

CAROLINE WALOTKA

EXPERIENCE

SOMETHING HERE

July 2023 - Current

Ghent

Freelance

Independent puppet, props and costume fabricator, host of puppet fabrication and prosthetics workshops. Get in touch!

LAIKA

November 2019 - June 2023

Portland, OR

Hair and Fur Fabricator

Hair and fur fabricator for Laika's new feature film *Wildwood* out in 2026. On-set puppet maintenance.

VRT

April 2019

Brussels

Prop Maker

Making props and puppets for *TikTak*, a TV show for toddlers.

- fabricating stop-motion puppets
- fabricating marionettes and hand puppets
- creating background worlds made of food and accessories
- working with felt and recycled materials
- co-working with head of props and director

DINH VAN FX

March 2019

Liège

Prosthetics Assistant

Assisting the FX artist in the creation of prosthetics for a French film.

- making a mold of prosthetic finger using clay and PU resin
- cleaning and preparing molds for casting
- casting face and finger prosthetics in silicone
- trimming and seaming of silicone prosthetics

FACTORY CREATE

January 2018 - December 2018

Manchester

Silicone Department

Silicone casting and on-set maintenance for Universal Kids' *Norman Picklestripes*.

- casting puppets in silicone and soft foam
- mixing and matching silicone colours to Pantone samples
- hair insertion
- trimming and seaming puppet body parts
- replacing finger wires, fixing silicone hands
- making armatures for hands, wiring the fingers
- vacuum forming eyelids for all the stages of blinking (open, half closed, closed)
- sanding edges of eyelids
- priming, colouring and sealing eyelids with airbrush
- on-set puppet maintenance
- on-set repair of silicone tears in puppets
- on-set tensioning of puppet armatures
- making armatures for hands, wiring the fingers
- casting new faces and hands for broken puppets

C-MINE

September 2017 - December 2017

Genk

Prosthetics Designer

Creating rat ears worn by dancers in an immersive live performance.

- life-casting ears on actors
- sculpting rat ears on plaster positives
- molding and casting silicone rat ears
- trimming and seaming silicone ears
- airbrushing and finishing
- applying and styling ears to performers

ISLE OF DOGS (2018)

September 2016 - September 2017

London

Puppet Hospital

Mending and maintaining puppets on set for Wes Anderson's latest feature film *Isle of Dogs*.

- on-set puppet maintenance
- on-set repair of silicone tears in puppets
- on-set tensioning of puppet armatures
- final checks of puppets before each shot
- continuity checks of puppets
- creating background puppets using wire and silicone
- styling fur
- styling hair and wigs
- creating spare hands for each character
- trimming and seaming
- air brushing for silicone
- mixing silicone colours
- casting plastic eyes, glueing paper pupils onto eyes
- sanding and painting miniature 3D printed characters
- making replacement collars for puppet's shirts
- sculpting, molding and casting for dog tongue used in closeup
- creating "singed" look on dogs using coloured hairspray
- creating "wet" look on dogs using hair gel
- punching and laying fur on silicone puppets
- adding paw pads to dogs when needed for the shot
- opening rigging holes in silicone and fabric
- mending torn costumes
- airbrushing bruised foot
- redesigning old puppets into new background characters
- paint matching puppets during each movement stage for replacement animation
- repairs and paint blending of silicone puppets
- painting "growl" dentures for dogs
- cleaning stained costumes
- altering silicone puppets to allow exaggerated movements

FACTORY CREATE

May 2016 - September 2016

Manchester

Puppet Maintenance

Mending and maintaining puppets on set for CBBC's animation series *Scream Street*.

- vacuum forming eyelids for all the stages of blinking (open, half closed, closed)
- sanding edges of eyelids
- priming, colouring and sealing eyelids with airbrush
- on-set puppet maintenance
- on-set tensioning of puppet armatures
- repairing silicone tears in puppets on set
- making armatures for hands, wiring the fingers
- casting new faces and hands for broken puppets
- painting faces, feet and hands
- replacing faces, feet and hands
- working as puppet wrangler, keeping track of each puppet, delivering puppets to set
- assembling new characters using existing parts
- restyling puppets when needed
- reorganising the "puppet hospital"

ARTEM

January 2016 - March 2016

London

Fabricator

Designing and fabricating a pregnant belly for ASOS pregnancy wear.

- working with reticulated foam and lycra
- hand sewing
- sanding and smoothing down foam belly
- fitting belly to model

MADAME TUSSAUDS

May 2015 - April 2016

London

Junior Moulder

Moulding and casting a variety of celebrities, sanding and assembling before they're passed on to the painting department.

