

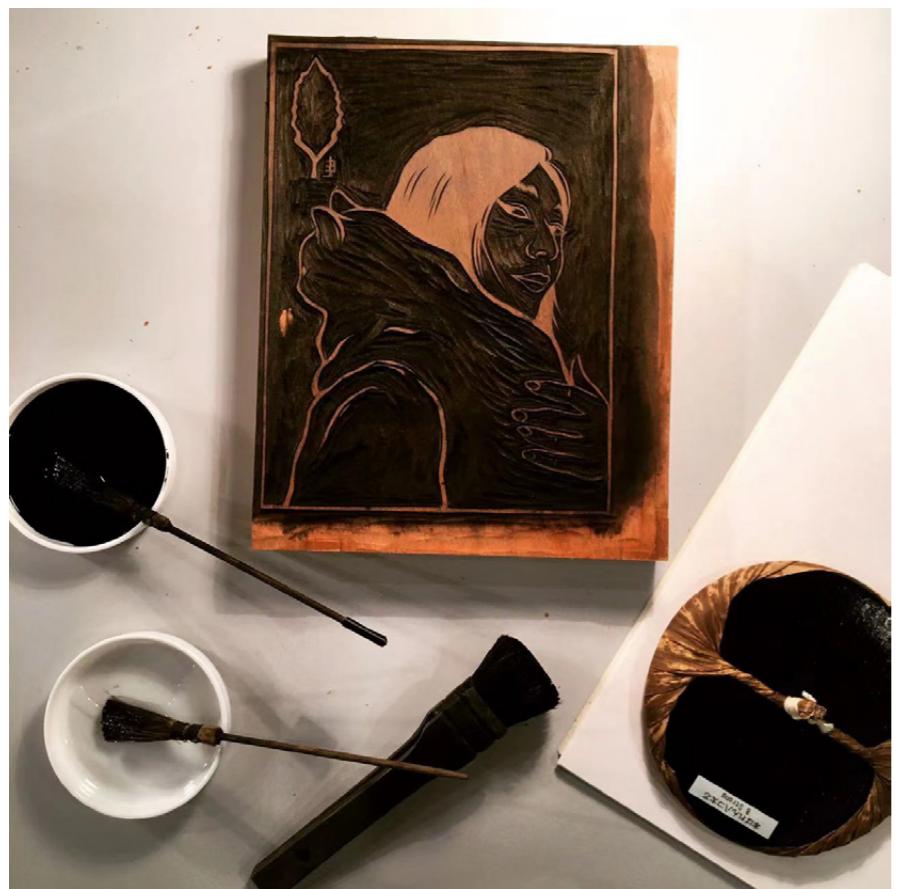
The Art of **EDWARD LUPER**

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN LONDON. One of my earliest memories of London is seeing the BT tower from Regent's Park, a place my parents took me habitually every Saturday. Over time, the BT tower came to symbolise not only London, but also my childhood. As I grew up, I could see the BT tower from my University in Bloomsbury, my halls of residence, and even my walk to work. It became a point of stability for me; like a lighthouse. My life seems to revolve around it in some way or form. Much in the same way Mount Fuji was to the artist Katsushika Hokusai. It seemed natural therefore, at some point that if I was going to make an artwork that had meaning for me, it had to revolve around the BT tower. That's how I came to do my series 36 Views of the BT Tower.

Above left
Autumn Clouds: BT Tower by Omotesando Café
from series *36 views of the BT Tower*
by Dr Edward Luper
Digital art

Above right
Artist painting *36 views of the BT Tower*

Opposite
The 36th View! from series
36 views of the BT Tower
by Dr Edward Luper
Digital art



Artist making wood-block for his
Lady and Cat series

Opposite
London Dreams: Sleeping Cat and BT Tower
from series *36 views of the BT Tower*
by Dr Edward Lup
Digital art



Cat Series by Dr Edward Lup
Ink on rice paper

There are many Western artists that admire Hokusai, Hiroshige and Ukiyo-e, going all the way back to Van Gogh and Monet. But rather than going to Japan and copying the same landscapes they drew (can anyone paint Fuji better than Hokusai anyway?), I thought it was better (and since the pandemic and lockdown travel bans, more practical) to stay and draw what I see around me in London: the same way Hokusai and Hiroshige painted Edo.

When I first started doing illustrations of London in this neo-Ukiyo-e style, I wasn't sure how people would react? Would Londoners understand this aesthetic? My doubts were quickly swept away however, by the huge positive response I received. London is a very cosmopolitan city and many people loved the mix between East and West. Japanese culture is also very popular here thanks to manga and anime, so the aesthetic of flat colours and bold lines is perhaps not so alien to us after all.

My future plan is to turn these digital drawings into actual woodblock prints. I am currently studying woodblock printing here in London, but I would love to go to Japan one day and learn more advanced techniques. I would also love to work more closely with Japanese craftsmen to create designs of London on gold leaf or lacquer screens.

I have so many ideas and dreams; too many to list. Aside from woodblock prints and ukiyo-e style. I also love to paint in ink. Since lockdown in London, I found much joy in painting my cat and I am also hoping to create a book of my cat paintings. I am also currently working on a comic commissioned by a history professor to help teach his students about the economist Adam Smith. Education is important to me, and I believe illustration can serve towards this important cause, sometimes more effectively than textbooks.

Prints available from the website www.yourarthome.com
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