



## Illustrator News September-October 2023

Hi, Everyone! Feels like fall is almost here - kids are back in school, mornings are just a bit nippy and creative energy is a lively force at the tip of our fingers. Recently I had a great conversation with Martina Lo, a new member to our region but *not* to SCBWI. We chatted about a number of things including the value of everyday drawing. As a result, she agreed to share a recent drawing experience with all of us - you'll find her "Special Feature" article below. *Thanks, Martina - and Welcome to Oregon!*

I encourage you to *give yourself a treat* and visit the [Featured Illustrator](#) page this month to learn about **Zoey Abbott** and **Meredith Crandall Brown** and their work.

*And, you still have time* to register for the September 23rd events hosted by Western Washington, so check them out in the [Regional Virtual Events](#) section!  
*Enjoy!*

## September Featured Oregon Illustrators



Zoey Abbott



Meredith Crandall Brown

### Oregon SCBWI Featured Illustrators

Visit the new [Feature Page](#) to learn about **Meredith** and **Zoey**, view samples of their artwork, and find links to their websites. If you would like to be featured, please contact Robin at [oregon-ic@scbwi.org](mailto:oregon-ic@scbwi.org).



### Curated SCBWI Event Listings

- Regional listings will *soon* be available on the new website. In the meantime, I found a few upcoming events that may interest you.

**SCBWI Regional News Flash: We just received a notice from Kansas-Missouri SCBWI about critiques available with:**

Joann Hill, Creative Director of Disney Hyperion  
Daniel Miyares, author/illustrator and Crystal Kite winner  
Foyinsi Adegbonmire, Associate Editor at Feiwel & Friends  
Sunita Apte, Editorial Director at Reycraft Books  
Lisa Harkrader, author  
Sandra Proudman, associate agent at Gallt & Zacker

**Instead of in-person, Critiques will be held online between 7-9pm on Friday November 3. Portfolios are due by September 30th.**

[DETAILS HERE](#)

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**We Don't Talk About Cash Flow - \$15**

**SEPTEMBER 23: Presented by Western Washington**  
**Registration Opens Tuesday, July 18**

Featuring 7 surprising things editors really care about and 3 you can stop worrying about, this talk by Holiday House editor Elizabeth Law demystifies parts of the publishing process for not-yet-agented writers and artists as well as those with more experience.

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**Picture Book Intensive with Elizabeth Law - \$45**

**SEPTEMBER 23: Presented by Western Washington**  
**Registration**

In this participatory workshop, Holiday House editor Elizabeth Law will facilitate sharing and group critiquing up to 10 picture book manuscripts-in-progress in the same manner editors work with your books – examining issues both global and small.

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**Crafting a KidLit Career - \$15**

**SEPTEMBER 23: Presented by Western Washington**  
**Registration Open**

Holiday House editor Elizabeth Law joins author Lisa L. Owens to discuss a variety of business topics, including the acquisitions process, the editor-author relationship, and Elizabeth's best advice for creating and sustaining a career as a children's book creator. Audience participation will be encouraged!

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**The Craft & Business of Kidlit - \$16 per webinar**

**SEPT. 5,13, 20, OCT. 4, 11,18**

**Presented by SCBWI Michigan**

**Registration Open August 9 - September 5**

- Tools for Finding your Agent: September 6
- Six Tools to Polish Picture Books: September 13
- Illustrating Children's Books: September 20th
- Extreme Research - If you Dare: October 4th
- Emerging Authors - First Steps on Self-Publishing: October 11th
- Crafting Your Picture Book Career Plan: October 18th

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## Upcoming Oregon Events

Launching on October 18th, **Level Up** is a new Oregon SCBWI monthly webinar series focusing on craft.



Designed to help our members improve their writing, illustration, and all their creative endeavors.

The cost is only \$10 for premium members. Every webinar will be recorded and available to view for one month.

[Find Out More Here.](#)

## Special Feature Article

### Everyday Drawing

by [Martina Lo](#)

Coming up with ideas for stories and illustrations is exciting, but sometimes it's also nice to take a break from the noise that goes on in one's head. That's what drawing from life is to me, it helps me decompress after a long day or week. I love looking for ways to take a break from projects, without taking a break from drawing altogether. In fact, I love drawing from observation so much that I did a personal challenge centered around it a few summers ago. I was still living in San Diego at the time, and wanted to push myself to sketch outdoors more, so I decided to set a personal goal to sketch outdoors everyday for 100 days. The goal was simple, to connect with my surroundings and improve everyday as an artist. These are some thoughts I noted after doing the challenge for 100 days:



#### What I enjoyed

#### *Painting allows me to live in the moment*

Painting allows me to stay concentrated on the present. The challenge helped me establish a daily painting routine. A small canvas also means I won't invest too much of a day's schedule to paint. When I'm painting, all my attention is focused on what's in front of me without concerning myself with anything else. Instead of worrying about the list of errands I need to do, I can wake up each day looking forward to spending a part of it working on my passion.

