

Drawing Portraits

Dates	Saturday 26 September 2020
Times	11.00–16.30
Location	Zoom Meeting
Level	All Levels



Van Dyck, *Marie de Raet*, 1631 (detail)

Course Description

'Nothing in a portrait is a matter of indifference' said the great 19th-century French poet and art critic, Charles Baudelaire. But what makes a truly distinctive and compelling portrait and how might we capture those qualities in our own work? Develop your creative practice on this one-day drawing course, where the Wallace Collection's superb portraits by Rembrandt, Velázquez, Van Dyck, Hals and others will be our inspiration.

Through observing, understanding and drawing we will help you focus on the various attributes that make a believable portrait. You'll learn how artists achieve a successful likeness and consider the role of the sitter's gaze in establishing character. Choice of pose and its importance in communicating personality will also be explored, alongside other elements of successful portraiture including clothing, light and setting.

You'll be introduced to a range of drawing techniques that will build in complexity, enabling you to develop your own skills and creative approaches. Following an illustrated, contextual talk that introduces key considerations for guided drawing exercises, the course culminates with a longer exercise that includes one-to-one tutorial using Zoom's break-out function, which will support you in developing an in-depth response to your chosen portrait.

Course Tutor

Sara Lee Roberts is an artist, teacher and writer. She studied painting at the Byam Shore School of Art and the restoration of paintings at the Hamilton Kerr Institute, Cambridge. She restored paintings in the Wallace Collection, the Royal Collection, the Fitzwilliam Museum and the National Trust Collection. As an artist she has exhibited widely and her work is held in private and public collections. She teaches at the Royal Drawing School among other institutions and has a special interest in how artists can learn from and respond to Old Masters to make contemporary work.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is open to anyone who has an interest in portraiture. Experienced portrait makers will take away new ideas and approaches for creating contemporary portraits and beginners will gain new skills and confidence.

Materials and Equipment

Please ensure you have plenty of white or cream paper in loose sheets or a sketchbook, sized A4 or larger. You'll get the most from this course using a selection of pencils including HB, 2B and 6B, and charcoal of various thickness. Don't forget your sharpener!

For more advanced work in the afternoon, participants are encouraged to use water-based materials such as simple watercolours and/or drawing inks, as well as coloured soft pastels, oil pastels or coloured pencils.

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through Zoom. For more information, including instructions on how to download and use the system, please visit www.zoom.us/support.

The overall course duration is five-and-a-half hours. This includes a two-hour morning session, leading to a lunch break of 30 minutes at approximately 13.00. The afternoon session will last three hours. Participants are free to take short comfort/refreshment breaks throughout the day.

Participants will be emailed the Zoom Meeting ID and Password 48 hours in advance of the course session.
