

<b>Course Title</b>	The Narrative Figure
<b>Tutor</b>	Briony Marshall
<b>Studio session Dates</b>	Friday 25th April – 13th June 2025 <b>No reading week</b>
<b>Session Times</b>	10:30am - 4:30pm
<b>Course Code</b>	E2403S20
<b>Studio</b>	Mermaid Court Studio 1
<b>Materials Cost</b>	*£25.00 + £20.00 (See Below)
<b>Course Fees</b>	£545

### Course overview

This course focuses on creating a figure sculpture with general reference to a model (rather than rendering a fixed position model study). The aim of the course is to teach you to use the human form to express emotion, energy and character through experimentation with different forms and compositions rather than to create a photographic, realistic figure. You will be encouraged to express an individual, emotional response to the subject.

There are 2 main ways to approach the course:

Option A - Commission: you have been commissioned to create a sculpture of the sitter - you will be looking to capture the character of the model.

Option B - Narrative Figure: you will be using the model to create a work inspired by your own concerns that will take the form of a single figure sculpture.

The early stages of the course will teach you how to start approaching both options, and you will develop a number of wax maquettes and ideas. By week 3 you will have decided your project for the term and will have a maquette to work with. This maquette will then be developed into a finished sculpture using the model as reference. The sculptures will be made in wax and measure up to 40cm high, but some variations in size and material are possible depending on your experience and level of ability.

Please note: a maquette you are happy with is a very precious thing but can be quite fragile. Please ensure that you keep your maquettes very safe, slight changes in angle can change the whole feel of a sculpture.

Your finished sculpture will be made of wax - if looked after properly this can sit on a shelf in your studio for years as long as you protect it from excessive heat and dust regularly. Alternatively it can be moulded and cast into something more permanent (plaster, jesmonite, resin, bronze...). You would need to do this in your own time and it is not part of this course.

### Learning Outcomes

#### **Students will be able to:**

- Analyse the work of others, applying findings to the development of own ideas and work.
- Create figurative sculptures, applying knowledge of anatomy and using appropriate measuring techniques, working from the model.
- Create expressive figurative sculpture, utilising texture and mark-making to describe form.
- Create figurative sculpture that exaggerates and enhances form.

Use appropriate modelling techniques and tools to sculpt in modelling wax.  
 Learn the principles of armature-making and develop purpose built armatures.  
 Think laterally and push limits, through the creation of a body of experimental work.  
 Plan and complete a personal project, developing maquettes into final realised pieces.  
 Apply safe-working practices at all times.

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

This course is ideal for beginners and those with more experience.

## About your tutors

**Briony Marshall** MRSS is a London based sculptor and installation artist. With a background in Biochemistry, she fuses an intellectual/conceptual approach with an intuitive, materials inspired process to develop sculptures that investigate the natural world and man's place in it. Briony is a Member of the Royal Society of Sculptors and a fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts.

<http://www.briony.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(s)	What to bring	Model
1	Friday 25th April 2025	Introduction to narrative figure sculpture from Ancient Greece to Contemporary and Hyper-realistic Art.  Observing and sketching from the model.  Preparing design for a larger piece. Produce between 1-3 maquettes.	Mermaid Court Studio 1  Briony Marshall	Drawing equipment (Charcoal provided, please bring anything else you want to use), a medium size sketchbook  A shoe box and wrapping (tissue paper and/or bubble wrap) to protect maquettes.  Please feel free to bring any examples of sculptors whose work you admire.  Bring a camera to document work and processes every week.  An Apron.	Yes
2	Friday 2nd May 2025	<b>AM:</b> Observing people Developing maquettes from observations  <b>PM:</b> Developing maquettes from ideas	<b>AM:</b> Short trip out to London Bridge Station  Mermaid Court Studio 1  Briony	Arrive promptly as we will start with a trip out of the Academy to observe people in the local area. Bring a sketchbook.  For the afternoon - bring ideas, sketches, source images (e.g. photographs	PM only

