

Course Description

Illustrating Alice

Dates	Tuesdays 23 February, 1 March, 8 March, 15 March and 22 March 2016
Times	18:00–20:30
Location	Harry M Weinrebe Learning Centre
Level	All levels
Class size	Maximum 16 participants

Course description

Alice's adventures and the now iconic illustrations used to bring them to life will be the starting point for this five-week illustration course. We'll explore character illustration, depict narrative scenes and sequences and develop creative ideas from the real world. You'll have the opportunity to explore different media and techniques each week, and receive practical guidance throughout the course on a group and one-to-one basis. You'll hear from British Library curators, who will lead a private tour of our popular *Alice in Wonderland* exhibition.

During the course you'll have the opportunity to use different media including pens, pencils, collage, brushes, watercolour and gouache paint.

Week 1: Getting to know Alice and working with collage

Our course starts with an exclusive tour of the *Alice in Wonderland* exhibition, led by Library curators Helen Melody and Alison Bailey, which will help set the scene for our practical work. We'll then introduce collage as a way of exploring some of the dramatic scenes from Carroll's stories, using a range of papers, and photographic and illustration materials.

Week 2: Creating an Alice for our own adventures

In week two we'll introduce character design. You'll be creating your own version of Alice and be taken through the process of generating character ideas, experimenting with them and then developing one into a finished design. You'll make decisions about character type, style, costume design and colour and you'll use your design in later sessions to help you explore other aspects of illustration.

Week 3: Transformations

Creating basic narrative sequences and character manipulation will be the focus of our third week. Inspired by Alice's transformations, you'll learn how to develop transformation sequences (three-five images) where a character is dramatically changed. We'll start by exploring how to keep your Alice character consistent over multiple images, then move on to manipulating the character in more extreme ways.

Week 4: Anthropomorphism

Taking inspiration from Carroll's iconic Queen of Hearts and other playing card characters, in week four you'll develop your own characters from inanimate objects and familiar imagery. We'll explore the process from choosing a starting point and developing it into a character, to forming a character type (good, bad or mad!). You'll fully explore the possibilities of your character through experimentation and manipulation.

Week 5: The Library as Wonderland

In our final session, we'll use the Library building as inspiration for creating narrative scenes. You'll explore the public spaces, drawing architectural details that will then be developed in the studio. During the process we'll consider point of view, composition and colour to create scenes that will include the characters you have developed during the course.

Tutors

This course is led by Sion Ap Tomos, with contributions from British Library curators Helen Melody and Alison Bailey. Sion is an illustrator, designer and educator. A graduate of Central Saint Martins and the Royal College of Art, he has been teaching drawing and illustration for 15 years at various institutions including Central Saint Martins, House of Illustration, the National Portrait Gallery and the Design Museum.

Previous skills, knowledge or experience

None required. A willingness to experiment with different media and techniques will help you get the most from this course.

Equipment and materials

Please bring an A4 cartridge paper sketch pad (recommended 130gms paper) on which to work each week, preferably with detachable pages. All other materials will be provided.

More about Adult Learning Courses at the British Library

Our courses are aimed at anyone interested in developing their personal interests and passions. Deepen your engagement with a wide range of topics and use our world-renowned collections to inspire your own creativity. We'll bring you together with Library experts and guest specialists, providing a unique learning experience.

Multi-session courses offer high-quality, in-depth learning experiences that encourage discussion with both experts and fellow learners. To make sure you get the most from your time with us, we limit class sizes to 16 participants.

So if you want to develop fresh perspectives with leading thinkers or create with contemporary artists, our new programme is the place to start.