

## Drawing the Figure: Gods Entwined

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<b>Dates</b>	Saturday 27 March 2021
<b>Times</b>	11.00–16.30
<b>Location</b>	Zoom Meeting
<b>Level</b>	All Levels

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L-R (details) François Boucher, *Mars and Venus Surprised by Vulcan*, c.1754;  
After Giambologna, *Hercules and Antaeus*, model 1570s; cast c.1663

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### Course Description

Develop your own creative practice on this one-day drawing course exploring the most common subject in European art: the human body. Looking at figures entwined in combat or embrace, our focus for the day will be the spatial and emotional relationship between multiple bodies, and the potential for making exciting and dramatic drawings.

Through close observation of masterworks in the Collection including Baroque sculpture and paintings by Boucher and Le Moine, we'll experiment with speed and mark-making to support longer periods of drawing. You'll be guided through several exercises that will help you to understand the basic structure of the figures, capture the twists and tensions of the body, and locate the visual centre-point of a complex pose.

In the afternoon, working with more advanced materials, you'll be supported in a sustained drawing exercise to develop a two-figure composition, exploring tone and colour to help unify your intertwined forms.

This course is part of a series on drawing the figure, including the Female Nude (28 November 2020) and the Male Nude (30 January 2021), which can be booked individually or as a series.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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).

For the afternoon, participants are encouraged to use coloured materials of their choice, perhaps coloured pastels, pencils or ink.

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## **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](http://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.

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