed learning programmes for national art collections for over 20 years, including the National Gallery, Courtauld Gallery, V&A and National Portrait Gallery. Karly enriches her teaching with her training as a mindfulness teacher and, as co-director of [Limina Collective](#), contributes to the emerging field of mindfulness in museums. She specialises in approaches to looking and drawing in art collections, the history of the sketch aesthetic, and drawing to promote wellbeing and connection.

Alexander Collins is Curator of Decorative Arts at the Wallace Collection. Previously, he was Assistant Curator for *Portraits of Dogs: From Gainsborough to Hockney* and Leverhulme Fellow for the prestigious Riesener Project, in which he researched the furniture of Jean-Henri Riesener and contributed to the Project's monograph and digital resources. Alexander was also Decorative Arts Curatorial Intern at the Royal Collection.

David Holah co-founded the pioneering fashion label BodyMap after obtaining a First-Class BA (Hons) in Fashion and Textiles at Middlesex University. He has designed clothing and prints for fashion brands including Goldie, Benetton and Fiorrucci. In 2006, Holah decided to diversify his practice and completed an MA in Printmaking from Camberwell College of Art. Holah has exhibited work in numerous shows, galleries and public spaces and continues to be a freelance designer, notably designing a set of prints for Giles Deacon fashion show. Holah currently works as a printmaking tutor at Morley College and City Lit.

Sarah Schiewe completed a BA (Hons) in 3D Contemporary Craft at the York School of Art. Inspired by the narrative power of Grayson Perry's work, she developed a practice rooted in storytelling through bespoke ceramic sculpture. Working under her brand 'Soul Fired', Sarah explores themes of identity, memory and aspirations, transforming personal stories into meaningful ceramic pieces. Alongside her studio practice, she runs creative workshops that encourage others to reflect on their own experiences and express them through clay.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. Our summer school is suitable for beginners as well as those looking to develop their artistic practice.

Equipment and Materials

Please wear clothes suitable for a messy workshop. All materials and equipment are provided.

Joining Information and Format

The summer school will take place in the Learning Studio, Lower Ground Floor and in display galleries throughout the museum.

We recommend participants bring a packed lunch. When walking through the museum, food and drink must be packed away in a bag and must only be consumed in the Studio.
