

Mandy Ord

Comic Artist



Mandy Ord is a Melbourne based cartoonist, illustrator and published graphic novelist. Her first graphic novel *Rooftops* was published in 2008, followed by a book *Sensitive Creatures*, published in 2011, and another graphic novel called *NY* in September 2013.

Mandy's comic stories have also been included in a variety of local and international publications, such as *Meanjin*, *The Age A2*, *Voiceworks*, *The Australian Rationalist Magazine*, The Wheeler Centre website, *Trouble Magazine*, *SBS Cornerfold*, *Going Down Swinging*, *Tango* and *Inscribe Magazine*.

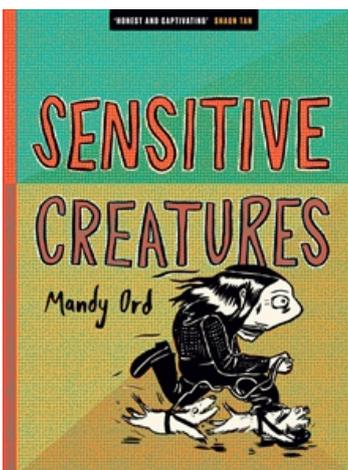
During Mandy's Bachelor of Arts degree, where she majored in painting, she discovered alternative comics and has passionately dedicated herself to the medium ever since. Mandy has taught comic workshops and delivered talks to schools, which have become particularly popular due to the recent popularity of comics, visual novels and illustration. In August 2013 she was Creator in Residence at RMIT as part of the Non-Fiction lab.

Group presentations

Mandy delivers a talk focusing on her personal journey as a published cartoonist. She delves into topics ranging from comics' unique footing as a pictorial language, to the devices used by artists to create their comic narratives. The genres within the art form are highlighted as well as an overview into the history of comics. All this complimented by an exciting visual display.

Workshops

Mandy delivers workshops that cater specifically to class size and age of students. She delivers a short presentation on her experience and journey as a practising cartoonist and touches on the history of comics as a storytelling art form. Over the course of the workshop she facilitates a number of exercises and demonstrations to teach the students specific tools and methods within the comic language. She teaches character design and methods that encourage the generation of stories. Her workshops are lots of fun, visually interesting and hands on.



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Feedback for Mandy Ord

- Great Fun;
- Engaging and valuable;
- Loved the hands on sessions!

We gave Mandy a range of sessions over the 3 days she was with us both with English classes and Visual Arts classes. The levels ranged from ESL students to Year 11 IB Visual Arts students. She adapted her sessions with the students in mind and created sessions which were both entertaining as well as educational.

The ESL English students were thrilled to be able to look at a book through graphics and to be able to interpret the story.

The Visual Arts students were 'eating out of her hands' and craving for longer sessions with her. One teacher even quoted to me "Mandy handles the classroom much better than a lot of teachers I know".

Mandy's professionalism and passion for her work shone through the sessions she had with us. She was given a very full schedule and conducted each and every one of them perfectly. We already have Mandy on our list to attend our Literature Festival in 2017!

- **Sabine Tanase - Newington College, Sydney**

The students were fully engaged during Mandy's presentation which was well structured, thoughtful, inclusive and very inspiring. Students found it easy to follow. I also loved the way Mandy was so gentle and kind towards students and she came across as very authentic; showing genuine kindness and interest towards them. In particular, I liked the way Mandy involved students in part of the presentation and they really responded very well to this.

Some specific student feedback included:

"Mandy was so wonderful and I enjoyed learning about how she became a comic specialist."

"Mandy was so wonderful and interesting to listen to."

"I enjoyed listening to her. It's so wonderful to learn about comics."

"I really enjoyed learning about how graphic novels work especially how pictures are used to represent the characters feelings and emotions."

I am very pleased with how the presentations went today and personally feel I have learnt so much about the graphic novel/cartoon genre myself. Mandy had my head spinning with the potential applications of her ideas, such as the idea of coming up with the class comic or encouraging students to keep a journal in comic form. These are both excellent ideas to promote literacy and this medium and something I will definitely try. It was really gratifying to see some very intelligent and thoughtful students stay behind to seek Mandy's advice and encouragement. So often we try to pitch our presentations to the strugglers but this time there was something there for all our students, the visual learners, the students into comics, the emerging readers who perhaps can benefit from being exposed to a medium that is very supportive to language learning but also to students who could relate to Mandy's reflective, deep but deceptively simple style. I would love to have Mandy back to workshop with students as I think she has so much to teach students and I would love to learn more myself about this medium which is growing in popularity and bringing so many more students to reading. I was impressed by the way Mandy was very generous with her time and willing to stay back after her presentation to spend more time with students. Mandy was also a delight to work with and fitted in well with the staff during our breaks. It was like Mandy was part of our team and we had so much fun meeting her and getting to know her. I will definitely be considering Mandy for future visits to the school.

- **M Papazoglou, Dandenong HS**

Feedback for Mandy Ord

Mandy can come to our school any day of the week! Her warmth and genuine encouragement of the girls combined with her unique creative talent make her a sort after speaker and presenter. She's a dream to deal with and her work speaks for itself.

- **Megan Davies, Toorak College, VIC**

Mandy was fantastic; she was engaging and pitched her presentation perfectly for the Year 9 audience. Her workshops were interactive; all students felt they were able to draw at least something and each that I spoke to felt their learning in the workshops linked directly to our study of *The Arrival* and the creation of their own visual stories.

It was such a pleasure to have Mandy come and work with our students and I hope that we can have her return again next year! Please pass onto her our thanks once again for a wonderful, informative and enjoyable day.

- **K. Ham - Bialik College, VIC**

Mandy spoke engagingly to a small audience showing a detailed and excellent knowledge of her craft. She seemed very at ease with her audience and spoke with confidence and conviction. All attendees (ages 12 – adult) seemed very interested in Mandy's talk and were keen to take her reading list at the end. A number of the participants stayed behind after the 'official talk' for further questions and discussion.

- **Blackburn Library**

Students were interested in the whole graphic novel scene and were keen to try their own ideas. Mandy was very well prepared and enthusiastic with a most informative presentation.

- **H Boundy, Woodleigh School**

Students enjoyed the talks and workshops and were all inspired to draw.

- **Cornish College**

Mandy Ord is a 'winner', she is a marvellous presenter that pitched her talks perfectly to meet the needs of our students.

- **Melbourne Girls Grammar School**

The students thoroughly enjoyed Mandy's presentation on her professional practice as a cartoonist/illustrator. They liked her drawing style and her fun, enthusiastic talk. I was very impressed with Mandy's attention to detail in answering questions students needed during her talk and presentation. It was wonderful to see her design process and to see her bring in some finished products for the students to browse. Mandy was very friendly and professional, and the students were quite comfortable with her. I would highly recommend Mandy to speak at other schools who teach Visual Communication & Design as her working processes and examples were highly relevant to the needs of the Unit 3, Outcome 3 study design.

- **M Sipos, Our Lady of Sion**