

Applicant Project Name: Fumio Obata - Activity Report #1 (Final)

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Public engagement reports

1st and 2nd public engagement events on 4th and 11th August 2020.

These two events were made realised by the support from Japan Society London. They took place online via zoom platform on Tuesdays 4th and 11th August 2020. In Total 14 regular members of the society participated the workshops that were inspired by the theme of the graphic novel 'The Garden' published 4 months prior.

The Event Announcement via Japan Society Website

<https://www.japansociety.org.uk/event?event=114&eventcat=1>

The screenshot shows the Japan Society website's 'Upcoming Events' page. The event title is 'The Spirit of Animism and Story Making in Manga: 2-Session Workshop with Fumio Obata'. It is categorized under 'Arts & Culture'. The dates are 'Tuesday 4 - Tuesday 11 August 2020 / 2:00pm'. The page includes a list of event categories on the left, a 'Find an Event' button, and a 'Past Events' button. The main content area features three illustrations by Fumio Obata: a woman with green vines, a man with a tree, and a woman with a large red flower. Below the illustrations, the 'Date & Time' section lists two sessions: Session 1 on Tuesday, 4 August 2020 (2:00pm to 3:30pm, 1.5hr) and Session 2 on Tuesday, 11 August 2020 (2:00pm to 3:30pm, 1.5hr). The 'Booking Details' section states it is an online event, free, and essential, with priority booking for members until 26 July. A note at the bottom states: 'This workshop will be delivered over 2 sessions, and participants must attend both sessions. The artist will provide one-on-one instruction hence the places are limited to 10 participants. Early booking is'.

The screenshot shows the same event page but with a 'Please note this event is now fully booked' message at the top. Below the message, there is a paragraph explaining the workshop's focus on creativity and mindfulness. The 'In this workshop' section describes the introduction of anthropomorphism in visual culture and manga, and the development of a short manga story. The 'Session 1 - Building characters' and 'Session 2 - Develop a story' sections provide details on the workshop's structure. The 'Materials and tools you will need' section lists items such as plants, paper, pencils, eraser, and drawing materials. An illustration of a horse with a green saddle and a yellow mane is shown, credited to Fumio Obata. The 'Optional' section lists an iPad/tablet and a printer. A 'Please note' section states that a good computer/web cam setup is required for one-on-one instruction. The 'Fumio Obata' section provides a brief biography of the artist, mentioning his birth in Tokyo, his work in manga and anime, and his studies at Glasgow School of Art and Royal College of Art in London.

Announcement of the publication of 'The Garden' and the funding support from ACE

<https://www.japansociety.org.uk/newsitem?news=47&newscat=3>

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Japan Society website. The navigation menu includes 'About', 'Events', 'Publications', 'Education', 'Grants', and 'Membership'. The main article is titled 'Manga Drawing for Wellbeing' and is dated Tuesday 14 July 2020. The article text reads: 'If you are stuck at home, and have a little more time on your hands, perhaps you are thinking of developing or honing new skills. The Japan Society has many resources online for those interested in finding out more about manga, or hearing from artists. As part of this programming, we're delighted to be able to offer our first online manga workshop with UK-based manga artist, Fumio Obata, which will focus on the healing aspects of creativity and being mindful of your surroundings, something much needed in times like these. The workshop also reflects on Fumio's recent work, *The Garden*, created in collaboration with writer Sean Michael Wilson and published in May this year by Liminal 11.'

The article features two images: on the left, the cover of the book 'The Garden' by Sean Michael Wilson and Fumio Obata; on the right, a grid of six panels from a manga-style illustration depicting a woman in a garden.

Below the images, the text states: 'The Garden is a story of healing through mindfulness and gardening, in which a career-driven protagonist finds peace and a new sense of calm through nurturing her garden as part of the process of recovering from a nervous breakdown.'

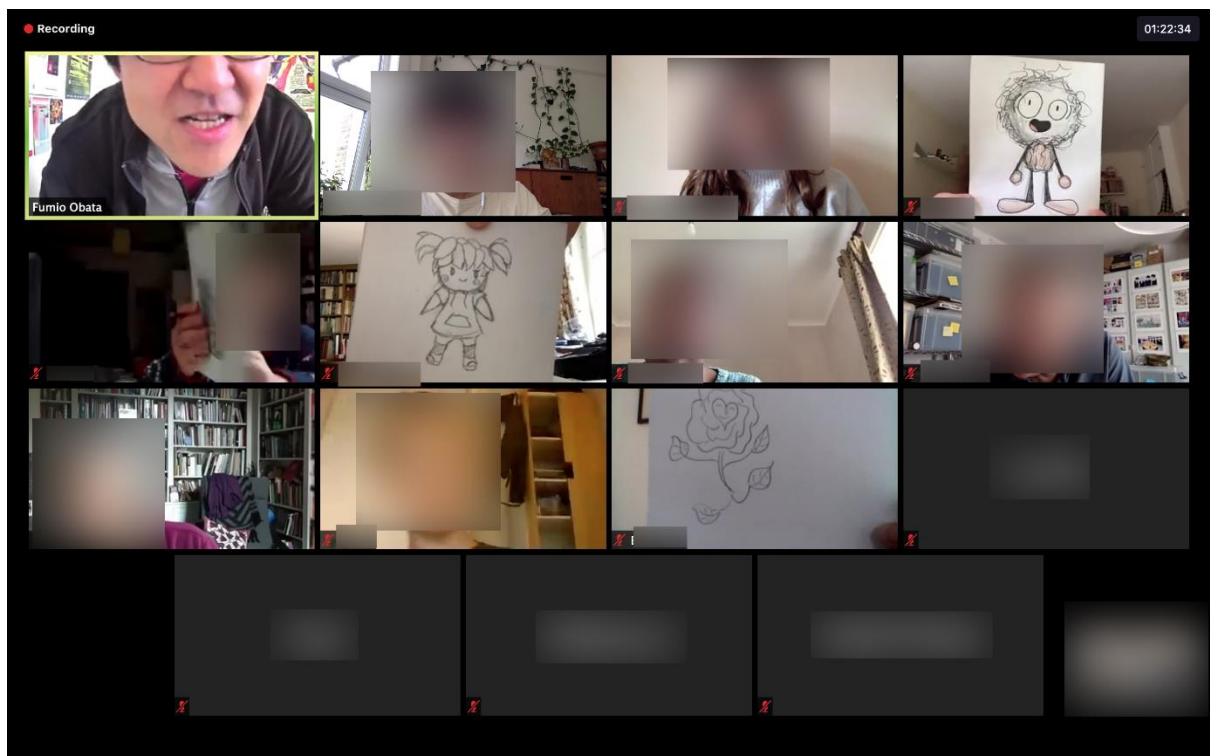
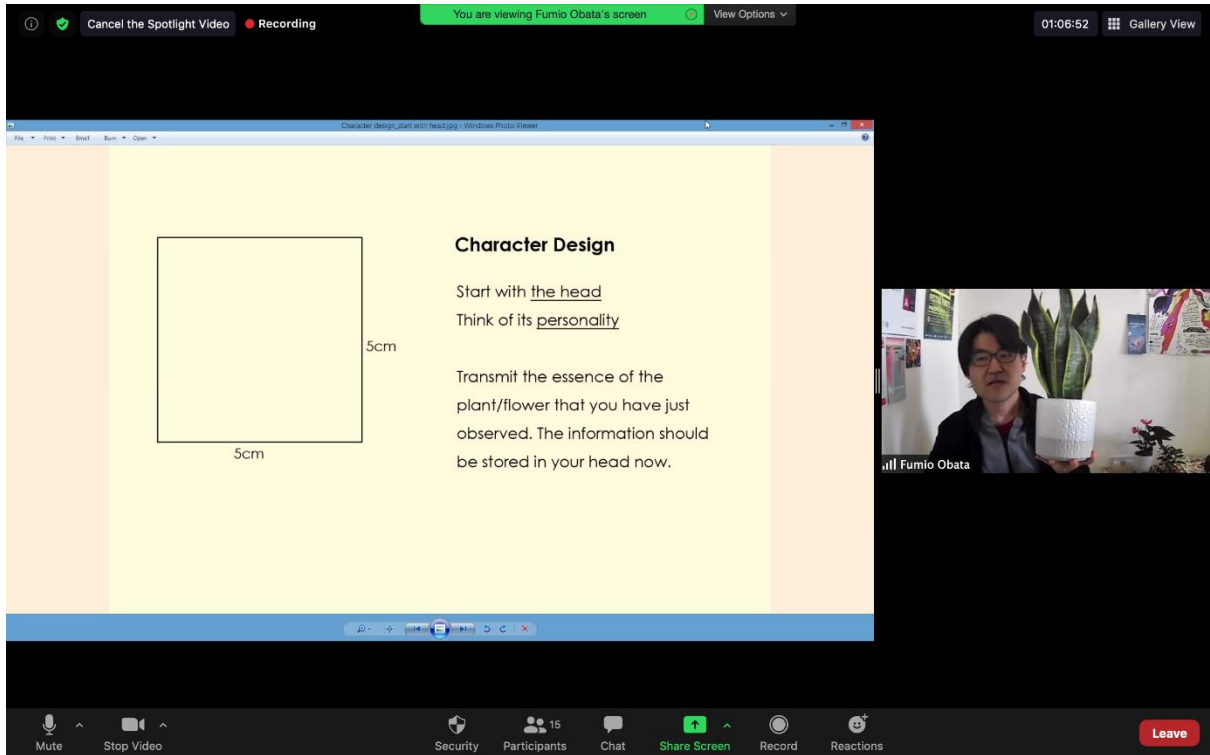
This screenshot shows a different section of the website, likely a bio or interview page for Fumio Obata. The text reads: 'The Garden is a story of healing through mindfulness and gardening, in which a career-driven protagonist finds peace and a new sense of calm through nurturing her garden as part of the process of recovering from a nervous breakdown. As well as being a manga artist, Fumio has had a career as an animator, working with Duran Duran, Channel4 and Redkite Animations. In 2010 he started tutoring as a visiting lecturer for BA courses in the UK to support young talents to develop their own/unique artistic voices in various sequential contexts such as animation, graphic novel and children's book. Fumio also previously worked with Japan Society giving a keynote lecture at Sixth Form Japan Day 2019. Watch our interview with Fumio Obata, in which he talks about his highly acclaimed graphic novel *Just So Happens*, which has been translated into 7 languages and published in 8 different countries.'