			Marshall	of people) to develop maquettes related to your own concerns or studio practice work.  An Apron.	
3	Friday 9th May 2025	Group crit of maquettes  Armatures will be prepared this week if ready to move forward, otherwise ongoing debate of ideas, and then beginning final sculpture.	Mermaid Court Studio 1  Briony Marshall	Ensure you have at least 3 completed maquettes to share with the group.  An Apron.	Yes
4	Friday 16th May 2025	Group discussion of different sculptural approaches to the figure.  Reference to other sculptors both contemporary and from the past.  Continuing developing sculpture	Mermaid Court Studio 1  Briony Marshall	Bring 3 images of figurative work you like, to share with the group.  An Apron.	Yes
5	Friday 23rd May 2025	Workshop day: Drawing exercises using the model in your chosen pose. Consideration of light and shadow, and how this might influence the use of planes in a sculpture.  Continuing developing sculpture	Mermaid Court Studio 1  Briony Marshall	Bring any drawing materials you like to use, charcoal will be provided.  An Apron.	Yes
6	Friday 30th May 2025	Group reflection on the progress of the sculptures. Are there any major structural adjustments that need to be made? Reconnect with the essence of the original composition.  Continue developing sculpture.	Mermaid Court Studio 1  Briony Marshall	An Apron.	Yes
7	Friday 6th June 2025	One day workshop: sculpting michelangelo's fragments  We will be working from Plaster casts of Michaelangelo's "David" to produce clay studies of the mouth, ear, and eye.	Mermaid Court Studio 1  Briony Marshall	Read the relevant chapter of Lanteri (pdf on moodle).  An Apron.	No
8	Friday 13th June 2025	Last day working on sculpture but don't start 'finishing' it - keep pushing it to where it needs to go.	Mermaid Court Studio 1  Briony Marshall	An Apron.	Yes

## Preparation Requirements & Additional Costs

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

Do bring your own sculpture tools if you have them.

Wear overalls or studio clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

### Each student must bring the following tools to every class:

Drawing equipment - pencils, charcoal, rubber, sketchbook.

A camera (phone camera) to document the process.

### Additional Costs

There will be a cost of \*£25 towards the materials throughout the course, this will need to be paid to the office on the first day of the course. Please note this figure is approximate and the confirmed figure will be confirmed in due course before the start of term. (This will cover the cost of wire, wax, boards, etc - if you decide you want to work bigger, you will need to source your own materials or pay extra)

In addition, your sculpture will be made on an Academy back iron. You will need to put down a deposit of £20 for the back iron and board. This will be returned to you if you return the board and back iron at the end of the course.

## 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</i>	Taschen	Cologne
Russell, T	2012	<i>Modelling and Sculpting the Figure</i>	A&C Black Visual Arts	London
Schider, F	1957	<i>An Atlas of Anatomy for Artists</i>	Dover publications	New York
Lanteri	1965	<i>Modelling and Sculpting the Human Figure</i>	Dover publications	New York
Tom Flynn	1998	<i>The Body in Sculpture</i>	Everyman	London, UK
Penelope Curtis, Martin Herbert, Lisa Lee, James Lingwood, Ralph Rugoff (Foreword)	2014	<i>The Human Factor: The Figure in Contemporary Sculpture</i>	Hayward Gallery, London - Exhibition Catalogues	London, UK

**Other useful resources (websites, galleries etc)**

### Websites:

Look at the Royal Society of Sculptors website <https://sculptors.org.uk/> as well as the Society of Portrait Sculptors <http://www.portrait-sculpture.org/> for members' sculpture, its Annual Open exhibition entry with the Tiranti prize for young sculptors (under 30's) and a free to attend public Annual Lecture.

**Possible sculptors to research:** Michelangelo, Auguste Rodin, Giacomo Manzu, Epstein, Bernini, Alberto Giacometti, Umberto Boccioni, Jean Fautrier, Ossip Zadkine, Meduardo Rossi, Marino Marini, Eduardo Paolozzi, Hans Arp, Kenneth Armitage, Antoine Bourdelle, Germaine Richier, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Malvina Hoffman, Lynn Chadwick, Julio Gonzalez, Niki de Saint Phalle and other contemporary sculptors like Juan Munoz, Brian Taylor, Mark Quinn, Thomas Houseago, Ron Mueck, Zadok Ben David, Sabin Howard, Rebecca Warren

