

Elective Skills Workshop Course

Course Title	Figurative Sculpture
Tutor	Laura Postle
Studio Session Dates	Thursday 19th September – Thursday 28th November 2024 Reading Week: 28th October - 3rd November 2024
Session Times	11AM - 5PM
Course Code	E2401S008
Studio	Mermaid Court Studio 1
Course Fees	£675
Materials Cost	£10 + tools purchase (See Below)

Course overview

Studying directly from a life model, you'll sculpt the full figure on a half-life scale in clay. You'll learn the essentials of construction, including various techniques in observation, measurement and use of a plumb line, and will combine these modelling skills with fundamental anatomical knowledge. You'll also gain an understanding of the importance of capturing gesture and proportion.

Your tutor will support you fully throughout the course in both group sessions and one-to-one, providing regular feedback, critique and constructive advice. Although the course has a general theme and approach there is no fixed or prescriptive methodology and individuals are encouraged to blend their own approach with the techniques and methodologies being taught.

Please note: Wire armatures will be used inside the sculptures, so pieces cannot be fired. However, you will be able to photograph your sculptures during the final session.

Please note: This course runs from **11am to 5pm** rather than the usual timing of 10:30am to 16:30pm for Elective Skills Workshop Courses.

Course aims

Students will be able to:

Make armatures on a half life scale

Develop and apply anatomical knowledge in the creation of figurative sculpture

Understand and apply measurement and scaling techniques, including 'scale of proportions' and 'comparative measurements'

Develop observational skills through the creation of figurative sculpture

Develop and apply clay modelling techniques using a variety of tools

Apply skills in the creation of proportionally accurate figurative sculpture that captures likeness and gesture

Apply safe-working practices at all times.

What Level is the course and do I need any particular skills?

This course is suitable for all levels.

Course Times

The final 15 minutes of each class will be a group clean up after your day's work, ensuring the studio is left tidy for the evening classes that follow.

About your tutor

Laura Postle is a classically trained figurative sculptor who is a graduate of the Florence academy of art, Italy. Based on observation of the human figure, her work explores the true character of her model whilst accentuating gesture and capturing the emotion of her subject.

<https://www.laurapostlesculpture.com/>

Weekly breakdown

Below is a weekly breakdown of what will be covered. Please bear in mind that these sessions will move with the pace of the group, so a degree of flexibility of what will be covered on which day will be employed.

Wk	Date	Topic/Activity	Location, Tutor & Model	What to bring	Model
1	Thursday 19th September 2024	<p>Introduction to the course</p> <p>H&S briefing</p> <p>Discussion of individual intentions and goals for the term.</p> <p>Discussion about tools.</p> <p>Advanced students choose objectives.</p> <p>Set the pose & make armatures.</p>	<p>Mermaid Court Studio 1</p> <p>Laura Postle</p> <p>Model x 1 (1 of 10)</p>	<p>Wire cutters</p> <p>Pliers</p> <p>Flathead screwdriver</p> <p>Gloves</p> <p>Tape measure</p> <p>Ruler</p> <p>Pens</p> <p>Note paper</p> <p>Sketchbook</p> <p>Clay tools</p> <p>Cheese wire</p> <p>Plumbline</p> <p>Calipers</p> <p>Spray bottle</p>	Yes (10 week pose)
2	Thursday 26th September 2024	<p>Continue making armatures if necessary. Begin clay application, starting with pelvis and ribcage. Look at the skeleton and establish key structural points.</p> <p>Main measurements taken (advanced students follow their individualised programme)</p>	<p>Mermaid Court Studio 1</p> <p>Laura Postle</p> <p>Model x 1 (2 of 10)</p>	<p>Cocktail sticks or Small screws</p> <p>Knife-like clay tool such as tiranti H series, ideally a H7</p>	Yes (10 week pose)
3	Thursday 3rd October 2024	<p>Begin building up the figure in clay continuing to think of underlying structure. Look at muscle mass and major muscle groups. Focus on plumbing to track pose and how the model is moving. Individual choices of gesture should be decided.</p>	<p>Mermaid Court Studio 1</p> <p>Laura Postle</p> <p>Model x 1 (3 of 10)</p>	<p>All sculpture tools (excluding armature making equipment)</p> <p>Tiranti's H modelling tool</p>	Yes (10 week pose)
4	Thursday 10th October 2024	<p>Build up the figure. Concentrating on high points and planes. Width and depth measurements can start to be realised. 'Comparative measurement' methods can be used.</p>	<p>Mermaid Court Studio 1</p> <p>Laura Postle</p>	<p>All sculpture tools (excluding armature making equipment)</p> <p>Tiranti's H modelling tool</p>	Yes (10 week pose)

