

# FIGURE DRAWING CLASS

## CLASS GUIDELINES

**Figure drawing, nude or clothed is a sensitive and sacred practice for all parties involved.** Our highest concern at Alabama Contemporary Art Center is maintaining the sanctity of the environment and creating a safe, productive and uplifting space for teachers, students and models alike to seek guidance and flourish without the fear of harm or judgment. This contract serves to clarify the expectations of all parties involved to create an uplifting environment.

At Alabama Contemporary, we believe that the best way to fortify the skills of those enrolled in our classes is to provide a wide array of diverse subjects to serve as the building blocks of your arts education. We do not discriminate against any body type. **This means we will hire models who are men, women and gender non-conforming. Body types will range in size, stature, gender, race and sex.** For this reason we lead with the expectation that students, teachers and models alike leave any preconceptions or judgements at the door. In the event that a student or teacher is not willing to participate in a class knowing this, a refund may be requested 1 week prior to the date of the course.

**Alabama Contemporary Art Center and its partners will not indicate any demographic details about our models ahead of classes.** This serves as a way to protect our models and maintain their anonymity.

### STUDENT GUIDELINES:

The following guidelines are to be followed by all **artists/students** enrolling in figure drawing courses led by Alabama Contemporary in any location:

- **Under no circumstances are students permitted to take pictures of the model.** Do not request permission from the model or any staff member present. This constitutes a violation of boundaries and can create discomfort for the model and any attempts to photograph the model or requests for permission will be met with immediate expulsion from the class.
- **Do not touch the model or invade their personal space.** Figure drawing modeling can be a daunting and sensitive task, invasions of personal space can include approaching their stand while they are present, attempting to touch the model during scheduled breaks or approaching them in any unprofessional manner after the class has been dismissed. It's a good rule of thumb to keep a minimum of 5 feet between yourself and the model.
- **Never attempt to speak with the model unless you are spoken to.** You may say a brief "hello" upon arrival or a "thank you" after the class has been dismissed. This boundary helps develop a safe and comfortable space for the model. If you have any questions or requests for the model, you may approach the teacher and allow them to possibly facilitate the exchange. At the model's discretion, they may approach students about their work or initiate conversation, at which point students may engage.
- **DO NOT ask the model on a date or ask any personal questions.** Figure drawing classes are not a social environment. All parties are expected to maintain professional conduct. This is working time for artists, models and teachers.
- **Never comment on the body or appearance of any participant in the class.** While this is meant to safeguard the model as a priority, it also applies to the teacher and other students. If you have a comment to make in good faith, it should revolve around the models' work as opposed to their general appearance and can be delivered to the facilitator of the class to pass along at their discretion.

These rules prioritize the safety and comfort of the model above all else. This style of modeling is incredibly vulnerable and is a privilege for artists/students. By adhering to these expectations, you are adding value to the class for yourself and all other students.

**What CAN you do?** Draw, learn and engage with your fellow students! Figure drawing classes can be just as vulnerable for students as they are for models. Take this time to work on your craft without the fear of judgment and approach your fellow students and instructors with encouragement, questions and curiosity. As long as these guidelines for professional conduct are followed, you will be doing your part to create a safe space for your skill to flourish.

## TEACHER GUIDELINES:

The following guidelines are to be followed by **teachers/facilitators** in figure drawing courses lead by Alabama Contemporary:

- **To make the model as comfortable as possible with the room and class, anything or anyone that makes the model feel uncomfortable will not be tolerated.** Students may be asked to leave, temperature or music may be adjusted, models may take breaks as needed or refuse any uncomfortable poses, etc. If the teacher feels uncomfortable with or under equipped to handle requests from the model, they may call an Alabama Contemporary employee to handle the issue.
- **Non-artists who are not working as teachers or facilitators of the class are not permitted in the room.** This includes sitting in, passing through or any other activity that may be distracting or disruptive. In the context of this agreement, facilitators include Alabama Contemporary or Sophiella Gallery staff who will identify themselves to the teacher and model before the start of the class.
- To keep to the timeline of the course, **keep use of phones or electronic devices to a minimum.** Personal phone business should be kept out of the class to the best of your ability.

As the teacher or facilitator, you're the expert and your conduct should reflect that. Your comfort is just as important as that of the models and students. **If you recognize any actions taken by the model or students to be harmful to the sanctity of the environment, you have permission to take corrective action as you see fit.** This includes asking students to leave or involving staff members to take steps to address the problem.

## MODEL GUIDELINES:

The following guidelines are to be followed by **models** hired for figure drawing courses led by Alabama Contemporary in partnership with Sophiella Gallery:

- **Be present and on time.** If something unexpected happens, notify the instructors or facilitators immediately so we can try to help or book another model.
- **Bring a robe or some other covering to change into between poses or during breaks.**
- **Do not be conversational while modeling.** Necessary exchanges with the instructor or facilitator should be kept brief and to the point for the sake of communicating needs and questions. Refrain from interacting with artists/students while modeling unless necessary.
- **Try to refrain from making comments on your own body and appearance, whether they are complimentary or self-deprecating.** During your time modeling, you are providing an invaluable form for artists/students to use as a tool in their education and by commenting on your body you disseminate the boundary in place that justifies our expectation that no one else

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involved comments on your body or appearance. Whatever preconceived notions you have about yourself should be left at the door.

- **Ask before photographing artists/students' work.** If given permission, credit them for their work anywhere it's posted and tag them when possible.

FACILITATOR GUIDELINES:

The following guidelines are to be followed by **present staff (ACAC and/or Venue Partner)** in figure drawing courses lead by Alabama Contemporary:

- **All staff members will identify themselves to the teacher and model.**
- **Staff members will be appropriately attentive and periodically check in with models and teachers to verify their comfort level.** At the request of the model or teacher, staff members can provide refreshments, robes or handle escorting students who do not follow conduct guidelines out of the building.
- **The staff facilitator on duty will pay the model and teacher at the end of the class** provided all necessary paperwork has been completed.

**Be kind and polite, and all will be well.** Don't critique work unless asked. This goes for artists and models. Any student, teacher or model who breaks the aforementioned rules of conduct will be escorted off the premises and barred from enrolling in future classes.

Any student, teacher or model who intentionally breaks code of conduct will be barred from participating in future figure drawing classes hosted by Alabama Contemporary. **Class fees will not be refunded within 3 days of the class.**

Please sign this agreement below to verify that you have read the conduct guidelines and agree to follow them.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

Printed: \_\_\_\_\_