

Arthur Rackham

Famous Illustrator of Fairy Tales and Fantasy

✨ What did Arthur Rackham create?

Arthur Rackham was a British illustrator best known for his magical and detailed illustrations in children's books and fairy tales. His work often featured:

- Enchanted forests, mythical creatures, and fairies
- Detailed ink drawings coloured with soft watercolours
- Classic stories like *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and *Grimm's Fairy Tales*
- Gnarled trees, wispy figures, and mysterious landscapes



His unique style helped bring fantasy stories to life for children and adults alike.

😊 Childhood

- Born on **19 September 1867** in **London, England**
- One of **twelve children** in his family
- Enjoyed drawing from a young age
- Often went on nature walks, which inspired the trees and landscapes in his later artwork
- Loved fairy tales and mythology
- Showed early talent for creating detailed and imaginative sketches

🎓 Education

- Attended **City of London School**, where he first studied art seriously
- Worked as a **clerk at an insurance company** while attending evening art classes
- Studied at the **Lambeth School of Art** (now part of Central Saint Martins)
- Learned to draw using pen and ink and watercolour – two mediums he would become famous for

- Practised drawing from life and copying classical artworks

Career

- Started as a **journalist and illustrator** for magazines and newspapers
 - First major book illustration was for *To the Other Side* in 1893
 - Became famous after illustrating *The Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm* in 1900
 - His illustrations were hugely popular during the “**Golden Age of Illustration**”
 - Known for working with publishers to create **deluxe illustrated books**
 - Regularly exhibited his work at **The Leicester Galleries in London**
 - Continued illustrating books until his death in **1939**, including a final piece for *The Wind in the Willows*
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Quotes

“I can always make time for fairies.”

“I try to see with the eyes of a child and put that wonder into my work.”

“The loveliest things in life are often hidden in the shadowy corners of stories.”

Art



Cinderella



Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens