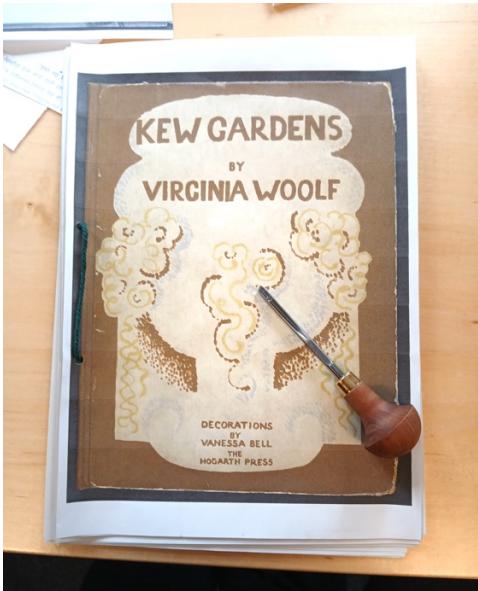


Lino Printing Workshop: Reading Kew Gardens With a Carving Tool



This workshop invites participants to engage with book illustration in theory and practice, using the example of Virginia Woolf's short story *Kew Gardens*, first published in 1919 with two woodcuts by Vanessa Bell and again in 1927 in a new edition featuring 'decorations' by the same artist.

Through a discussion of Bell's artistic interventions in Woolf's text, participants are encouraged to consider book illustration not simply as a derivative practice that aims to *reproduce* the meaning of the written text, but rather – in the words of Roger Fry – as a 'running commentary, like marginal notes written by a reader,' that opens up a dialogue between artist and author.

Following Fry's notion of the illustrator as an 'inaudible' reader, the workshop participants are invited to produce their own 'reading' of Woolf's story through the medium of lino print. Using carving tools, ink, scissors and glue, participants will create their own responses to Woolf's text, illustrating, decorating, and re-arranging the author's words to create new meanings.

Group size: 5

Duration: 3 hours

Preparatory reading

- [Virginia Woolf, *Kew Gardens* \(1919\), with woodcuts by Vanessa Bell](#)
- Virginia Woolf, *Kew Gardens* (1927), with decorations by Vanessa Bell
 - A complete scan of this used to be available in the British Library's digital collection. If you don't have access to this text, feel free to get in touch.
- [Roger Fry, 'The Author and the Artist'](#)

Set-up and materials

Workstations

- **One A5 lino plate and one carving tool** per participant
- **Sheets of A5 paper and pencils** for sketching a design
- **Carbon paper and tape** for transferring the design onto the lino plate
- **Some photocopies of the two editions of Kew Gardens**
- **Scissors** for cutting up the texts
- **Glue** for pasting text passages onto the dried prints

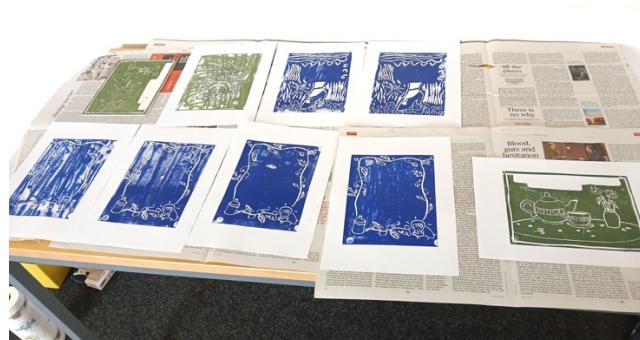


Printing station

- **Bin liners** and **tape** to cover the tables for printing
- **Rollers** and **glass or plastic trays** for stretching the ink
- A selection of **printing inks**
- **Sheets of A4 paper** to print on
- **Burnishing tool**
- **Paper towels**
- Optional: **Sheets of A4 paper** and a **ruler** for creating a register

Drying station

- **Old newspapers** to cover the tables for drying



Structure and timings

- Ask the participants to read the texts in advance and come to the workshop prepared with an idea or a sketch for an A5 design
- Suggested timings:
 - 30 mins: Participants discuss Woolf's text, Bell's illustrations and present their own design ideas
 - 30 mins: Draw designs and transfer to lino plate
 - 45 mins: Carving time
 - 45 mins: Printing time
 - 15 mins: Finishing up prints with cut-and-paste elements
 - 15 mins: Participants present their work to the group

Examples