			Model x 1 (4 of 10)		
5	Thursday 17th October 2024	Look deeper into anatomy and begin to understand more subtle turning points, focus on major masses and overall likeness. Continue to push gestures in clay.	Mermaid Court Studio 1 Laura Postle Model x 1 (5 of 10)	All sculpture tools (excluding armature making equipment) Tiranti's H modelling tool	Yes (10 week pose)
6	Thursday 24th October 2024	Start the day drawing high points on the clay with a fresh eye, ensuring correct positioning and confidence of form. Look at more anatomy to start realising fullnesses.	Mermaid Court Studio 1 Laura Postle Model x 1 (6 of 10)	All sculpture tools (excluding armature making equipment) Tiranti's H modelling tool	Yes (10 week pose)
Reading Week					
7	Thursday 7th November 2024	Focus on looking from above and below the model, to get a new perspective and check form. Use mirrors and other techniques to establish a fresh eye.	Mermaid Court Studio 1 Laura Postle Model x 1 (7 of 10)	All sculpture tools (excluding armature making equipment) and mirror (approx. 5" x 5") Tiranti's H modelling tool	Yes (10 week pose)
8	Thursday 14th November 2024	With confidence of overall form and likeness, focus can now be on modelling forms in more detail, creating shadows and half-tones within the piece. Isolate shapes and start to think of chosen focal points.	Mermaid Court Studio 1 Laura Postle Model x 1 (8 of 10)	All sculpture tools (excluding armature making equipment) Must include: Small modelling tool such as tiranti B series, a B7 is a good average size Tiranti's H modelling tool	Yes (10 week pose)
9	Thursday 21st November 2024	Push the nuances of the figure, creating differences between flesh and bone. Considerations given to moulding and casting.	Mermaid Court Studio 1 Laura Postle	All sculpture tools (excluding armature making equipment) Tiranti's H modelling tool	Yes (10 week pose)

			Model x 1 (9 of 10)	& B modelling tool. Can discuss wire loop tools in class	
10	Thursday 28th November 2024	Aim at finishing the figure, looking at surface texture, paying attention to focal points of the piece. Final decisions to be made about moulding & casting. Photography of finished works.	Mermaid Court Studio 1 Laura Postle Model x 1 (10 of 10)	All sculpture tools (excluding armature making equipment) and camera Personalised stamp to 'sign' work if available	Yes (10 week pose)

Preparation Requirements & Additional Costs

YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS

A clay modelling kit is provided for the duration of the class to each student. Each kit contains the following:

B10 Tiranti wooden tool
B8 Tiranti wooden tool
B7 Tiranti wooden tool
B6 Tiranti wooden tool
BM11 Tiranti metal tool
Aluminium Calipers 30cm
Plumb line

Each student must bring the following tools to every class:

Tiranti's H modelling tool - Available to purchase from the office shop.
Mirror - handheld, rectangular, no frame
Drawing equipment - pencils, charcoal, rubber, board clips and sketchbook.
Untextured rags for wrapping - bedsheets are really good or pillowcases can be the perfect size

Additional Costs

There will be a cost of £10 towards the materials throughout the course, this will need to be paid to the office on the first day of the course.

