

## **WORKSHOP Documenting Life Through Drawing with Julia Midgley RWS**

**Price** £100

**Location** RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street

**Date** Saturday 6th April 2024

**Time** 10.30am - 4pm

### **About the Workshop**

In this workshop you will be learning how to draw from real life. Through rapid, responsive drawing on location, you will explore your own unique perspective, whether its capturing a moment or documenting a time and place, you will begin to develop your own illustrative language.

This course will begin with direct observational drawings in the morning out on location in Trafalgar Square and in the afternoon you will produce a finished drawing in the gallery, based on the work produced earlier in the day. Throughout this workshop there will be plenty of handy hints and techniques explained, all designed to break down any inhibitions or concerns that drawing movement or people at large is in any way daunting. You will also be introduced to the work of influential reportage artists like Felix Topolski, Ronald Searle and Paul Hogarth.

This workshop is designed for all abilities. Whilst quite high levels of concentration are required, it will be fun, eye opening, and confidence building.

### **Morning**

- Short briefing and demonstration
- Introduction to influential reportage artists
- The morning will then be spent on location making tiny sketches at speed on Post it Pads of the many varied visitors to Trafalgar Square
- Return to the studio, attaching all the Post it Pad drawings to the studio wall thus producing a reference library of sketches
- Discuss the work and outline how this library will be used in the afternoon session

## Afternoon

- Break for lunch
- The afternoon will be gallery based
- A brief outline on how to approach the development of a finished drawing will take place
- The wall display of sketches provides a resource for the group to use as work begins on a larger piece ( A3 - A2) based on the observations made out on location
- Any approach to drawing may be used
- After a couple of hours the completed works will be displayed and a light hearted yet constructive review of the day's work will take place

## About the Tutor

Julia is a reportage artist and was Reader in Documentary Drawing at Liverpool School of Art & Design, LJMU, for over 25 years. Direct observational drawing is the bedrock of her practice, whilst drawing also informs her printmaking and studio portfolios

Julia's reportage/documentary commissions reflect an interest in war art, and medicine. War Art & Surgery, a WW1 Centenary drawing project, in collaboration with The Royal College of Surgeons of England, documented military medical training and the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers.

Julia is member of both the Royal Watercolour Society and the Royal Society of Painter Printmakers and a frequent exhibitor at the Royal Academy of Art's Summer Exhibition. Examples of her work can be found in the holdings of National Museums and corporate bodies, internationally and in the UK.

## Materials

- **A Post it Pad:** (any colour / size up to 13 x 8 cm)
- **Small personal sketchbook:** up to A4
- **Watercolour paper** for final piece (size A3 or A2 depending on preference)
- **A selection of random papers:** this could be normal cartridge 90 gsm minimum; brown wrapping paper; newsprint; tinted paper; old documents; or whatever you like to work on.
- **Black & white drawing implements:** to include favourite pencils, pens, markers, charcoal, compressed charcoal or ink. (Basically a broad selection of mark making media which is down to your personal preference)
- **Coloured pencils** (recommended not obligatory)
- **Coloured pens** (recommended not obligatory)
- **Eraser**

- **Tippex**
- **Masking tape**
- **Watercolours (optional):** if you wish to use watercolour please bring a **small water container, brushes** and **sponge / cloth** for wiping brushes.

## **Useful Links**

As a starter, on Google images you might like to look up:

### **Felix Topolski**

He was famous for arriving with his sketchbook at the great moments of 20th Century history. As an official war artist he recorded Arctic convoys and the Blitz. Throughout the latter half of the twentieth century, Topolski established himself as the artistic chronicler of world events. See <https://topolski.org/>

### **Ronald Searle**

Although best known for his illustrations of St Trinian's, Searle's most moving work was his documentation of the brutal camp conditions during his time as a Japanese prisoner of war working on the notorious Burma railway. Driven to make a record of the terrible treatment and conditions there, he hid his drawings under the mattresses of dying prisoners.

### **Paul Hogarth**

One of the most distinguished illustrators and graphic artists working in the 20th century, his work influenced many young art students including Julia. His drawings illustrate travels around the world as well as collaborations with an enviable rota of authors - Graham Greene, Robert Graves, Lawrence Durrell. Most successful perhaps, were the illustrations he made for Peter Mayle's "An Illustrated Year in Provence".

To see the best selection of contemporary practicing reportage artists please visit:

<https://reportager.uwe.ac.uk/projects.htm> &  
<https://reportager.uwe.ac.uk/memfrm.htm>

Julia's own website: [www.juliamidgley.co.uk](http://www.juliamidgley.co.uk)

## Location



RWS Gallery  
3-5 Whitcomb Street  
London  
WC2H 7HA

Just off Trafalgar Square  
Nearest tubes: Leicester  
Square and Charing Cross

Nearby parking is very limited.  
There is a Q-Park multi-storey  
car park at the top of  
Whitcomb Street that charges  
around £9/hour. If you wish to  
travel by car we recommend  
checking nearby parking on  
[parkopedia.com](http://parkopedia.com)

## Lunch & Refreshments

Lunch is not provided and it is recommended that you bring your own food and drink for the day, which can be consumed in the gallery. Students are welcome to use the gallery fridges to store their food and drink. There are also many cafes nearby including a Pret-a-Manger next door to the gallery.