

# ADULT LEARNING OBSERVATIONAL LIFE-DRAWING



Course Outline

AUCKLAND  
ART GALLERY  
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# COURSE BRIEF

This course provides an introduction to the art of observational life drawing, emphasising accurate depiction of the human figure. Exploring a range of traditional and contemporary drawing techniques and experimenting with materials such as graphite and charcoal, students will have the opportunity to cultivate a personal drawing style. Students will draw professional life models in various poses to gain a working understanding of human anatomy and proportions. Expert Gallery staff will share insights into select artworks from the collection to gain a better understanding of traditional drawing techniques and their application.

One-on-one feedback will be given during each session to help students improve their drawing skills and foster a personal approach to life drawing.

All materials will be provided but you are welcome to bring in any paper or pencils you like working with.

Please note: the life drawing sessions will include a nude model.

Adult Learning is generously supported by Gordon Harris The Arts & Graphic store.

# COURSE OUTLINE

## Session 1 Tues 11 February

In the first class, students will meet the tutor and be introduced to the course. We will discuss the specific drawing skills covered during the course, including how to draw from life accurately and the role of observational drawing in creating a personal drawing style.

This session focuses on drawing still-life objects as a way to start developing drawing techniques.

## Session 2 Tuesday 18 February

In week two we will begin working with a life model to develop the basics of figure drawing, including measuring and accurately depicting human proportions. We will work with graphite to develop a solid foundation of technical skills.

## Session 3 Tuesday 25 February

During week three we employ more dynamic and expressive poses to enhance our knowledge of human anatomy. Students will use various types of charcoal to explore more immediate and spontaneous approaches to life drawing.

## Session 4 Tuesday 4 March

Week four continues our exploration of drawing fundamentals such as shading, perspective and foreshortening, working with poses that range from one minute to 30 minutes.

Referencing historical examples, students will be introduced to traditional methods for rendering light and shade such as *chiaroscuro*.

In this session, we continue working with a life model and the tutor will work closely with each student to progress individual skills.

**\*Please note that some activities may take place at different times during the course due to staff availability and class requirements**

**The life drawing sessions will include a nude model**

This week, we move into the Gallery spaces. A guided tour looking at how artists have historically worked with the figure will deepen our understanding of how traditional artistic techniques were implemented.

Back in the studio, students will respond to the artworks explored in the tour, incorporating their own drawing style. We also experiment with other drawing materials.

**Sessions 6 - 8**  
**Tuesdays 18, 25 March, 1 April**

In the final weeks of the course, students will continue to work with a life model, emphasising the refinement of drawing techniques and personal style. Students will have the option of working with 30 - 60 minute poses.

We will also review the progress made throughout the course and discuss how to sustain a drawing practice. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of human anatomy and proportion as it relates to life drawing and will feel confident drawing the figure in a range of poses. They will have begun to develop an approach to life drawing that is unique to them.

**Session 5**  
**Tuesday 11 March**