

E. A. SEEMANN HENSCHEL VERLAGSGRUPPE

Would you like to introduce yourself?

My name is Rob Hodgson and I am a writer and illustrator from the UK.

How would you describe your style (in three words)?

Fun / grungey / curious

In which subject areas are you specialized in your illustrations?

I make illustrations for kids mostly, and I love to work on anything to do with science or mythology. I have done a lot of monster illustrations, too. In the books that I write myself I keep coming back to themes of relationships and seeing different perspectives.

Are there specific features to consider in making a children's book?

Each book is different and it depends on what the book calls for. With Tony T Rex and Maisie Mammoth I wanted each page to be its own world with different colours and textures, and to also be scientifically accurate as possible whilst still being fun and interesting. I wanted these books to work almost like poster art, but then if you look closely there are interesting little things to keep your attention.

Did you experience anything surprising in the creation of the book?

The whole of Maisie Mammoth was a surprise! I knew quite a bit about dinosaurs because I was obsessed with them as a kid, but I didn't really know anything about the Ice Age. The creatures from that period were amazing, as you can read about in the book!

How did the collaboration with Mike Benton go? Did you design the entire book together? Did you collaborate on every character of a prehistoric animal or dinosaur?

Mike Benton advised us on what certain animals and dinosaurs might have looked like, suggesting certain colours and the sizes of everything. He also advised on some of the plant life and what locations would have looked like at that time, which was sometimes the hardest thing to get right. The design of the book I worked on with a great designer called Emily Sear, and we worked together on where to place the text within the scenes.

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What interests you in particular about prehistoric animals and dinosaurs?

That they live in our imaginations and that's all we have! Apart from the fossils and bones and other evidence they existed, of course. But we will never have any photographs or video of them, so it is up to us illustrators and artists to bring them to life in people's minds, and that is more fun I think!