

Shapeshifters & Tricksters in Myth & Art

1ST Session: The Trickster Archetype in Myth & Legend - Thursday June 5th, 6.00-9.00pm

Theme: Who are the tricksters, and why do they matter?

- Discussion: The role of tricksters in different cultures (Fairies, coyotes, Hermes, etc)
- Examples: Tricksters in folklore, fairy tales, and contemporary media
- Exercise: Sketch a trickster character—human or animal—capturing their mischievous nature through posture, expression, or costume

2nd Session: Shapeshifting in Myth & Storytelling - Thursday June 12th, 6.00-9.00pm

Theme: Transformation as power

- Discussion: How shapeshifters appear in myths (selkies, werewolves, changelings, etc)
- Examples: Metamorphosis within art history and medieval bestiaries
- Exercise: Draw a character shifting between two forms—explore movement, texture, and in-between states. Begin to research personal and cultural folklore for a shapeshifter you would like to depict in a final piece.

3rd Session: Visualizing Transformation & Duality - Thursday June 19th, 6.00-9.00pm

Theme: The challenge of capturing fluid identity

- Discussion: Symbolism in shapeshifter art—mirrors, masks, fragmented forms
- Examples: Artists who play with identity (Paula Rego, Leonora Carrington, Remedios Varo etc)
- Exercise: Create a hybrid creature that combines multiple identities—blend elements seamlessly or use surreal distortion. Continue to collect ideas for a shapeshifter that connects to personal and cultural folklore.

4th Session: Tricksters & Shapeshifters in Personal Mythmaking - Thursday June 26th, 6.00-9.00pm

Theme: Crafting your own trickster or shapeshifter narrative

- Discussion: How artists reinvent these figures in poetry and literature
- Examples: Shape-changing in personal and cultural folklore

- Final work: Draw a piece that captures a shapeshifter that focuses on storytelling through gesture, setting, and contrast- using the research and knowledge from the previous sessions.

We will reflect and share the work we have done together through the last 4 sessions.