

Course Title	Imaginative Composition
Tutor	Carl Randall
Studio session Dates	Fridays; 16 January 2026 - 27 March 2026 Reading Week: 16 February - 20 February 2026
Session Times	10:30am - 4:30pm
Course Code	E2502D05
Location	Bankside
Course Fees	£675.00

Course overview

In this course, you'll explore the process behind making imaginative compositions. Drawing and visualising images that are in your imagination is difficult to do - this course looks at various techniques artists use to bring an imagined image into reality. Much of the course focuses on acquiring the skills and information necessary to construct imagined compositions, encouraging a variety of approaches and experimentation.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Analyse the work of others and apply findings to their own work.
- Apply creative visualisation techniques in the development of an imagined composition.
- Develop and apply drawing skills.
- Create an original (imagined) composition.
- Use collage and sketching as processes to create compositions.
- Research, plan and complete a self initiated project.
- Apply safe working practices at all times.

What Level is the course and do I need any particular skills?

This course is suitable for all levels, though some prior drawing or picture-making experience is recommended.

About your tutor

Carl Randall is a graduate of The Slade School of Fine Art (BA Honours Fine Art Painting), the Royal Drawing School (the Drawing Year), and Tokyo University of Fine Arts, Japan (MFA and Doctorate in Painting). He has exhibited several times at the National Portrait Gallery's Portrait Award (2024, 2013, 2012, 2002), and was their Travel Award winner in 2012, where he had a display of 16 Japan-themed paintings. He has also exhibited numerous times at The Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition (2025, 2019, 2013, 2009-2012); The Royal Society of Portrait Painters Exhibition at the Mall Galleries (2024, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2012), and at Flowers Gallery London (every year 2017-present). He has had solo exhibitions in London and Tokyo, and has taken part in Art Fairs in Switzerland, Japan, London, Turkey and Taiwan. Carl has work in the collections of The Royal Collection, University College London Art Museum, Singer & Friedlander Bank, Shizuoka Hiroshige Tokaido Museum Japan, Tokyo Geidai Art Museum Japan, and Foundation Carmignac Paris. He is also the winner of The Sunday Times Watercolour Competition and The Nomura Art Prize Japan, as well as several other awards. His work has been featured on the BBC World Service and CNN.

Carl's website: <https://www.carlrandall.com>

Weekly breakdown

Below is a weekly breakdown of what will be covered. Please note that some of the lessons require very specific materials, without which it would be difficult to participate in the class. Please make note of 'What you'll need' for each lesson, and materials prepared in advance. Please note that in-depth presentations start at 10.30am, and attending these in full is essential to taking part in each project. Please also note that for many lessons, use of a mobile and internet will be required for research.

Wk	Date	Topic/Activity	Location & Tutor(s)	What you'll need	Model
1	16/01/26	Picasso's 'Guernica'. You will study the process behind the making of Picasso's 'Guernica'. Picasso made over 60 drawings as a way of working out the composition and individual components of the painting, and you will copy the drawings as a way of understanding the journey behind its making, from quick thumbnail sketches, to the large finished painting.	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Pencils, pen, charcoal, erasers, A4 or A3 sketchbooks, ink, brushes.	No
2	23/01/26	Figurines & Maquettes. As a way of understanding how an artist can construct and visualise multiple figure compositions, you will look at a technique used by some Old Masters and contemporary painters, that of maquettes. This is a valuable way to help you visualise a scene in 3D and create original and complex compositions.	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Plasticine, sculpting knives/tools, pencils, pen, A3 sketchbooks, erasers. Mobile phone with internet access, to email photos to the office for printing.	No
3	30/01/26	Narrative Drawing (paper Collage/Simple Shapes) Students must read the Brothers Grimm stories 'Hansel & Gretel' and 'Little Red Riding Hood' in advance (optional: read one other Brothers Grimm story of your choice). We will begin by looking at drawings by other artists. You will respond to images suggested by Brother Grimm's fairy tales. You will create manual collages (cutting out and moving things to suit the composition) to emphasise underlying large shapes that make up the general composition.	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Variety of A4 coloured paper (as many colours as possible - can be bought in A4 or A3 packs). Scissors, pencils, pen, charcoal, erasers, A3 sketchbooks, ink, card, tracing paper, glue, brushes. Students must read the Brothers Grimm stories 'Hansel & Gretel' and 'Little Red Riding Hood' in advance. Mobile phone with internet access.	No
4	06/02/26	'Stealing from Art History'. As a starting point for an original composition, you will take ideas and visual elements you like in one or more famous artworks from history, using collage and line drawing to develop an original composition. Please bring a variety of printed images from art history.	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Variety of printed images from art history (that you find interesting) which should include figures and environments, pencils, pen, charcoal, erasers, A3 sketchbooks, ink, card,	No