Please note: Generally wire armatures will be used inside the sculptures; therefore pieces cannot be fired. If students wish to keep their work, it generally needs to be moulded and cast.

Resources & Further Reading

Please note reading lists are suggested, not required.

Author	Year	Title	Publisher	Location
Bresc-Bautier, G, et al	1999	<i>Sculpture From the Renaissance to the Present Day vol 2</i>	Taschen	Cologne
Lanteri, E	1986	<i>Modelling and Sculpting the Human Figure</i>	Dover Publications Inc.	New York
Lucches, B	1996	<i>Modelling the Figure in Clay</i>	Watson-Guptill Publications Inc	New York
Richer, P	1998	<i>Artistic Anatomy</i>	Watson-Guptill Publications Inc	New York

Russell, T	2012	<i>Modelling and Sculpting the Figure</i>	A&C Black Visual Arts	London
Tucker, W	1977	<i>The Language of Sculpture</i>	Thames and Hudson Ltd	London

Other useful resources (websites, galleries etc)

Royal British Society of Sculptors website www.rbs.org.uk
 Society of Portrait Sculptors <http://www.portrait-sculpture.org/>

Sculptors to research

Historical: Bernini, Donatello, Marino Marini, Auguste Rodin, Camille Claudel, Henry Moore, Brancusi, Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Michaelangelo, William Turnbull, Louise Bourgeois, Jean Fautrier, Ossip Zadkine, Eduardo Paolozzi, Hans Arp, Kenneth Armitage, Antoine Bourdelle, Germaine Richier, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Malvina Hoffman, Lynn Chadwick, Julio Gonzalez, Medardo Rosso, George Segal, Niki de Saint Phalle.

Contemporary sculptors: Juan Munoz, Brian Taylor, Mark Quinn, Philip Jackson, Thomas Houseago, Ron Mueck, Zadok Ben David, Sabin Howard, Rebecca Warren, Yinka Shonibare, Laurence Edwards, Ed Smith, Antony Gormley, Grayson Perry

Who can I contact for further information?

General information and advice on courses at Art Academy London is available from the main office, open Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 during term time.

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7407 6969 or email our Reception at info@artacademy.ac.uk

Location

Art Academy – Bankside Campus

185 Park Street

London SE1 9SH

The Art Academy is conveniently located minutes away from London Bridge (Northern and Jubilee lines, National Rail services), Southwark (Jubilee Lines) and Borough (Northern line) underground stations. Please [click here](#) for a map, what three words input.

Just moments walk from the Thames, Art Academy London is also ideally located for access to:

- White Cube
- Tate Modern
- The Globe
- Bankside Gallery

If you would like to make the most of the area a member of the team will be happy to advise you on areas of interest locally.

Refreshments & Facilities

All students have access to the common area located on the lower ground floor of the building, here you will have use of a fridge, kettle, microwave and eating area.

There is a wealth of supermarkets, shops and cafes in the area as well as the world-famous Borough Food Market, ten minutes walk away.

Disabled Access

The campus has an elevator and a zero threshold from the street level providing step free access. We make every effort to accommodate students' access requirements, if you have mobility issues please speak to a member of the Academy team before your course starts.

Further Details

- You will need to have paid in full for your class before the first session of your class, your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.
- If you purchased a materials pack online this will be given to you on the first session of your course upon your arrival.
- Ensure that you wear appropriate clothing, as you may get messy!
- All artwork at the Academy **MUST** be taken home at the end of the course.
- Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.
- Please read the Health and Safety Guidelines carefully, provided at the beginning of your course.
- If you wish to join any class for the next term please contact the office to re-book. Classes are becoming increasingly popular, so please book early in order to guarantee your place.
- If you have any further queries let us know and we will do our best to resolve them. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you.