

## Exploring the Body in 2D and 3D

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<b>Dates</b>	Monday 12 to Thursday 15 August 2024
<b>Times</b>	10.30-16.30 BST each day
<b>Location</b>	At the museum
<b>Tutors</b>	Karly Allen and Sarah Tombs
<b>Level</b>	All Levels

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Thomas Couture, *Horace and Lydia*, 1843 (detail)

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### Course Description

Hone your artistic skills and learn the processes involved in representing the reclining figure in 3D, from first sketch to sculptural experimentation. Taking inspiration from artworks in the Collection and through working with life models in our studio, we'll guide you through a range of approaches and materials for drawing, and for sculpting in wax, clay and wire.

By the end of the course, you'll have created a diverse portfolio of drawings of the body, worked on a quarter-life-size figurative sculpture, and have had opportunities for 1-1 and group discussion on artistic processes and materials.

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## Monday

We'll start our summer school by looking closely at the collection and drawing from the figure in paintings. You'll be encouraged to use a variety of exploratory drawing techniques and materials through quick-fire sketching prompts and guided exercises. Investigating the tradition of the reclining nude in Western European art, you'll build a collection of drawings to take into your studio practice later in the week.

In the afternoon, you'll draw from a life model in the studio. Bringing together what you've learnt from studying artworks in the morning, our model will take up a variety of poses to respond to archetypes and gestures observed in sculpture.

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## Tuesday

We'll start our day by continuing to work directly from the collection, moving our focus from 2D to 3D representations of the figure. In the afternoon session with our life model, you'll undertake activities that support this transition from 2D drawing into 3D, for example, by making a sequence of drawings while moving around the model, which will enable a better understanding of the figure in the round; you'll then turn your drawings into 3D structures using collage and construction techniques using wire.

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## Wednesday

On Wednesday, our life model will take up their final pose, and you'll warm up by making quick 'sketches' in soft modelling wax. You'll then look at the anatomy and proportions of the body, measuring in three dimensions and learning how to work out scale for your sculpture. You'll construct an 'armature' in wire to support your sculpture and, using an oil-based modelling clay, begin to create your sculpture using traditional modelling techniques.

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## Thursday

On our final day we'll refine our sculptures, concentrating on details including facial features, adding texture for hair, and making finishing touches to drapery and the sculpture base. Bringing the summer school to a close, you'll have time to work from your finished sculptures, cycling back to create drawings and take photographs. Both tutors will join the session to discuss the works created throughout the week and offer advice and insights on next steps.

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## 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.

**Sarah Tombs** is a sculptor and lecturer in art history. She trained at the Wimbledon and Chelsea Schools of Art, and at the Royal College of Art. She has been making sculpture for over 30 years and uses a range of traditional techniques and materials that include steel fabrication, bronze, plaster and wax. Sarah has eleven major public sculptures in the UK, and has work in public and private collections including the Government Art Collection. She has lectured extensively in higher education and was formerly Senior Lecturer in Sculpture at the University of Wales, Trinity St David. Sarah has taught on a wide range of learning programmes at the National Gallery since 2007, and in 2024 curated a major sculpture exhibition for Elysium Gallery, Swansea.

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### **Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience**

None required. Our summer school is suitable for beginners as well as those looking to develop their artistic practice.

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### **Equipment and Materials**

Please wear clothes suitable for a messy workshop. All materials and equipment are provided.

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### **Joining Information and Format**

This masterclass will take place in the Learning Studio, Lower Ground Floor and in galleries throughout the museum.

We recommend participants bring a packed lunch. When walking through the museum, food and drink must be packed away in a bag and must only be consumed when in the Learning Studio.

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