Below the text is a video player showing an interview with Fumio Obata. The video title is 'Manga - Interview with Manga Artist Fumio Obata...' and the video content shows him holding a copy of his book 'Just So Happens'. A caption below the video reads 'entitled *Just So Happens*'.

The website URL is given as <http://www.fumioobata.co.uk/>. There is a 'Back to News' button and social media sharing options for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, WhatsApp, and Telegram.

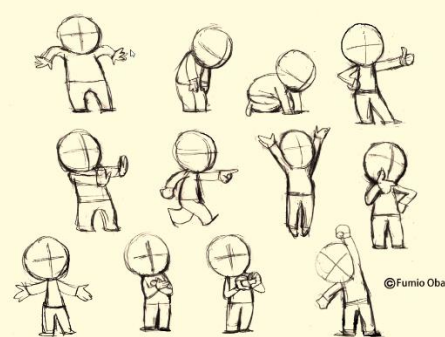
The footer of the page includes The Japan Society logo, the address '13/14 Cornwall Terrace London NW1 4QP', and a 'Become a Member' button.

Screenshots from the workshops (4th and 11th August 2020)




Recording 01:30:15


The Spirit of Animism and Story Making in Manga: Pose reference_02



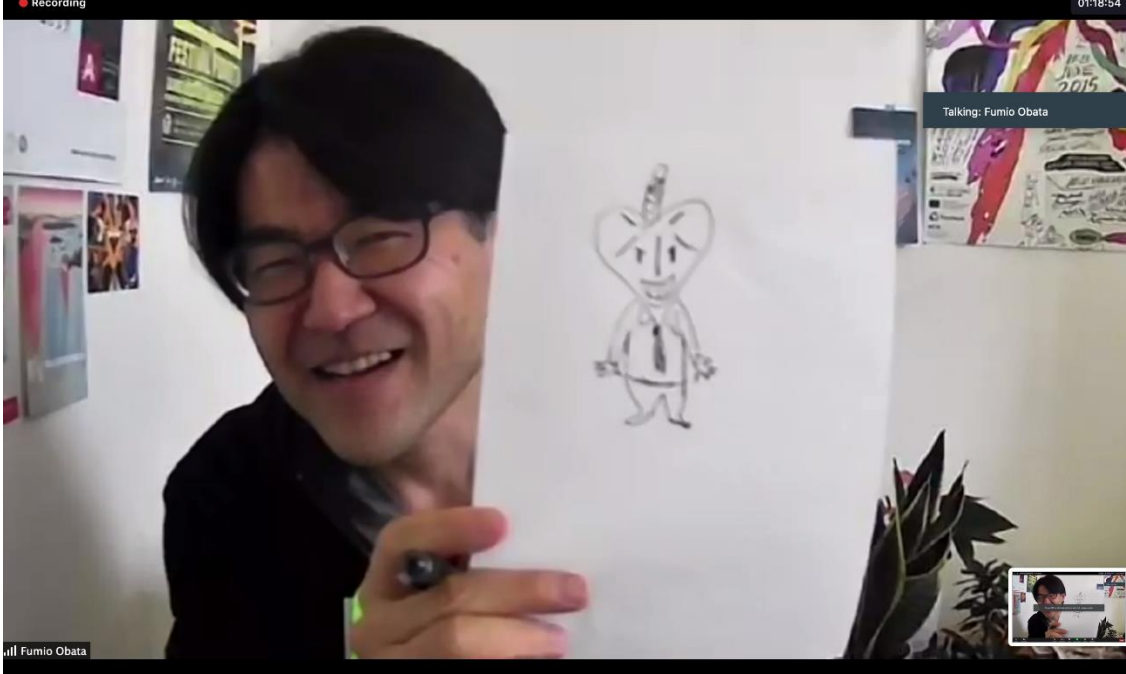
@Fumio Obata




Fumio Obata




Recording 01:18:54



Talking: Fumio Obata



Fumio Obata



Recording 01:48:58

Homework 11th August.jpg - Windows Photo Viewer

Invent a story with your plant/flower character



Think of between 3 to 5 panel story in a form of Newspaper comic strip.
The flow should consist of
(Beginning- follow up - Climax (or maybe Turnaround)- Resolved).

Write your synopsis and send me the plot. I could give you some tips to be ready for the next workshop.

If you haven't got much clue, then use either TIP No.1 or 2 for your inspiration.