#### *Painting allows me to encounter pleasant surprises*

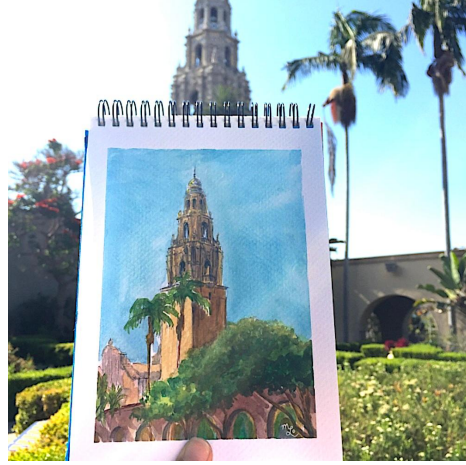
One thing I enjoyed about this experience was the "accidental discoveries" I encountered –that is, places or things I normally wouldn't cross paths with if I hadn't chosen to complete the project. When I started out, I thought I was going to quickly run out of ideas for places to paint, but actually I ended up finding more inspiration along the way. In trying something, one paves the way to new possibilities. Whether it is a new landmark, or a scene that catches my eye, it is these "accidental discoveries" that gets me excited to go out and paint. The more I go out, the more I learn and develop an

Going out is like doing fieldwork and my paintings are the notes of observation – the vibe of a place, the way a tree forms due to the wind, or just what is it about the subject that grabs my attention. Taking a closer look at my surroundings allows me to understand the interconnectedness of things and discover stories everyday.

appreciation for my surroundings.

*Painting allows me to look deeper  
and understand the story*

At first I only cared about portraying the landscape realistically, but I'm now more conscious and deliberate with each painting.



Even several years after the challenge concluded, I continue to carry a small sketchbook with me whenever I head out because I never know what interesting things I might find. Looking back, probably the biggest takeaway from the challenge is that because each drawing is done rather spontaneously (without thinking too much on how it should be done), it reminds me of the power of just deciding on one thing and going for it. Even if I don't have time to do a full painting, the act of drawing alone is enough. Because by allowing myself a small portion of each day to draw, I've already accomplished one of the biggest steps: **taking action and not getting stuck in place.**

**DRAW THIS**  
**September SCBWI prompt:**

**BOOK COVER**

Submission due last day of month

**How to find the monthly prompt on  
the new Website -**

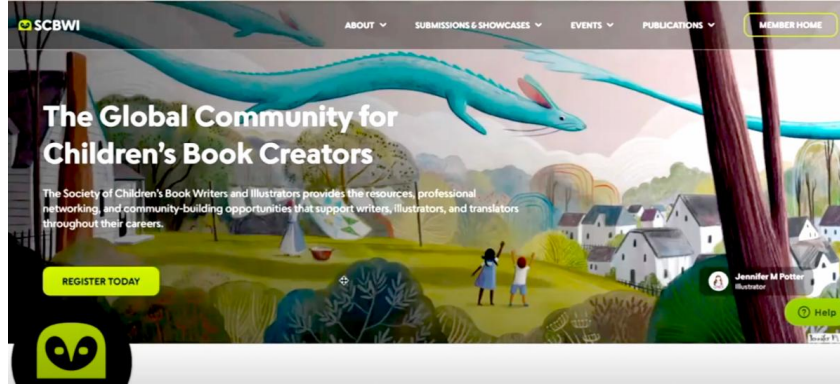
- **Submissions & Showcases to:**
- **Awards & Grants to:**
- **For Illustrators**



SCBWI PODCAST

Have a Listen:  
**SCBWI Podcasts**

***You can help Oregon SCBWI today by creating your member account and illustrator gallery on the New Website if you've not already done so! It will help us keep our member rolls current so that we can all stay connected -  
Many Thanks!***



Here's a How-To video: **EXPLORING YOUR MEMBER HOME:**

<https://youtu.be/6rAvIVoaDe8>

Feel free to [Contact Us](#) if you need help!



**This Fall...**

**Just for the *fun* of it  
take a moment or two to sketch-  
as much and as often as you can!**



**Robin Chilstrom**  
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