



School: School of Creative Industries

Researcher: Laura Little

Project Title: Making books: character design and narrative in illustration

UOA: 32 - Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory

Research Timeline

Date	Rationale of research activities and decisions undertaken
2015	Conference paper: <i>Using geometric shapes to represent characters in a picturebook: a practice-based exploration</i> , IBBY / NCRCL conference, University of Roehampton
2016	Book chapter: Contributor to a new book on narrative and art education: <i>Narration – Transdisziplinäre Wege zur Kunstdidaktik</i> (Kopaed, 2016). Laura's chapter draws on narratology and semiotics to explore ways in which simple geometric shapes can be used to represent character and create the impression of a pictorial narrative when designing children's picturebooks. In this practice-based project, Laura made a picturebook based on the fairy tale <i>The Wolf and the Seven Young Kids</i> by the Brothers Grimm. She examines the extent to which character with minimal or non-existent body and facial animation can be constructed through a formal, design-based approach. Laura was invited to present this research at the <i>Pictures and Narrative</i> conference in Basel, Switzerland (2014).
2016	Exhibition: Galway International Art Fair, Ireland Part of the book arts exhibition space.
2016	Public talk: <i>The golden ages of children's publishing</i> , Galway International Art Fair, Galway, Ireland
2016	Exhibition: PAGES: Leeds International Artists' Book Fair

2017	<p>Article: <i>Reflections on practice-based research in children's picturebook illustration</i></p> <p>This article draws on practice-based research methodologies and applies them to character design from an illustrator's perspective.</p>
2017	<p>Conference paper: <i>Children making picturebooks</i>, Art and Design as Agents for Change, Dublin, Ireland</p>
2017	<p>Conference paper: <i>All the better to see you: depictions of the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood</i>, Transmedia UK: Sector by Sector, Bath</p>
2018	<p>Conference: [panel curator and chair] <i>Publishing picturebooks: design and editorial decision-making for a global industry</i>, Synergy and Contradiction, University of Cambridge</p>
2019	<p>Exhibition: The Dollhouse Space, Boekhandel Blokker, Heemstede, Netherlands</p> <p>For the exhibition, three miniature pop-up books use a range of paper engineering and illustration techniques. Commissioned for a group exhibition, they were made during an artist's residency and exhibited in the bedroom of a vintage OKWA dolls' house in Amsterdam</p>