

Drawing the Body

Dates	Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 March 2024
Times	10.30-16.30 BST
Location	At the museum
Tutor	Karly Allen and Jo Lewis
Level	All Levels



L-R: Peter Paul Rubens, *The Birth of Henri IV*, 1628 (detail)
Anthony van Dyck, *Paris*, about 1628 (detail)

Course Description

Explore the creative possibilities of life drawing over a full weekend. Working in both the studio and galleries, our emphasis will be on experimentation and process using close observation, quick-fire and longer exercises to allow new skills to evolve.

Discover how looking at masterpieces of Baroque painting can inform and ignite your drawings in the Life Room. This course is suitable for beginners as well as those looking to develop their practice by introducing new techniques and approaches. By the end of the weekend, you'll have made a number of works in a range of materials, and will have gained confidence and skills to take your drawing practice further.

Saturday

We'll start our masterclass immersed in the collection, working from paintings by Rubens and Van Dyck. Using a variety of drawing techniques and structured exercises, we'll investigate how drawing and the sketch informed the finished works of these artists, while developing our own range of works on paper.

In the afternoon, we'll spend three hours in the Studio drawing from the life model. Taking inspiration from Rubens's and Van Dyck's use of dry materials including chinks and charcoal, we'll experiment with different viewpoints, poses and lighting levels to produce a variety of results in our work.

Sunday

On our second day, we'll return to the galleries to make more developed drawings in preparation for our afternoon in the Life Room. Through close-looking exercises and observational drawing, we'll consider how Rubens and Van Dyck used paint to convey a sense of the body in movement.

Working from the life model in the afternoon, we'll explore wet materials including ink and water with brushes, quills and reed pens. Adapting to different time limitations and at a larger scale, we'll experiment with liquid materials on vertical and flat surfaces, and through gestural brushwork.

Course Tutors

Karly Allen is a drawing tutor and lecturer in art history. A graduate of the Ruskin School of Art (University of Oxford) and SOAS (University of London), she has led workshops and developed learning programmes for national art collections for over 20 years, including the National Gallery, Courtauld Gallery, V&A and National Portrait Gallery. Karly enriches her teaching with her training as a mindfulness teacher and, as co-director of [Limina Collective](#), contributes to the emerging field of mindfulness in museums. She specialises in approaches to looking and drawing in art collections, the history of the sketch aesthetic, and drawing to promote wellbeing and connection.

Jo Lewis is an artist and educator. Jo trained at the University of Edinburgh and the École des Beaux-Arts in Valence. Jo uses ink and watercolour on paper, frequently working outside in rivers. She has exhibited in the UK and France and has been commissioned and collected by institutions including Hermès, Barclays Bank, More London Collection of Contemporary Art, Raffles Hotels, Ripple USA, Ashstead Hospital and Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Recent exhibitions include solo shows in London and Lyon and group shows in Paris. Jo has taught on many projects for the National Gallery and is a guest lecturer at the London Film School and Paris College of Art.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

This weekend course is suitable for all levels including beginners, while offering possibilities for extension and development to build on existing experience.

Equipment and Materials

Please wear clothes suitable for using messy materials and for working in a room kept warm for life models. All materials and equipment are provided.

Joining Information and Format

For ages 18+. This masterclass will take place in the Learning Studio, Lower Ground Floor as well as galleries throughout the museum.

We recommend participants bring a packed lunch. When walking through the museum, food must be packed away in a bag and liquids carried in a sealed bottle, flask or travel mug, within a bag. Food and drink must only be consumed when in the Learning Studio.
