

Figure Models in the Art Studio Policies for Student Artists

Drawing from life has been an essential tool in the history of the arts. Figure Drawing, nude or clothed, is a sensitive practice for both Figure Models and artists. It is of utmost importance, and it is expected and understood, that everyone adheres to the following code of etiquette.

General Guidelines for Figure Modeling Sessions:

The Figure Model is the focus during class and their performance and comfort level is critical to the success of the class. Professionalism is always expected of all student artists in their behavior toward the Model.

Please be ready to work when the Model takes the pose that has been determined by the Teaching Artist. It is impolite to continue talking or to not work while the Model is on the stand posing.

Please do not speak with the Model unless first spoken to. This applies before, during, or after a drawing session. Other than a polite “hello” in a hallway, or a “thank you” at the end of the session, there is no reason to approach or talk to a model – maintaining this invisible boundary is important to allowing the Model to feel safe and comfortable in an otherwise vulnerable position. If a model is comfortable, they may approach you about your work, but this interaction should never be initiated by the artist. If you have a question, see the Teaching Artist.

Please do not ask the Model out on a date or ask any personal questions. This is a professional and academic environment and should always be treated as such. This is not a social environment for artists and models, this is working time for artists and the Model is at work as well.

Please do not take photographs of the Model, do not ask the Model if you can take a photo. This is a violation and unacceptable, and even the request can make the Model uncomfortable.

Please do not touch the Model, NO exceptions.

Please do not invade the Model’s personal space. This includes sitting on the Model’s stand any time the Model is on it.

Please refrain from making comments regarding the body type, appearance, or personality of the Model.

Please show the utmost respect for the Model at all times.

Most life drawing class etiquette is based around respect for the Model. Remember, they are putting themselves in a vulnerable position for the benefit of the artists, so keeping Model happy and comfortable is our priority.



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