- moulding life sized clay bodies
- working with fibreglass and moulding silicone
- cleaning and prepping moulds for casting
- casting body parts in fibreglass
- lifecasting hands using alginate
- filling alginate moulds with plaster
- moulding plaster hands using silicone and fibreglass
- sanding cast body parts and assembling bodies
- priming hands and bodies
- co-working with sculptors

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

April 2015 - May 2015

London

Prop Maker

Making props, including life-sized gargoyles, for *The Queen of Spades*.

- cutting up existing mannequins for repositioning
- working with fibreglass
- sanding mannequins
- making a steel structure for the wings
- fabricating feathers out of plastazote
- creating skeletal arms for mannequin made of wood and fibreglass
- priming and spray painting gargoyles

ARTEM

March 2015 - April 2015

London

Fabricator

Creating a giant inflatable underwater scene and shadow puppets for the 2015 *Take That* tour.

- fabricating large plants
- glueing and stitching
- using polyester fabrics and plastazote
- cutting and painting flowers made of plastazote

TELETUBBIES

August 2014 - February 2015

London

Fabricator

Working with Niki Lyons on the build of the iconic *Teletubbies* for the reboot that launched in 2015.

- making Teletubby antennae of hard foam, wire and soft foam
- enlarging existing patterns according to the size of each character
- applying patterns to reticulated foam
- cutting out each pattern
- glueing and forming foam patterns to create Teletubby suits to be worn by performers
- fitting and adjusting suits to performers
- creating anti-slip soles for Teletubby feet
- dressing performers on set

NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL

July 2013 - August 2013

Beaconsfield

Model Maker

Building and painting set and props for several stop-motion animation productions.

- sculpting, moulding and casting severed arm of silicone
- silicone painting with airbrush
- using plasticine, sculpey and balsawood for sets and props
- creating cardboard and paper props
- painting props with acrylics

NATIONAL THEATRE

January 2013 - February 2013

London

Costume Props

A six-week work placement in the Costume Props department, helping in the preproduction of *The Captain of Kopenick* as well as the hustle and bustle during the performances.

- redesigning hats
- making veils using existing lace patterns
- creating foam troll mask
- working with lycra, Varaform and latex
- assisting head of Costume Props during fittings
- making belts for army uniforms
- dyeing fabrics
- dressing actors

LIFECAST INC.

September 2012

London

Workshop Assistance

Gaining experience in a professional environment, helping with the development and execution of projects including exhibitions and film props.

- assisting the lifecasting of a leg
- casting, trimming and seaming in silicone
- making fibreglass props for a V&A Museum costume exhibition
- sanding and priming fibreglass props

OLYMPIC OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

February 2012 - June 2012

London

Costume Volunteer

Working intensively in the costume department.

- customizing costumes
- creating large masks
- helping with costume fittings
- assisting during rehearsals
- measuring performers for costumes

CARRION CROW

October 2010

London

Costume Designer

- altering existing clothes to fit era
- costume assistance on set

Designing and making costumes for a Victorian age inspired music video.

DE FONZ

March 2010 - June 2010

Brussels

Costume Designer

- designing and fabricating lycra superhero costumes
- styling all characters
- costume assistance on set

Working as costume designer on this short film about superheroes.

MISSCHIEN LATER

January 2010 - April 2010

Brussels

Costume Designer

- costume design
- styling all characters
- costume assistance on set

Co-working as costume designer on this short romantic comedy.

HITOMI

October 2009 - January 2010

Brussels

Costume Designer

- designing and making a kimono
- styling all characters
- costume assistance on set

Working as costume designer on this short film with Japanese influences.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

September 2009 - December 2009

Brussels

Costume Designer

Designing and making funky costumes from scratch for this student musical.

- creating fatsuit for character using foam, latex and jersey
- assisting during rehearsals
- measuring actors
- altering existing clothes to fit style

QUEST FOR AVALON

January 2008 - June 2008

Brussels

Costume Assistant

Assisting the costume designer on this short film set in the middle ages.

- buying and styling costumes
- costume assistance on set

COURSES

NEILL GORTON'S PROSTHETICS BOOTCAMP

2018

Falmouth

Crash course in film prosthetics taught by Neill Gorton.

INTRODUCTION TO KNOTTING

2017

London

Learning the basics of wig making

TECHNICAL EFFECTS FOR PERFORMANCE

2011-2014

London College of Fashion

Learning all the tricks of the Special FX trade. Making maquettes, puppets and creature suits. Focusing on stop motion in my final year.

COSTUME DESIGN

2006-2010

Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp

Design and making of modern and period costumes for both college projects and collaborations with film and theatre students. Introduction to scenography and puppetry, studied in-depth during an Erasmus exchange at Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan.

SKILLS

- painting
- silicone painting
- airbrush
- moulding
- silicone
- fibreglass
- casting
- life casting
- hair insertion
- wig knotting
- costume making
- fabrication
- sculpting
- model making

CONTACT

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