



NUA  
Summer  
Schools  
Series

# Drawing headlines

Workshop developed by  
YiMiao Shih

## Objective

In a society where we are constantly overwhelmed by the media, the aim of this workshop is to put the power of narrative back into your own hands. Using COVID-19 and lockdown as a subject matter, this workshop gives you an opportunity to use your creativity to playfully express your own individual experience in response to newspaper headlines and stories during the pandemic.

## Key outcomes:

You will create your own front page of a newspaper with headlines and images constructed using drawing, collage and your own experience during COVID-19 and lockdown.

## You will need

- A selection of newspapers for collage or headlines from online news articles, these can be printed or copied out by hand
- Drawing materials, marker pen, pencil, colouring pencil, pen, crayons
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Paper

## Background

Satire is the use of wit and humour to interrogate or poke fun at contemporary issues and politics and is a genre used across the creative arts. Satire is a great creative tool to respond to difficult subjects and to make light of challenging situations. YiMiao Shih's work often satirises contemporary culture and politics. An example of this is YiMiao's exhibition 'Rabbrexit Means Rabbrexit' at the House of Illustration in London. The exhibition used humour and wit to tackle the subject of Brexit and wove a parallel universe where the UK had voted not for Brexit but 'Rabbrexit', the expulsion of rabbits from the country. YiMiao playfully used headlines and news stories to inform and inspire her work.

## Activity

### Task one – choose your headlines

- Select 2-3 headlines to use for your newspaper.
- The headline/s can be recent, or you can look back at past headlines from the beginning of lockdown.
- Choose headlines that you can connect with in some way. Look at the date and location and recall what you were thinking about at that moment and how you felt.
- If you are using actual newspapers or have printed some online articles, you can cut out your headlines to collage with.
- If you are working from online articles but don't have access to a printer you can copy these out by hand.
- Using a mix of actual cut-outs from newspapers and items copied by hand can produce a more visually appealing outcome.

## Top tip:

If you are copying headlines by hand, try to copy the typography and font of the headline, this can make your newspaper more visually appealing. Don't try to be too perfect, observe the style of the font but draw loosely.



# Evening Standard

COMEDY TO WATCH FROM YOUR COUCH  
A GUIDE TO THE BEST ONLINE FUNNY BUSINESS » ARTS & CULTURE PAGE 27

THE PARTY'S OVER AS GLASTONBURY AXED  
ORGANISERS FORCED TO CANCEL FESTIVAL — AND EASTENDERS HIT TOO NEWS PAGE 6



# HEART OF LONDON IS VIRUS HOTSPOT

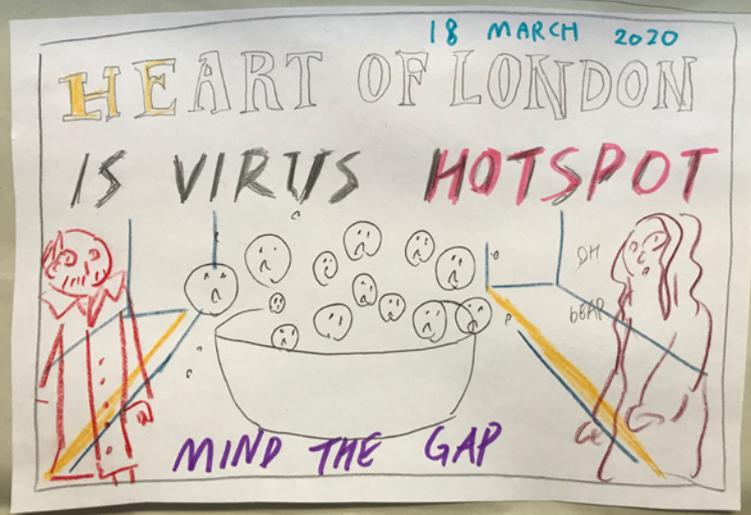
» KEY STRU SYMP DEAT YiMiao chose to work with this headline as she lives in London.

