

# Figure Drawing Exhibition

Figure Drawing is an incredibly important aspect of artistic development, offering artists opportunities for study; of anatomy, posture, gesture, mapping space, exploring figure-ground relationships, shading, light sources, and so much more.

Modeling in a Figure Drawing space can offer opportunities for personal development; confronting standards of beauty, giving models control over objectification, testing the exertion of strength and physical finesse through poses, and so much more.

The relationship between model and artist is often misrepresented in television, film, and literature, and is just as often misunderstood. Nudity without sexual connotations seems a concept that can be difficult to understand or explain. Moreover, societal pressure for a presentation of the “perfect” human form further complicates the representation of muses and models. Models and artists can create a powerful environment, divorced from sexuality, with a symbiotic relationship of learning and expression.

Modeling can challenge the idea of objectification, and of what is offered or available when someone undresses. In figure drawing space built foremost with consent, models have control over the objectification of their bodies. Allowing a group of strangers an unfiltered gaze of your body can require mental fortitude, firm boundaries, and trust. Done in this same space of consent, it can allow for a space of vulnerability. Modeling with diversity and representation confronts standards of beauty and perceived desirable traits. Finding and holding poses requires physical stamina and intimate knowledge from the model of their own body, ability, and comforts. This knowledge of comforts can have the additional aspect of confrontation as models acknowledge what they are comfortable with and uncomfortable with in their own perceptions of their bodies. For some, the experience as a model has allowed for healing.

For artists, what is being drawn is a removed view of a model’s body. Artists are generally not aware of a model’s securities, insecurities, or even history with medical diagnoses. The Figure Drawing space most often has artists removed from the kind of intimate knowledge of models that allows for this boundary. An artist is in the space to learn, practice, and refine.

A skillfully orchestrated figure drawing session is a creative juggernaut, which harnesses vast interpretations, mediums, and representations of beauty.

This exhibit explores uplifting the role of the model in a figure drawing practice, the impact it can hold on individuals to model, and the value of observation to artists. Through the practice of figure drawing in a creative space built with consent, diversity, and representation, it is hoped that all bodies can be celebrated in their intricacies.

This exhibit was created in partnership with Jonathan Stewart and the nonprofit EverGreen Adventures. EverGreen aims to connect people with chronic illnesses and their caregivers with

each other, the outdoors, and other forms of expression to foster a sense of community and self-acceptance.

The Figure Drawing class at the Holter Museum of Art, who meet Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:30. \$17.

The Holter Museum of Art always welcomes applications for models. Contact Education Director Anna Lund at [alund@holtermuseum.org](mailto:alund@holtermuseum.org) if you are interested in becoming a figure drawing model.