

ADULT LEARNING OBSERVATIONAL LIFE-DRAWING



Course Outline

AUCKLAND
ART GALLERY
TOI OTAMAKI

COURSE BRIEF

This course provides an introduction to the art of observational life drawing, emphasising accurate depiction of the human figure. Students will explore a range of traditional and contemporary drawing techniques while experimenting with materials such as graphite and charcoal. They will have the opportunity to cultivate a personal drawing style through guided instruction.

Participants will draw professional life models in various poses to develop a practical understanding of human anatomy and proportions. Expert Gallery staff will share insights into select artworks from the collection, enhancing students' knowledge of traditional drawing techniques and their applications.

Each session includes one-on-one feedback to help students improve their drawing skills and develop a personal approach to life drawing.

All materials will be provided; however, students are welcome to bring any paper or pencils they prefer working with.

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

Adult Learning is generously supported by Gordon Harris Arts & Graphic Store

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1

Tuesday 29 April, 6-8 pm

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 means to begin developing drawing techniques.

Session 2

Tuesday 6 May 6-8 pm

In week two, students 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 13 May 6-8 pm

Week three continues our exploration of drawing fundamentals such as shading, perspective and foreshortening, working with poses that range from one minute to 20 minutes.

Referencing historical examples, students will be introduced to traditional methods for rendering light and shade, including *chiaroscuro*. The tutor will provide individualised guidance to help each student progress.

Session 4

Tuesday 20 May 6-8 pm

Week four will introduce more dynamic and expressive poses to enhance students' understanding of human anatomy. Using various types of charcoal, students will explore more immediate and spontaneous approaches to life drawing.

Note: Some activities may be subject to change due to staff availability and class requirements.

The life drawing sessions will include a nude model.

Session 5
Tuesday 27 May 6-8 pm

This week, the class will move into the Gallery spaces for a guided tour. The tour will examine how artists have historically depicted the human figure and implemented traditional artistic techniques.

Back in the studio, students will reference the artworks explored in the tour with an eye to what their drawing style might look like.

Sessions 6, 7, & 8
Tuesday 3, 10 & 17 June 6-8 pm

In the final weeks, students will continue working with a life model, refining their drawing techniques and personal styles. They will have the option of working with hour-long poses.

The course will conclude with a review of progress made, as well as a discussion on sustaining a personal drawing practice

By the end of the course, students will have developed a solid understanding of human anatomy and proportion as they relate to life drawing. They will also feel confident drawing the figure in a variety of poses and will have begun to cultivate a unique approach to life drawing.