				scissors, tracing paper, glue, brushes. Mobile phone with internet access.	
5	13/02/26	Drawing from Memory (Figure composition). A multiple figure composition with a background will be created entirely from memory (not direct observation). Using a series of timed exercises working from the life model, combined with a collage process, this project aims to increase students' confidence in making pictures from memory.	Bankside Studio 3 & Digital Suite Carl Randall	Scissors, pencils, pen, charcoal, erasers, A3 sketchbook, ink, glue, brushes. Mobile phone with internet access.	Yes AM
Reading Week 16/02/26 - 20/02/26					
6	27/02/26	Empty Space in Art. An exercise focused on incorporating negative/blank/empty space into compositions. Concepts surrounding this used in traditional East Asian art will be looked at, and their influence on picture-making in general.	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Variety of A4 coloured paper (various colours, can be bought in pack). Pencils, pen, charcoal, erasers, A3 sketchbooks, ink, card, scissors, tracing paper, glue, brushes. Mobile phone with internet access.	No
7	06/03/26	Movement/Dynamism/Drama. Looking at artistic ideas and motifs used in certain periods of art history - to create a sense of dynamism, drama and movement within compositions, which you will also try out.	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Pencils, pen, charcoal, erasers, A3 sketchbooks, ink, card, scissors, tracing paper, glue, brushes. Mobile phone with internet access.	No
8	13/03/26	Thumbnail Sketches/Still-life. A lesson designed to explore (in a more in-depth way) an idea introduced earlier in the course of generating ideas via the use of 'thumbnail sketches'. Students are asked to bring in 3 small-scale objects of their own, with which they will use to create their own still-life arrangement. These objects can just be chosen for their visual properties, and/or have personal significance. Objects must be small enough to fit onto a small table in the class. Alternatively, objects from the Academy's still-life collection can be used.	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Coloured pencils, coloured inks, or basic watercolour paints (to sketch quickly using colour). Pencils, pen, charcoal, ink, erasers, A4 sketchbook. 3 small-scale objects (to be arranged into your own still-life).	No
9	20/06/26	Personal Project - Week 1. Generation & development of ideas. You will be required to bring in a wide selection of reference material for this personal project, the theme/idea of which will be decided by yourself (it is advisable to start research for this, collecting images, a few weeks in	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Large variety of images/research made in advance, relevant to your chosen idea/theme/project. Pencils, pen, A4 sketchbook.	No

		advance). Based on your chosen idea/theme/project, and using your images, you will generate a large range of small throw-away thumbnail sketches, trying out different possibilities to visualise ideas. Emphasis will be placed on free-thinking, lack of self-criticism, and generation of as many ideas as possible.			
10	27/03/26	Personal Project - Week 2. Execution of final composition. Having arrived at the final composition/idea at the end of the previous lesson, today is used to simply execute/render the image. Use any drawing materials you think you would like to make your final image from. Any scale you wish to work on (bearing in mind there is only one day for this).	Bankside Studio 3 Carl Randall	Any drawing materials. Any scale you wish to work on.	No

Preparation Requirements & Additional Costs

YOU MUST PROVIDE AND HAVE MATERIALS READY FOR EACH LESSON.

Please see the 'what you'll need' sections above for full details on what to provide.

If you do not have your own drawing materials, there is an option to order a **Drawing Pack** at the time of booking which will be available when you arrive for your first class.

A **Drawing Pack** (£25.00) contains:

- One set of lead pencils (2B, 4B, 6B)
- One box of medium willow charcoal sticks (25 pieces)
- One box of willow charcoal extra thick individual stick
- One stick of chalk
- One box of compressed charcoal sticks (12 pieces)
- Six Derwent pastel pencils, can be used wet or dry
- One putty rubber in a box
- One eraser
- One auto lock knife

Certain materials can also be purchased from the Academy shop during shop hours. Please check in advance of your class if the item you require is available, as the Academy may not have this in stock.

Resources & Further Reading

Please note reading lists are suggested, not required.

Author	Year	Title	Publisher	Location
Gombrich, E. H.	1950	<i>The Story of Art</i>	Phaidon	London

Other useful resources (websites, galleries etc)

National Gallery <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk>

Tate Britain: <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-britain>

Who can I contact for further information?

General information and advice on courses at Art Academy is available from the main office, open Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 during term time.

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7407 6969 or email at academiccourses@artacademy.ac.uk

