

V&A Academy

INTRODUCTION TO FASHION ILLUSTRATION



Introduction



Overview

Combining colour, texture and line, fashion illustration is the perfect way to tell the story of an outfit. Throughout history, fashion illustrators have used their skill to capture clothes, from some of the most fabulous outfits to everyday street style. Join us and discover how to capture the art of clothes for yourself in this six-week online practical course.

Your course leader

British artist and illustrator Erin Petson has achieved international acclaim with her immediately recognisable artworks. Erin works at the cutting edge of traditional and mixed media. Her work has been exhibited widely, and clients include Elle, Marie Claire and Selfridges. The V&A hold 50 pieces of her original drawings for their archive.

Information

Details

Saturdays, 21 February – 28 March 2026. Online.
10.00 – 12.00

Or

Thursdays, 26 February – 2 April 2026. Online
10.00 – 12.00

With

Additional weekly Spotlight Sessions:
Fridays, 27 February – 3 April 2026. Online.
12.00 - 13.00

Essential Information

This course will be delivered via Microsoft Teams.

Erin will deliver one 2 hour live session per week. There will be additional live weekly Spotlight Sessions with invited speakers on Friday lunchtimes.

Please note: Due to time differences, the Week 4 Spotlight Session will take place on Thursday 19 March, 18.00 - 19.00.

Materials are not included, we will send a list of readily available materials before the start of the course.

There will be a maximum of 24 participants per class.

Suitable for ages 18+

Week 1:

Introduction and mark making

Start to develop your own style and experiment with mark-making techniques.

Saturday group

21 February, 10.00 - 12.00

Thursday group

26 February, 10.00 - 12.00

Spotlight Session with Cally Blackman, Senior Lecturer in Fashion History & Theory, BA Fashion Communication, Central Saint Martins, UAL London (for both groups)

Friday 27 February, 12.00 – 13.00

Week 2:

Faces

Learn how to capture and illustrate facial features for fashion illustration.

Saturday group

28 February, 10.00 - 12.00

Thursday group

5 March, 10.00 - 12.00

Spotlight Session with Joanna Layla, fashion illustrator and artist (for both groups)

Friday 6 March, 12.00 – 13.00

Week 3:

Figure Drawing

Discover how to get the perfect proportions for fashion drawings.

Saturday group

7 March, 10.00 - 12.00

Thursday group

12 March, 10.00 - 12.00

Spotlight Session: Focus on Gladys Perint Palmer with Connie Gray, principal curator of Gray M.C.A, the world's leading gallery specialising in original fashion illustration (for both groups)

Friday 13 March, 12.00 – 13.00

Week 4:

Colourwork and Texture

Discover how to incorporate texture and colour into your work.

Saturday group

14 March, 10.00 - 12.00

Thursday group

19 March, 10.00 - 12.00

Spotlight Session with Bil Donovan, independent artist and illustrator (for both groups)

Thursday 19 March, 18.00 – 19.00

Week 5:

Final Project – settings and backgrounds

Put your new skills into practice by creating your own fashion illustrations.

Saturday group

21 March, 10.00 - 12.00

Thursday group

26 March, 10.00 - 12.00

Spotlight Session on Illustrating Menswear with Lamont O’Neil, independent artist and illustrator (for both groups)

Friday 27 March, 12.00 – 13.00

Week 6:

Final Project and Feedback

Put your new skills into practice by creating your own fashion illustrations.

Saturday group

28 March, 10.00 - 12.00

Thursday group

2 April, 10.00 - 12.00

Spotlight Session with Sue Dray, independent artist and illustrator (for both groups)

Friday 3 April 2025, 12.00 – 13.00