Annual joint Illustration forum

For BA Illustration students at the London College of Communication and Falmouth University.

Title: ‘Illustration; a Diverse Practice’

Venue: London College of Communication, London

Date: 03/12/2105

Event curated and organised by Falmouth University (Sue Clarke) in association with LCC.

Speakers: Olivier Kugler, Jonny Hannah, Aude Van Ryn (all prestigious award winning contemporary Illustrators).

This Annual Illustration Forum forms part of the Level One BA Illustration London study trip.

The rationale of the study trip is to broaden the student’s understanding of what Illustration is and to provide insight into the illustration industry from the perspective of art directors and illustrators, across all fields of illustration. Industry visits provide insight into how art directors operate across different contexts and platforms and the Illustration forum provides insight into different kinds of Illustrators, their varied creative journeys, and the breadth of challenges offered to them through the discipline.

Rationale for the 2015 Forum, ‘Illustration; a Diverse Practice’:

The rationale behind the 2015 forum was to reflect the diversity of the discipline through the work of three very different Illustrators. Each Illustrator represents a different field of illustration and has very different commercial challenges and outputs. They each demonstrate different ways of thinking and visually communicating ideas, and approach the subject from a different philosophical stance. Between them, they also highlight the importance of the key skills underpinning all module work developed by the students in the semester preceding the trip, notably visual problem solving and drawing/media as important vehicles for personal expression. This was an important factor in the rationale, as the forum and trip falls at a critical time of reflection for the students, so is instrumental in helping them evaluate and consolidate their first term of University in a meaningful way.

The speakers included:

Olivier Kugler.

Olivier Kugler is a German reportage illustrator based in London. After studying graphic design and working as a designer in Germany, he did an MA in Illustration at the School of Visual

Arts, New York. He travels around the world immersing himself in challenging situations, including war zones, drawing and documenting from his first-hand experiences of meeting people. This enables him to create compelling visual narratives, which use individuals’ lives to provide insight into social or political issues. His poignant portraits of Syrian refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan recently won the overall professional award at the 2015 ‘World Illustration Awards’, presented by the Association of Illustrators. He was also the overall winner and Editorial winner of the 2011 V&A Illustration Awards for a 30-page illustrated journal ‘Un Thé en Iran’, published in the French reportage magazine XXI, which depicted a truck driver’s journey across Iran. Other AOI awards include the Design Gold Award in 2009 and the Editorial Award in 2004. Other documentary work includes the food crisis in Sahel/Africa, refugee camps in Mali/Africa and remote logging camps in Laos/Asia.

*Clients include The New York Times, The New Yorker, New York Magazine, The Guardian, Harper’s, XXI, and Süddeutsche Zeitung.*

Jonny Hannah Jonny Hannah is an Illustrator and printmaker. He was born in Scotland and studied illustration at Liverpool Art School and the Royal College of Art, London. He works across a breadth of contexts, including commercial Illustration for publishing, advertising and design, as well as self-authored book work and limited edition screen prints and lino cuts for his own ‘Cakes & Ale Press’ and for ‘St Judes Prints’, an online gallery showcasing British print technology. In addition, he has collaborated with various London based animation companies, including ‘Sherbert’, which won a BAFTA for best short animation for Charles Bukowski’s The Man with the Beautiful Eyes. As a passionate music lover, his work is inspired by music, particularly Jazz. He won a V&A Illustration Award for his Children’s book ‘Hot Jazz Special’ published by Walker Books and the Candlewick Press. It is written in rhyming couplets and features famous Jazz musicians. Other key influences are the sea, space, folk art and typography. These themes form the context of his recent book ‘Greetings from Darktown: An Illustrator’s Miscellany’ which features 300 of his prints and paintings.

*Clients include: Vogue, The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The Daily Telegraph, The English National Opera, Walker Books, The Folio Society, Penguin, HarperCollins and Justerini.*

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Aude Van Ryn

Aude Van Ryn was born in Belgium and studied at Central St Martins and the Royal College of Art, London. Her work is diverse in subject matter, context and client base, and includes work for editorial, publishing, packaging, promotional posters and campaigns. Her conceptual strengths enable her to visually articulate abstract contexts, so she has developed an expertise for business communications and corporate clients. By contrast, her passion for observational work while traveling has inspired more narrative commercial work, work for exhibitions and ceramic work, which she does in addition to her illustration practice. Her work has a strong sense of design and her focused compositions communicate ideas succinctly but with a poetic and atmospheric sensitivity.

*Clients include The Folio Society, Penguin Books, Laurence King, The Guardian, The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Economist, JP Morgan, Royal Mail, BP, Nestlé, British Heart Foundation, and the Royal College of Psychiatry.*

The forum concluded with questions from students from both Falmouth University and LCC, and the issues it raised were discussed further in the studio back in Falmouth, as part of a reflective overview of the knowledge gained from the forum and study visit as a whole. Overall students commented on how it had broadened and clarified their perception and understanding of Illustration, contextualised the skills developed in their first semester of University, and made them less daunted by the prospect of the commercial world. More specifically and notably, the speakers had opened their eyes to the social responsibility illustrators have and the valuable role that illustration can potentially play in educating society or raising awareness of important social issues. In addition, the forum brought together staff and students from two very different Universities and Illustration courses, providing a valuable platform for exchange of ideas and experiences. Potential initiatives were discussed between staff with regards to making links between the two courses, by exchanging our different learning, teaching, and working environments.