

## **Character design and constructing the narrative**

The creation of three miniature picturebooks and one miniature pop-up book, which were displayed in one room in a dolls' house, raised numerous questions about the process of making and the implications of the space that they were exhibited in 'the making and manipulating of the miniature constitute not just the product of a technology of the aesthetic but also a cultural process...' (Mack, 2007).

As outlined in 'Reflections on dolls' houses', dolls' houses were common toys in the Victorian period. The miniature books were created using digital illustration techniques, and paper engineering inspired by Victorian novelty books, such as those by Lothar Meggendorfer. The illustration of the character Toby Rabbit has toy-like qualities, such as rigid limbs and a flat-textured, simplified form based on Victorian toys, such as the 'Rabbit in Cabbage' (a musical automaton by Roullet and Decamps circa. 1890).

In the miniature books, Toby, the protagonist rabbit, inhabits an Arcadian world, abundant in trees, carrots, flowers and butterflies. The viewer is positioned perpendicular to the scene, offering a cross-sectional view of the sky, grass and the soil underneath Toby's feet. His environment is flat, with little depth portrayed, creating stylised surroundings for the character to inhabit. The colour scheme of the books was chosen to complement the colours of the Dollhouse, to create a coherent feel to work in the space.