

Drawing the Figure: Venus and the Female Nude

Dates	Saturday 28 November 2020
Times	11.00–16.30
Location	Zoom Meeting
Level	All Levels



L-R (details) Based on a bronze by Giambologna, *Venus after the Bath*, 17th century; Jacob Jordaens, *An Allegory of Fruitfulness*, 1620-29; Ascribed to Jacques Charlier, *The Birth of Venus* (After Boucher), 1743-1763

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 female nude, through close study of our masterworks and guided drawing exercises, you'll become familiar with the archetypal classical poses associated with Venus, goddess of love and beauty, which are frequently reinvented in art and life-drawing studios.

We'll establish the building blocks of form, balance and proportion through a series of exercises that will help you explore the female figure in standing, seated and reclining poses. We'll take time for detailed looking and to discuss the different qualities of each pose, the challenges they bring, and strategies for capturing them successfully.

Throughout the day, we'll move between short, quick-fire exercises and opportunities for longer periods of studied drawing. We'll consider shading, foreshortening and the placement of the figure in space. Our models will be sculpture, works of art and paintings from the Collection, including works by Titian, Boucher and Couture.

This course is part of a series on drawing the figure, including the Male Nude (30 January 2021) and Gods 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.
