

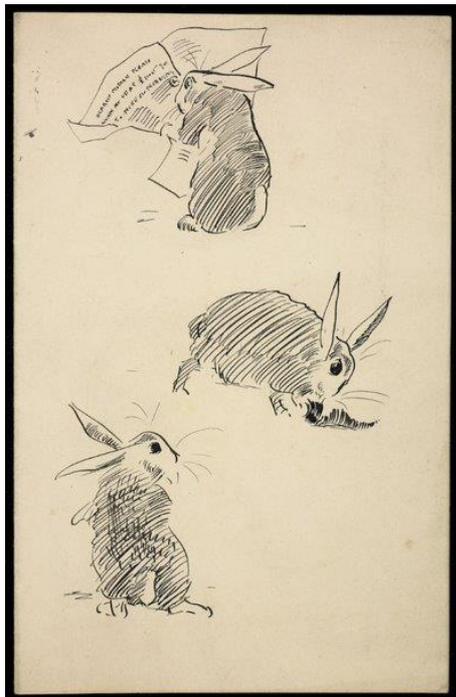
the Whitworth

Audio Descriptions transcript

April 2021

AUDIO DESCRIPTIONS

Audio descriptions of artworks from the collection of the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.



AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Sketch depicting Lancelot Crane as a rabbit by Walter Crane (1845-1915)

All of the Audio Descriptions are available to listen to at:

<https://aplacebetweenthetrees.com/audio-description/>

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#GalleryInThePark

Before you, is a black and white portrait of three identical rabbits, simply drawn and shaded in a fine black-ink pen, on a tall length of beige paper. The rabbits are thought to be the same individual, depicting different actions in each appearance. Each rabbit is staggered along the page, one above another. If you imagine a piece of paper being held vertically, draw two lines across the paper to divide it into equal thirds.

The rabbit in the bottom third begins roughly one inch diagonally from the left corner of the frame. Its feet parted, point North and East, respectively. Fine lines traverse across the rabbit's body with a small white tail protruding from its lower back. The rabbit stands upright, leaning slightly to its left, with a small front leg raised, and pointing down towards the left-hand side of the page. The right side of the body has two curves leading up to the head, where the shading breaks at its right cheek. It faces to the north-east with his back to us and ears extended to the left, almost mimicking a pair of open scissors. Its head has a hill-shaped outline that rises from the ears to the left, and slopes down to the nose, leaving a small open space between its nose and neck. A thin series of whiskers protrude, irregularly around the rabbit's face, at different lengths detached from the body. Its head and ears extend beyond our imaginary line, crossing into the middle section, as if something had caught its attention.

In the middle tier, slightly off-centre to the right, the second rabbit can be seen hunched over, nibbling the upper half of a black and white striped carrot. We can only see the right side of its body, face, and legs. Its ears are perked up in a V shape, with its whiskers extended, perhaps this indicates excitement for food. In the top section the same rabbit sitting upright and hunched, can be seen reading the headline "DEAREST MOTHER PLEASE WAKE ME UP AT ½ PAST 7oc TOMORROW MORNING" in a newspaper, with its back to the viewer. One of its forelegs can be seen gripping the middle-edge of the left page, pulling it towards them, causing the top and bottom of the page to drift backwards. The page on the right is upright, mostly obscured by the rabbit's body. It appears to be sitting on its hind legs, with only the left leg and tail visible, its lower back rests behind the foot. Two small dash lines to the left of its hind leg and one to the right of its tail are visible. Its ears now point to the right in an open scissor-like motion, with three whiskers extending from both sides of its face. The rabbit seems to study the paper with curiosity.

Walter Crane (1845-1915) is a well-known and highly successful British artist and illustrator that worked during the 19th and 20th Century. Liverpool born, he spent much of his time trying to progress the socialist movement and enable art to be accessible by all classes. It was through his moral values of romanticism, Victorian virtue, and perseverance for a hopeful future, that he recognised children to be the key influencer to an ever-evolving society. He has an extensive range of works, with many of his drawings illustrating scenes from myths, nature and children's books. These include 'The Baby's Opera,' 'Baby's Own Aesop' and his very own 'Black Books.'

His 2nd son was named Lancelot Crane who also became an illustrator and artist after his father. It wouldn't be too far of a stretch to think that this piece was probably drawn for his son, when he was still young. Walter Crane produced many stories and drawings from his 'Black Books,' often basing the narrative on their daily life and his family. These adventures weren't always educational, but they were always entertaining.