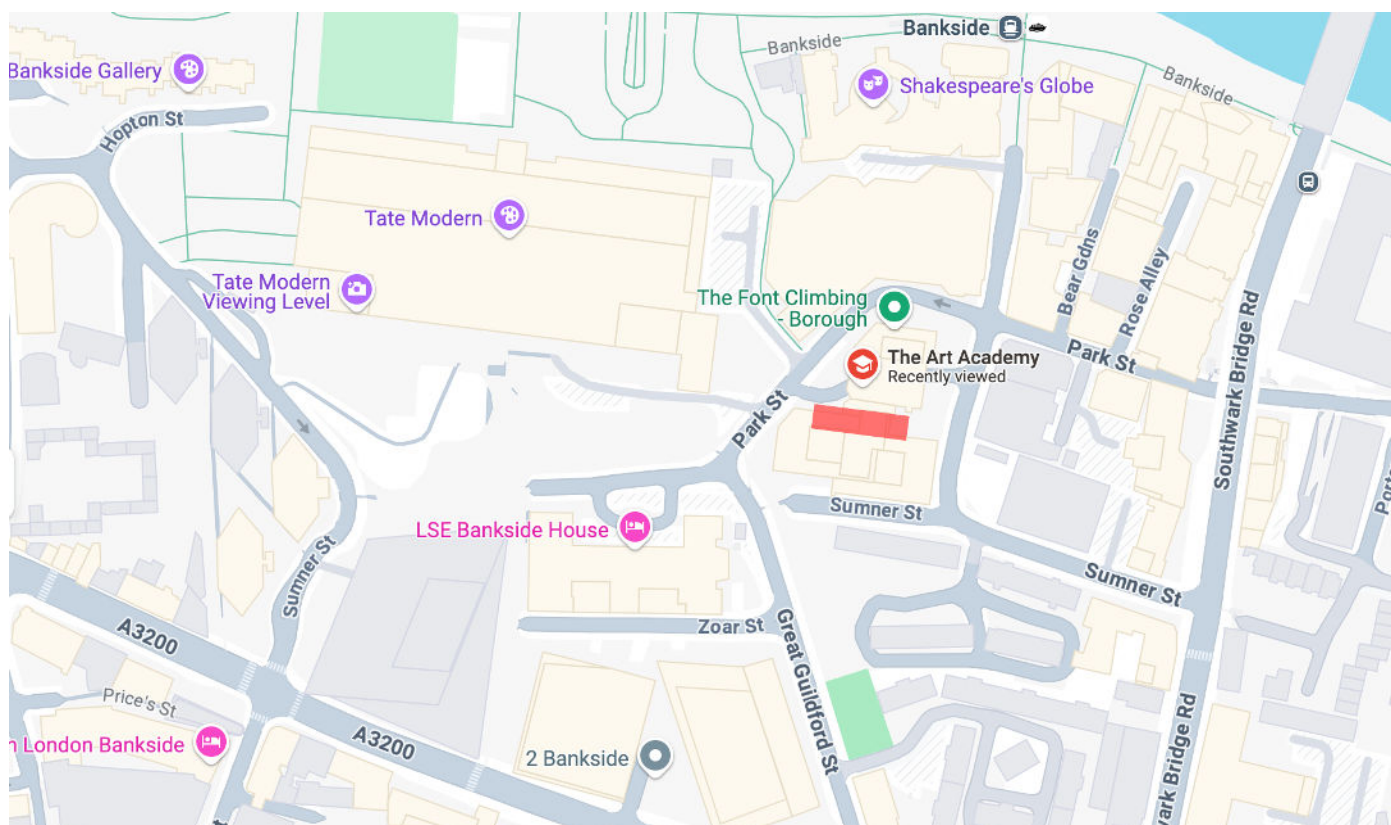
Locations - (Please check course location at the top of this document)

Art Academy – Bankside Campus

185 Park Street

London SE1 9BL

The Art Academy is conveniently located minutes away from London Bridge (Northern and Jubilee lines, National Rail services), Southwark (Jubilee Lines) and Borough (Northern line) underground stations. Please [click here](#) for a map, what three words input.



Just moments walk from the Thames, Art Academy is also ideally located for access to:

- White Cube
- Tate Modern
- The Globe
- Bankside Gallery

If you would like to make the most of the area a member of the team will be happy to advise you on areas of interest locally.

Refreshments & Facilities

All students have access to the common area located in the basement level of the building, here you will have use of a fridge, kettle, microwave and eating area.

There is a wealth of supermarkets, shops and cafes in the area as well as the world-famous Borough Food Market, fifteen minutes walk away.

For health and safety reasons, all students, staff, and tutors must use a sealable keep-cup or container for hot drinks. Mugs and open cups are not permitted in our teaching spaces. As we do not provide keep-cups, please bring your own if you wish to use the coffee and tea facilities in our Hub area.

Disabled Access

The campus has an elevator and has no threshold from the street level providing full step free access. We make every effort to accommodate students' access requirements, if you have mobility issues please speak to a member of the Academy team before your course starts.

Further Details

- You will need to have paid in full for your class before the first session of your class, your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.
- If you purchased a materials pack online this will be given to you on the first session of your course upon your arrival.
- Ensure that you wear appropriate clothing, as you may get messy!
- All artwork at the Academy MUST be taken home at the end of the course.
- Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.
- Please read the Health and Safety Guidelines carefully, provided at the beginning of your course.
- If you wish to join any class for the next term please contact the office to re-book. Classes are becoming increasingly popular, so please book early in order to guarantee your place.
- If you have any further queries let us know and we will do our best to resolve them. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you.