

Drawing the body in art and life: bodies in motion

Dates	Saturdays 25 February and 4, 11, 18, 25 March
Times	11.00-13.00 GMT
Location	At the museum
Tutor	Karly Allen and Jo Lewis
Level	All Levels



Course Description

Take inspiration from the human figures seen throughout the Collection and from working from models in the studio. This life-drawing course explores the theme of movement as experienced in the living body and captured in art, from subtle gesture to danced rhythms. Investigating the motion of pencil and brush on the page as we draw, each session will introduce different materials and techniques, building in complexity across five weeks. All materials provided. Suitable for all levels including beginners. With Karly Allen and Jo Lewis, art history and drawing tutors

Session One: Drawing breath (Saturday 25 February)

This week, in the galleries and in the studio, we will focus on the basic premise of 'life drawing' as the unique practice of drawing the living, moving, breathing body. How can we begin our drawings in a way that acknowledges this movement, a movement which is always present, even in the stillest of poses? Using a range of dry materials, we will work towards a vocabulary of marks exploring this dynamic. With Jo Lewis.

Session Two: Turning and twisting (Saturday 4 March)

Inspired by a selection of poses in Renaissance and Baroque artworks in the museum, we'll observe the body from different viewpoints. What happens when we move our own position in relation to the model and experience the figure as if turning through space? How do subtle movements and tilts in the body affect the character of the pose? We'll introduce wet materials and the brush to experiment with gesture through the twist and turn of our drawing tools. With Karly Allen.

Session Three: Bending and stretching (Saturday 11 March)

This week we will further our practice by considering the body in more exaggerated poses. With expressive movements in which strains of the body are held and released, muscles tensed and extended, we will focus on tonal contrast as a vital tool to express movement in the body. With Jo Lewis.

Section Four: Multiple figures (Saturday 18 March)

Movement is expressed by drawing within, and outside of the body, into the space and figures beyond. This week we will explore how elements such as the space between figures, fabric and composition can all be used to create dynamism and action in our drawings. We will experiment with simple monoprinting techniques to respond to the multiple figure. With Jo Lewis.

Section Five: The dance (Saturday 25 March)

Our final session investigates the appeal of dance as a subject for artists. We explore the shared languages of dance and drawing, from rehearsed movements to intuitive improvisation. Bringing together approaches from previous weeks, we will draw the dancing body in paused and active movement, experimenting with balance, control and speed. We'll bring the course to a close by reviewing and celebrating the drawings we've made and considering next steps. With Karly Allen.

Course Tutors

Jo Lewis is a London-based artist and educator. Jo trained at the University of Edinburgh, the École des Beaux-Arts in Valence and UCL Institute of Education, London. She is an artist educator at the National Gallery and visiting lecturer at London Film School and Paris College of Art. A particular focus of Jo's has been the development of experiential, interdisciplinary drawing workshops for people who do not think of themselves as 'drawers,' and are unsure what drawing can bring to their own practice and experience.

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 lectured widely

for British collections and cultural organisations including the Courtauld Gallery, V&A, National Portrait Gallery and the Art Fund. For over 20 years, Karly has 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 designed as an introduction to the subject.

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through Zoom Webinar. Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and time for Q&A with the tutor.

Tickets are for both dates. Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom link, Webinar ID and Passcode 24 hours in advance of the first course session, which should be retained for accessing both sessions of the course.

Course Recording

This course will be recorded. Within 48 hours of each course session, ticket holders will be emailed a link to view the recording, which will be available for one week only.