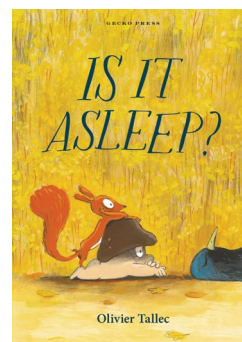
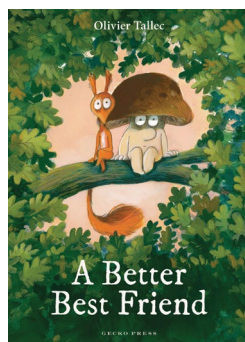


ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR



GECKO
PRESS

Olivier Tallec



Olivier Tallec is a children's book author and illustrator who graduated from the *École Supérieure d'Arts Appliqués Duperré* in Paris, and now lives and works in Paris. He has illustrated over 60 books for children. *A Better Best Friend* was selected for the Read for Empathy collection 2025 (UK) and the 2024 Foreword Indies award (USA).

Background

Olivier Tallec was born in Morlaix, Brittany, in France in 1970. After graduating from the *École Supérieure d'Arts Appliqués Duperré* in Paris, he travelled through Asia, Brazil, Madagascar and Chile, before starting work as a graphic designer in the advertising sector.

Now he dedicates himself to his illustration. As well as illustrating children's books, he also creates illustrations for French news outlets, including *Libération*, *Elle* and *Les Inrockuptibles*, and draws comics for Rue de Sèvres.

Festivals, workshops, media & interviews

Type of events Festivals, workshops, schools, libraries

Equipment needed whiteboard, easel with paper, screen, pens

Age range 3 to 10 years old

Events description Combining the ideas of friendship and fun animal drawing activities, Olivier presents an interactive live drawing event in which children use their imagination to create new characters and explore different ways of drawing.

Travel Olivier is based in Paris, France, and available for in-person events by invitation.

See over the page for event example.



Workshop: Draw squirrel and friends

Equipment needed easel with paper

Age range 3 to 10 years old

Duration 45 minutes

Events description

1. How to draw squirrel

Olivier invites children into the world of his character squirrel. By introducing squirrel with a live drawing of the character, Olivier guides the audience through a how-to-draw session. He invites children to imagine new friends for squirrel, including Pock the mushroom and Moo the fly from the two picture books. Children then draw their own friendship circle for squirrel.

2. Explore drawing techniques

Olivier introduces the concept of different drawing techniques to challenge children's perception of making art. By demonstrating drawing with his non-dominant hand, or with both hands at the same time, with a single colour, with his eyes closed or starting a drawing then inviting children to collaborate and finish it, Olivier shows how these fun and non-traditional techniques can bring about new types of art.

Gecko Press books by Olivier Tallec

A Better Best Friend (2024) A feel-good picture book about best friendship told with dry comedy and an open ending—squirrel and mushroom are best friends until another best friend (a fly) comes to play.

Is It Asleep? (2025) Squirrel and his silent friend (a mushroom) discover the cycle of nature and of life in a down-to-earth and moving picture book that beautifully pays respect to a friend who has died—then birdsong brings a new beginning.

Olivier Tallec has numerous other books published in English.

Other information

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