

Reportage Project brief; part 1

This project which has been set to encompass the whole semester (see timetable in the Module brief) is to be carried out in your own time; 6 hours study a week. It is supported by an additional 2-hour weekly assignment drawing exercises set out for you each Monday morning starting on the 5th October. Try to keep each Monday free as your 8-hour drawing day. You will start the week in a good space for further work for the rest of the week.

This project has been designed to seriously advance your objective drawing skills and visual interpretation. You are aiming to have significantly improved your recording skills by the end of the semester. This is your chance to explore experiment and play. Make the most of this time to advance your skills as it will truly enhance your future illustration ability whatever Genre of illustration you decide to work with in the future. YOU CANNOT DRAW, RECORD AND OBSERVE FROM LIFE ENOUGH.



Introduction

Reportage is an exciting Genre of illustration (see PowerPoint). It is an intense form of journalistic visual recording from life. It can encompass any aspect of life that is important to your interests. It will appeal to those of you that like to work figuratively as opposed to conceptually. It will test your objective drawing skills to the limit. It will encourage you to see the story/narrative in what you observe and will reveal insight into every day activity. It can be intense, the environment you work in can be uncomfortable, dangerous (if working in a war zone) and challenging. The weather may dictate how and where you work. You will need self-discipline and stamina to carry on with your work at times. You will also need to be well organised be self-motivated and may need to plan ahead, not only regarding the materials you work with and the space you work in but also regarding asking permission to work where you wish to in some instances.

Brief

You need to choose a subject that interests you. Take your time this week to think carefully about the subject you wish to record. Brainstorm some ideas. Research what reportage is. I have given you lots of links and names of illustrators below related to reportage to inspire you. Be practical, what can you easily work with but that will also challenge you? Don't be tempted to make the subject and consequent working environment too difficult at this stage. You will have enough to tackle getting your drawing skills up to standard. You need to think about how to get the most out of this brief while you are advancing your drawing ability.

Locations

As we have literally gone into lockdown this weekend in Swansea your drawing locations and subjects will be limited. Don't be defeatist about this, you will need to be creative about the subject you choose. Below are some suggested ideas, some if you are confined to your accommodation and college and some ideas if you

will be allowed to work on location (you will need to find out what is allowed from your tutors at college this week) This is not an exhaustive list, you are welcome to work out your own subject as long as whatever you choose is from life.

Some location/subject ideas;

Suggestions in lockdown

- *You could record your new life away from home. The place you live in, the college environment the conversations you hear. It could be a visual diary about your day to day experiences. Are you happy, homesick? How does your mood change over the semester?
- *It could be about the journey to college each day, the people you see.
- *It could be about a day in lock down from when you get up to recording everything you do throughout the day.
- *It could be a series of self-portraits reflecting emotions every day or week.
- *It could be the changing weather and seasons outside your window each week recording the view in different lights.
- *If you like natural history it could be about flowers and plants you bring in for a drawing session each week
- *Or an exploration into the food you eat and cook and serve up.
- *it could be a set of still lifes you arrange each week that reflects your mood or circumstances.

Suggestions out of lockdown

- *If you are interested in the natural world it could be a visual exploration of your garden, the local park, Plantasia, the beach etc.
- *If you love the bustle of the city you could choose a subject around different cafes in Swansea; restaurants, shops, city streets, the differences between modern shops and the market.
- *if you enjoy buildings you could explore the architecture, look at the new vs the old, the history regarding the war. Time lines of building ages.
- *If you are interested in people's occupations you could ask permission to follow the occupation of someone and record their day in drawings.
- *If you are beguiled by the sea you could draw the marina and the boats and find out what the docks once looked like.
- * you may be at home and could record your home life, pets and family.

Tell a story/narrative

Try to tell a story. Think of the context of your subject, what are you trying to report. If you are stuck with ideas about the context just draw and the context will often reveal itself. If it doesn't we can talk about this in the tutorials.

Research your ideas before you start, try to find out as much as you can about the subject you wish to draw.

Materials to use

For the reportage project, you can use any materials you wish. However, I would encourage you to take the opportunity in this project to really experiment with different media. Make sure if you are working on site that they are portable, easy to carry and easy to use. We will discuss different media as the weeks progress.

What to submit

First submission deadline for the reportage project is Sunday 4th October 2020 12.00 midnight;

You will need to give a brief synopsis of your subject choice and what you have decided to draw for this project and why and hand it in along with your 'who are you brief'.

Final submission deadline Monday 4th January 2021 3.00pm;

You can execute the final body of work in any way you wish, as sketchbook/s, loose sheets or make a handmade book. Whatever way you choose to execute this work you will need to photograph it or scan it and present it as a PowerPoint saved as a pdf. Make sure you think about how you will put the images

together, whether to crop them or put groups of sketches on one slide. Make the presentation interesting as if you will be sending it to a potential client in order to sell your story. If you decide to elaborate your sketches and enhance and colour the originals on Photoshop or an app make sure you include an image of the original sketch that you had drawn from life. Don't forget to add the research you have done personal to your project. More detailed information about submission will be handed out at the end of this term.



A list of reportage illustrators

The illustrators that work in reportage work in many different ways. Some produce images that are highly emotive and get to the gut such as Sue Coe and the printmaker Kathe Kollwitz. Some are tranquil and still such as the boat studies by Anna Cattermole. Some are energetic and create movement such as Joe Munro. And some ask you to question your ethics such as Ronald Searle who worked in the Burma prisoner of war camps and Matthew Cook who travelled with the army into Afghanistan. And some look at political and activist issues such as Gary Embury bike project and Jill Gibbon at the Arms fairs in London.

Feliks Topolski
Audrey Hawkins
Joe Monro

Sue Coe
Steve Wilkin
Anna Cattermole

Gary Embury
Hannah Simpson
Matt Booker

Mario Minichiello
George Butler
Jill Gibbon
Alex Nicholson
Tim Vyner
Chloe Regan
Louis Netter
Veronica Lawlor
Laura Fitton
Anne Howeson
Charlotte Pulfer
Peter Blodau
Kurt Jackson

Jedidiah Dore
Tim King
Harry Morgan
Oliver Kugler
Jorge Columbo
Jenny Soep
Julia Midgley
Lucinda Rogers
Luisa Crosbie
Liz Anelli
Greg Betza
Mitch Miller
Jon Williams

Stephanie Unger
Sophia O'Connor
Melanie Reim
Daniel Zalkus
Rachel Gannon
Phoebe Halstead
David Sparshott
Bo Soremsky
Matthias Beckmann
Trevor Dickenson
Gareth Proskourine-Barnett
Henry tonks

Some additional books and websites that may interest you

Make the most of time you spend researching. It is amazing what some artists have achieved and the conditions they have had to work in. Don't be discouraged by the high standard of work. Some of the illustrators have spent years drawing, drawing and drawing in order to perfect their skills. It takes practice, discipline and perseverance. Some illustrators will work for an eight hour stretch or more in challenging conditions, New York artist Lucinda Rogers.

Reportager	www.reportager.org
The Drawing Centre	www.drawingcentre.org
The Big Draw	www.thebigdraw.org/the-big-draw
Drawing Research Network	www.drawing-research-network.org.uk
Urban Sketchers	www.urbansketchers.org , & australia.urbansketchers.org
SketchCrawl	www.sketchcrawl.com
The Royal Drawing School	www.royaldrawingschool.org
The Sketchbook Project	www.sketchbookproject.com
Topolski Century	www.topolskicentury.org.uk/about-us/topolski-studio
The Melton Prior Institute	www.meltonpriorinstitut.org
Graphic Witness	www.graphicwitness.org
Vingt et Un	www.revue21.fr
The Association of Illustrators	www.theaoi.com
The Society of Illustrators	www.societyillustrators.org
House of Illustration	www.houseofillustration.org.uk
It's Nice That	www.itsnicethat.com
Booooooom	www.booooooom.com
Gary Embury and Mario Minichiello	Reportage illustration
Brazell Derek and Davies Jo:	Making Great Illustration
Brazell Derek and Davies Jo	Becoming a Successful Illustrator (2 nd Edition)
Ball Emily:	Drawing and Painting People – A Fresh Approach
Various	Radical Figures – Painting in the New Millennium
Nicholas Hammond (Ed)	Artists for Nature in Extremadura www.artistsfornature.com
Royal Drawing School	Ways of Drawing – Artists' Perspectives and Practices