### Who can I contact for further information?

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

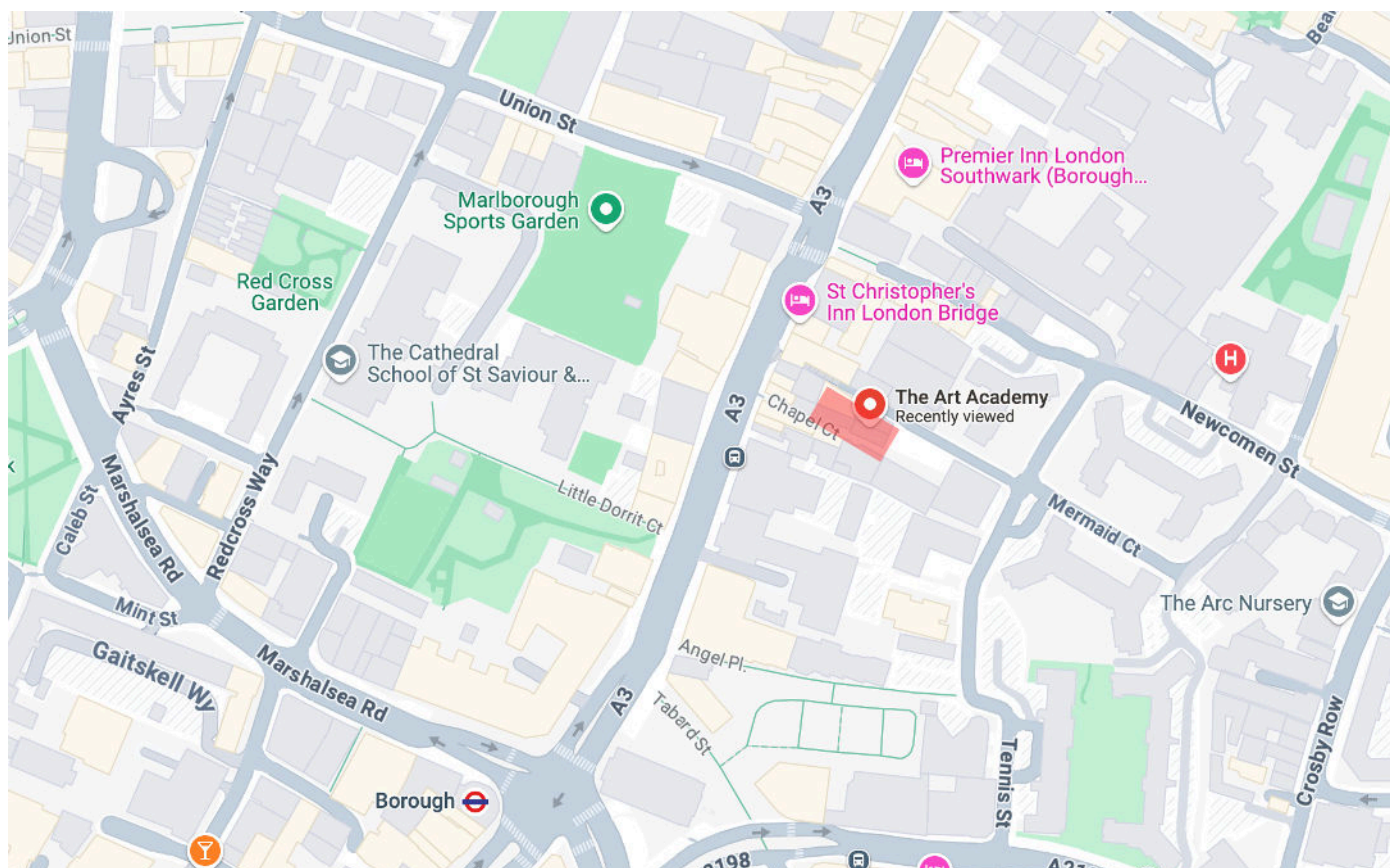
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7407 6969 or email our Reception at [info@artacademy.ac.uk](mailto:info@artacademy.ac.uk)

**Locations** - (Please check course location at the top of this document)

### The Art Academy – Mermaid Court Campus

165A Borough High Street

London SE1 1HR



Just moments walk from the Thames, Art Academy 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 (the Barn) located in the 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, fifteen minutes walk away.

For health and safety reasons, all students, staff, and tutors must use a sealable keep-cup or container for hot drinks. Mugs and open cups are not permitted in our teaching spaces. As we do not provide keep-cups, please bring your own if you wish to use the coffee and tea facilities in our Barn area.

### **Disabled Access**

The campus is two steps up from street level, however 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.