

Title: Cancer on Paper: Graphics as Medicine

Author Name: Jade Blue, BA (Hons.), Cert. IBET, TESOL Dip.

How can the act of drawing support the emotional and mental health needs of patients undergoing cancer treatment? In November 2016, at the age of 37, Jade was diagnosed with Triple Negative Grade 3 Invasive Ductal Cancer of the Left Breast. On the day of her diagnosis, a friend gave her a crystal, along with the words "I've been keeping it in my bra and charging it with positive energy". Although touched by the sentiment, Jade couldn't help but laugh, and found it so funny she just had to draw it. That drawing launched a whole series of creative antidotes to what turned out to be a brutal and gruelling course of treatment.

In this talk, Jade shares some of her work and examines the restorative and medicinal qualities of drawing and visual note-making. As critic and cartoonist Nick Sousanis said, "we draw not to transcribe ideas from our heads, but to generate them in search of deeper understanding". Creativity is a means of not only maintaining but also developing one's own identity in a world that seeks to define us by our illnesses. Jade asserts that by encouraging this creativity in patients, we can support the processing of the emotional and mental complexities of living with cancer.

## Figures




Figure 1: Crystal Tit

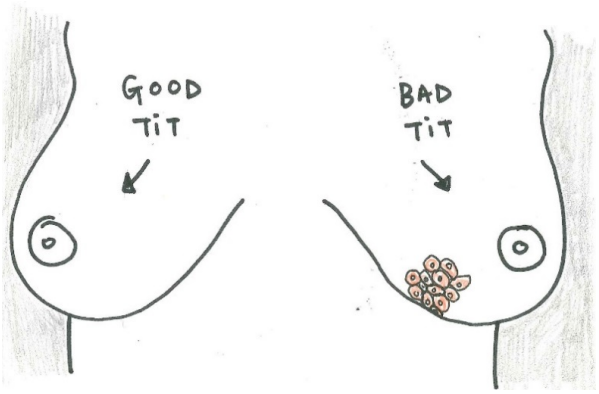



Figure 2: Good tit; bad tit

## Biography

Jade Blue is an English language teacher and trainer based in Brighton, UK. She teaches in the UK, Germany and Japan and delivers workshops and seminars in Europe as a Keynote speaker. Her primary research interests focus on learner-generated visuals in ELT and learner autonomy. Jade works as a research consultant and editor for Cambridge University Press, writes a reflective ELT blog, and has recently contributed to a Routledge publication on Reflective Practice in ELT. Jade's other main passion is drawing, and as well as producing comics and zines, she writes a reflective journal about learning and not-learning to draw.

## Presenting author details


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|---|---|
| Full name: | Jade Blue |
| Contact number: | +44 7758 240561 |
| Email: | jadeblueefl@gmail.com |
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