Online Course



Drawing Narratives

Dates Saturday 20 February 2021

Times 11.00-16.30
Location Zoom Meeting
Level All Levels



Peter Paul Rubens, The Triumph of Henri IV, 1628 (detail)

Course Description

From children's picture books to graphic novels and illustrated articles online, visual storytelling remains a key aspect of modern publishing. Join our introduction to the method and techniques of narrative illustration, taking inspiration from some of the greatest visual storytellers of the past. Working with the Wallace Collection's superb range of narrative-led artworks, we'll take our lead from the likes of Murillo, Boucher and Rubens to learn how their approaches still inform the foundations of character and story development in illustration today.

Our day is divided into three parts. We'll beginning with an introduction to the fundamental concepts of narrative illustration alongside simple techniques for using pencil effectively, including hatching, burnishing, blending and gradation. Next, we'll learn how to create characters and develop them in a convincing visual space, through variation in tonal value and colour. You'll apply this approach in recreating one of the Wallace Collection's paintings, in your own illustrative style, before lunch. Finally, we'll spend the afternoon employing the methods and techniques we've learned to respond to a mock brief, helping you to create your own narrative illustration.

Course Tutor

Luisa Rivera is a London-based illustrator originally from Chile. In 2012 she obtained a Fulbright scholarship to pursue her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She has published several picture books, including editions of Gabriel García Márquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude and Love in the Time of Cholera. Luisa has worked with major clients including Air Canada, Google, Penguin Random House, The New York Times, Variety magazine, O The Oprah Magazine, and Reservoir Books, among others.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is open to anyone who has an interest in illustration a drawing narratives. Those with experience in illustration will take away new ideas and approaches for developing their practice and beginners will gain new skills and confidence. A willingness to experiment and find enjoyment in your drawing will help you get the most out of the course.

Materials and Equipment

We encourage participants to use the following materials but each exercise can be undertaken with a more limited range:

- A good amount of A3 drawing paper (a mixture of smooth and heavyweight)
- Graphite pencils (1B and 1HB)
- Coloured pencils (we recommend 12 different hues)
- Eraser and sharpener

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through Zoom. For more information, including instructions on how to download and use the system, please visit www.zoom.us/support.

The overall course duration is five-and-a-half hours. This includes a two-hour morning session, leading to a lunch break of 30 minutes at approximately 13.00. The afternoon session will last three hours. Participants are free to take short comfort/refreshment breaks throughout the day.

Participants will be emailed the Zoom Meeting ID and Passcode 48 hours in advance of the course session.