

Open Studio Figure Drawing: Etiquette and Format

Updated 1/2/2025

All life drawing studio etiquette is based on respect for the model. Remember, the models put themselves in a vulnerable position for the benefit of the artists, so keeping models happy and comfortable is our priority. Always show the utmost respect for all models.

Artist Expectations:

- **Do NOT take photographs of the model.** Do not ask the model if you can take a photo, as even the request may make the model uncomfortable.
- **Do NOT touch the model. NO exceptions.** Do not invade the model's personal space. This also includes any time you see the model before, during, or after the session, in any environment.
- **Do NOT ask the model out on a date or ask any personal questions.** This is a professional and academic environment and should be always treated as such.
- **Do NOT talk about the model or make comments about the model's body or appearance.** If you would like to compliment the model's work, keep the language in a drawing sense rather than referring to beauty.
- **Do NOT directly inquire about the models work availability.** If you are interested in scheduling the model for your own personal studio time, or for work in another community venue, please call the Art Center and we will reach out to the model on your behalf.

Classroom Etiquette:

- Limit the conversation to breaks and before/after the session. Artists and models are here to work and excessive noise can be distracting.
- Please keep your phones on "do not disturb" or vibrate during the session.
- Do not take phone calls in the classroom. If you are expecting a phone call, we ask that you step outside the classroom to limit distractions.
- If you come late to a session, we ask that you arrive during a break, or that you quietly enter the classroom to set up.

- If you must leave the session early, we ask that you leave during a break – ideally – or that you pack up your materials and put away Art Center taborets, drawing horses, etc. quietly.
- At the end of the session, artists are requested to return the taborets, drawing horses, or any other Art Center equipment to the place where these items are stored in the classroom or hallway.

General Info:

There are two 15-minute breaks during the 3-hour session. There are tables, chairs, and drawing horses available in our hallway and in the studio classroom for you to set up. Art materials are for you to bring in. We do not supply materials in open studios.

Friday AM & PM

- **First Hour:**
The model generally begins with short, two-minute poses. These poses should be active, gestural ones that couldn't possibly be held longer than a minute or two. After a series of short poses, the model generally transitions to 5-minute and then 10-minute poses depending on the requests of the artists.
- **Second Hour:**
This hour is generally split up into two 22-minute poses, although this may vary depending on the desires of the artists attending. For the longer poses, it is important for models to know their limits, and to take only those poses that can be held for the full 22 minutes.
- **Last Hour:**
In general, the third hour is again split up between two poses. Poses are usually not longer than 25 minutes. It is understood that the longer poses can be reclining.

The artists in the class may request the model to take certain kinds of poses and will let the model know the length of the pose. If the artists do not make a specific request, the model can decide upon the pose. It is desirable to take a variety of poses, including standing, sitting, or crouching, and reclining. The model is informed ahead of time to face in different directions to give the artists a variety of viewpoints.