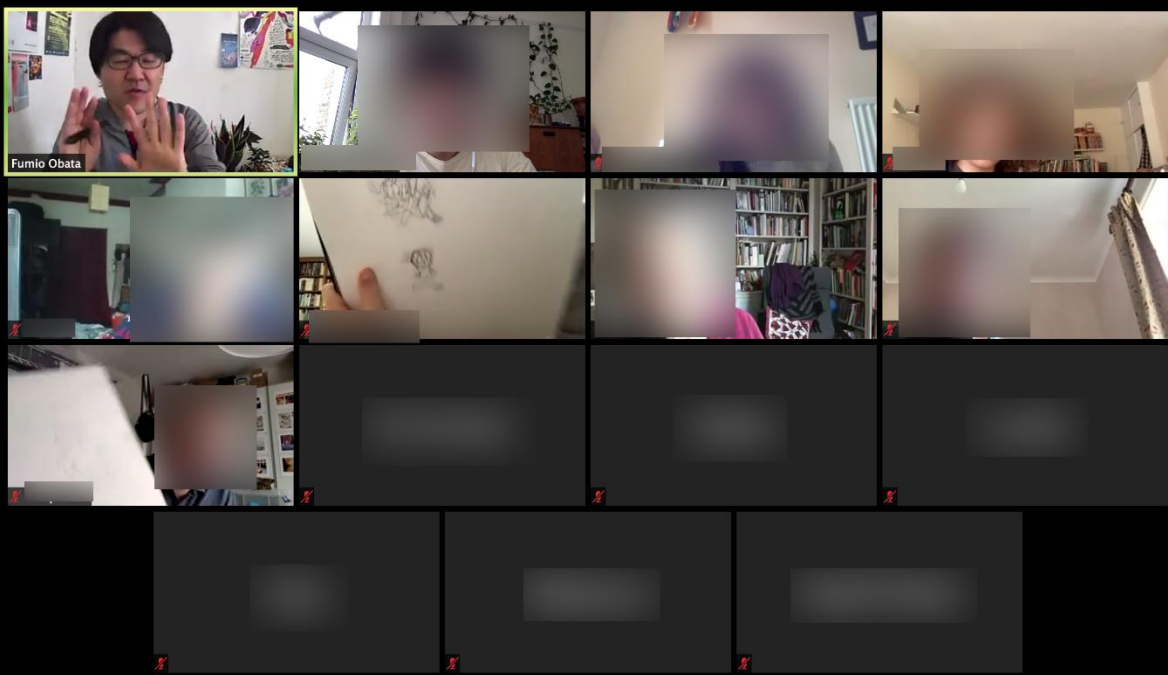
TIP help No.1: Think of your character's backstory.
If it is moody/happy/relaxed/impatient/optimistic, then what reason made it like that? Also, how did the character end up in your place?

TIP help No.2: Make another character but it is either...
its sister/brother/mother /father/grandmother/grandfather. Make them interact with each other.

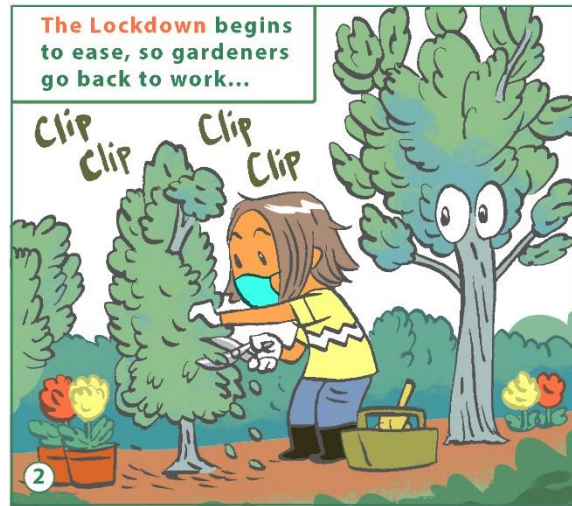
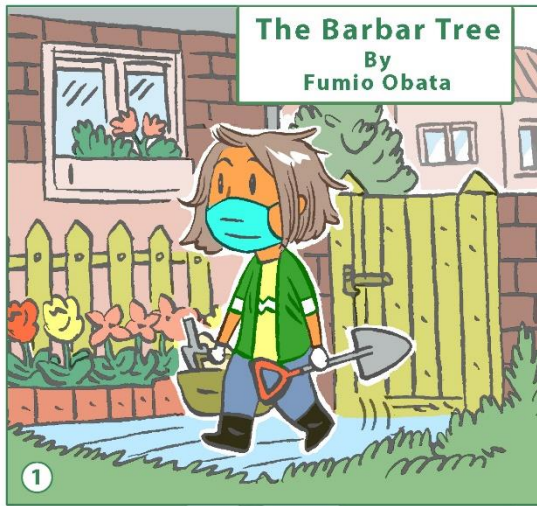


Fumio Obata

Recording 01:33:05



Fumio Obata



instagram@fumioobata

Date & Time

Session 1: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 - 2:00pm to 3:30pm (1.5hr)

Session 2: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 - 2:00pm to 3:30pm (1.5hr)

IN TOTAL 3hrs of workshop time with general public.