Nicholas Cecil, Ross Lydall, Joe Murphy  
... spearheading Britain's ... has gone down with ... there are also

### Task two – create your response

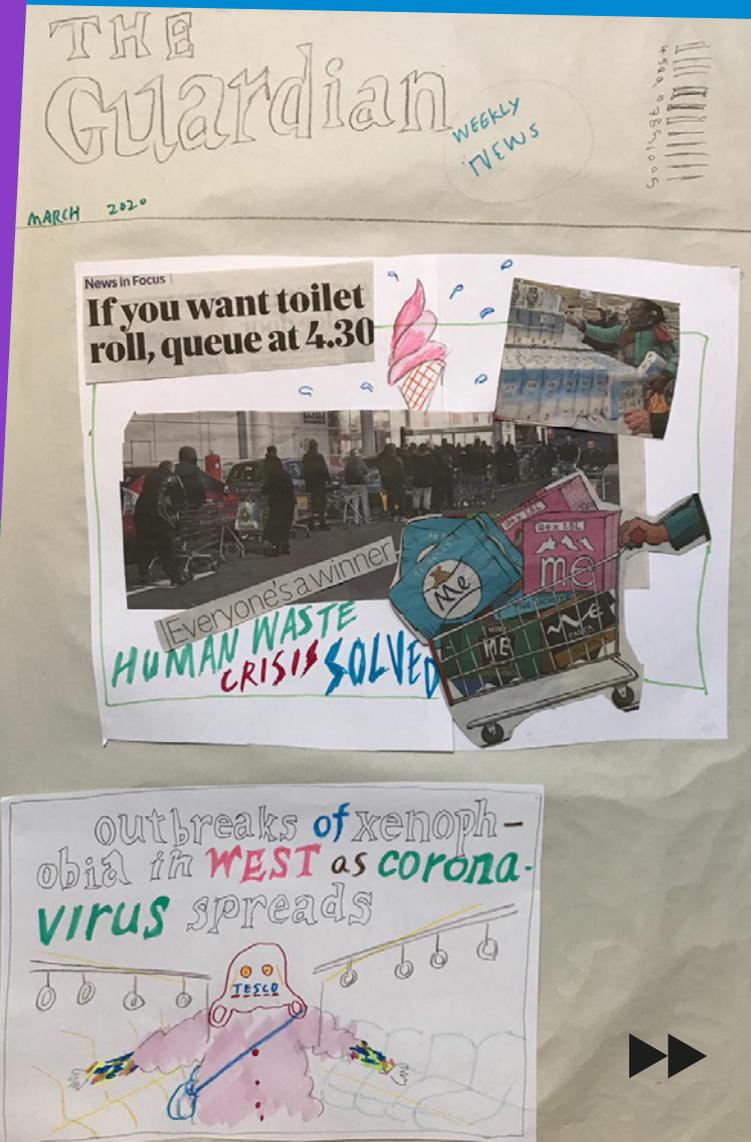
- Create your response to the selected headlines using words and images cut out or copied from your newspaper or online article, alongside your own original drawings and illustrations.
- Be bold, witty and playful, tell your own inner thoughts and experience.
- What do you think or feel about the people or event the headline/article talks about?
- Don't try to draw perfectly. It's fun to let go of your perfectionism and let the line flow quickly and freely.
- Once you've finished your first response move onto the next one, you should aim to have 2-3 images and responses.

YiMiao took this headline and referenced her own identity, by turning the virus 'hotspot' into a virus 'hot pot'.



### Task three – create your front page

- Once you've got your 2-3 responses you can collage them together to form your front page.
- Consider the layout and composition, some images and responses could take up more space or have a frame around them. Think about the front page of a newspaper and the hierarchy of information.
- Adding small elements can make it look more convincing. Can you put a date, barcode, reporter, or photographer's credit?
- Create your newspaper's name at the top. This could be any newspaper (The Guardian, The Sun, The Daily Mail, The Times) or you can get creative and make up your own newspaper name.
- Now you have your very own front page of your personal COVID-19 newspaper!



## Let's go further

- Can you create more responses to form a whole newspaper?
- Can you research old newspaper headlines from a specific event or period of time and create a response to that?

## Find out more about YiMiao Shih:



Rabbrexit Means Rabbrexit at House of Illustration: [Website](#)



## Further resources

Look at these artists and exhibitions to see how satire and humour can be used in the creative arts:

### David Shrigley



[@davidshrigley](#)



[Website](#)

### Magda Archer



[@magdaarcher](#)

### Damien Hirst



[Website](#)

**I Object: Ian Hislop's search for dissent at the [British Museum](#)**

**Disobedient Objects at the [Victoria & Albert Museum](#)**

**We would love to see your work!  
Share it with us on Instagram: [@NUAoutreach](#)**

### Useful links



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[Creative Careers](#)

[UCAS](#)



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