Online Course



Drawing the Figure: Apollo and the Male Nude

Dates Saturday 30 January 2021

Times 11.00-16.30
Location Zoom Meeting
Level All Levels







L-R (details) After Antonio Canova, *Napoleon I*, c.1810-15; François Boucher, *The Rising of the Sun*, 1753; After Giovanni Battista Foggini, *The Arrotino (Knife-Grinder)*, c.1700-1715

Course Description

Develop your own creative practice on this one-day drawing course exploring the most common subject in European art: the human body. Focusing on the male nude, through close study of our masterworks and guided drawing exercises, you'll become familiar with its long history and idealisation in art, from youthful Apollo and heroic Hercules, to ageing river gods.

Taking the classical standing nude as our starting point, we'll help you learn the basics of proportion and balance by reducing complex structures into simplified forms. Then focusing on more dynamic, twisting poses, you'll explore the quality and direction of lines through the body and introduce shading and foreshortening to your work.

The Wallace Collection's artworks will be your models for the day, including Renaissance statuettes, Baroque bronzes and paintings by Boucher and Poussin. Through close study of sculpture, we'll draw the same pose from different viewpoints to capture a sense of movement. Combining short, quick-fire exercises and longer periods of drawing will enable you to use different strategies for drawing the figure and identify the challenges and possibilities of different poses.

This course is part of a series on drawing the figure, including the Female Nude (28 November 2020) and Bodies Entwined (27 March 2021), which can be booked individually or as a series.

Course Tutor

Karly Allen is a drawing tutor and lecturer in art history. A graduate of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art (University of Oxford) and SOAS (University of London), she has lectured widely for British collections and cultural organisations including the Courtauld Gallery, V&A, National Portrait Gallery and the Art Fund. Over 18 years, Karly taught on a wide range of learning programmes at the National Gallery, where she also ran the monthly Life Drawing Salon. She was formerly Education Manager for the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is open to anyone who has an interest in drawing the figure and connecting with works of art through drawing. Those with experience in drawing will take away new ideas and approaches for developing their practice and beginners will gain new skills and confidence. A willingness to experiment and find enjoyment in your drawing will help you get the most out of the course.

Materials and Equipment

Please ensure you have plenty of white or cream paper in loose sheets or a sketchbook, sized A4 or larger. You will need at least two pencils, preferably a selection to include HB, 2B and 6B. You'll be invited to use a black pen (of any kind) and charcoal. Please have an eraser for smudging and drawing, and remember your sharpener!

We will also be working with water: please have a brush of any sort, two pots for water, kitchen towel or rag, and some ink or watercolour (black, or any colour).

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.