



Open Studio: Model Sessions

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General Admission

Open studio sessions are an opportunity to study from the live model in a serious studio environment. Participation is open to DARA students and unaffiliated artists. For any sessions where a model poses nude, only artists 18 years of age or older may participate.

To join, you must book your space and pay in advance. Only registered participants may join - no walk-ins or other guests are permitted.

Artist Materials: Policies & Restrictions

DARA provides easels, drawing boards, and stools. All other materials are your responsibility to bring. Unless you are a current student at DARA, you may not keep any supplies or artwork stored in the studio after the session ends.

To ensure the health and safety of everyone working at DARA, the following policies are in place regarding the use of some artist materials:

- **Oil Painting solvents:** **The only solvent permitted for use at DARA is Gamsol Odorless Mineral Spirits.** All other solvents, including other brands of odorless mineral spirits, are not allowed inside the classrooms. There are absolutely no exceptions to this policy. Gamsol is sold directly at DARA, if your local art store does not carry it.

Why only Gamsol? It is of a purer formulation than other brands of odorless mineral spirits commercially sold, which means it has virtually no smell. This makes it one of the safest solvents available, which is very important when so many artists are working closely together.

We take this very seriously. If you arrive in our studio with any painting medium which contains odorous solvents, you will not be allowed to use it. Any further violations will result in dismissal with no refund.



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- **Oil Painting waste / cleaning:** All your paint waste is disposed in a metal trash bin with a lid. (The appropriate bins for painting waste are labelled.) You may not dump solvents or oils down the drain. When cleaning your brushes, you must use a designated brush sink and clean as much paint off the brush first before rinsing in the sink.
- **Pigment Dust / Powder:** No powdered pigments are allowed in the classrooms. Any techniques which involve sanding the surface of your canvas / painting are also not allowed.
- **Spray Fixative:** If you are setting your drawing with fixative, there is a designated area in the courtyard where this must be done. Wait 5-10 minutes after spraying before bringing your drawing back inside. You may not spray fixative indoors.
- **Sharpening pencils / charcoal:** Sharpen your pencils or charcoal over a waste bin.
- **General cleanup:** Any mess you make (paint spills, charcoal dust, etc.) should be cleaned up properly by you before you leave. Respect our space and everyone else working here.

Hours

Doors are open 30 minutes before the session starts, and close 15 minutes after the pose begins. If you arrive late and the doors are already closed, you will need to wait in the entrance until a break in the pose.

After the session ends, everyone is expected to clean up and exit the building in a timely manner. You may only access the studio during times you are registered for a model session.

Session Fees

The session fee pays for a share of the model costs and use of DARA's studio equipment. This fee must be paid online at the time of booking your place in the session. Payments are accepted with iDEAL, ApplePay, or with a credit card.

A confirmation of your booking is sent to you automatically by e-mail.



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Cancellation Policy

If you are no longer able to attend the session you booked, you may cancel or reschedule up to 24 hours before the session starts and receive a full refund. You may cancel by responding to the confirmation email sent to you at check out.

If you cancel or reschedule your place with less than 24 hours' notice, your fee is not refunded and will not be credited towards another session in the future.

If DARA has to cancel a session for any reason, all participants are notified via email and fully refunded. Unless there is an emergency, DARA will give notice at least 24 hours in advance.

Photo / Video Policies

- **You are not allowed to take any photos or videos of models at DARA.** Violation of this rule will result in your permanent expulsion from our studio with no refunds.
- If you are taking pictures of your own work, wait until the model is on a break.
- If you want to photograph someone else's work, you need to ask his or her permission first.

Code of Conduct

In order to maintain a serious and professional environment, you agree to follow our Code of Conduct as a condition of participation:

- **Silence while the model is posing**
When the model is posing, everyone in the room should be silent. No chatting, laughing, or other disruptive behavior. Wear headphones if listening to music, and switch your phone to silent.
- **Late arrival**
The door is open 30 minutes before the session starts, and closes 15 minutes after the pose starts. If you arrive late, you will need to wait in the entrance until a break in the pose.
- **Classroom entry**
When the model is posing, the classroom doors stay shut. Do not enter / exit the room during this time.



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- **Respect of studio equipment / property**

Equipment borrowed from DARA such as easels, stools, etc. should be handled with care. If you find something broken, report it to a member of staff immediately. Return any items you borrow to the place where you found them. You are not allowed to take any books, studio equipment, or other studio property out of the building. You may not touch or handle any artwork on the walls or in storage.

- **Respect of student belongings**

DARA students keep their artwork, supplies, and personal belongings stored in the studio. You may not, under any circumstances, enter a student's storage space and touch their artwork or personal items. Violating this rule will result in permanent expulsion from DARA.

- **Keep our studio clean**

Clean up after yourself before you leave. This means:

- You dispose all your trash in the proper waste bins;
- You clean up any paint stains you made with soap and warm water;
- You clean any charcoal dust, pencil shavings, etc. off the easel or floor;
- You bring any drink cups you used to the kitchen;
- You return any items you borrowed;
- You leave our space in the same condition that you found it.

Acceptable behavior

Studying from the live model is an academic pursuit. It is expected that you will behave professionally and maturely towards other artists and models, particularly with regards to models posing nude. Any lewd, demeaning, or other inflammatory conduct towards a model, artist, or member of staff will not be tolerated and will end in your permanent expulsion from DARA with no refund.

- **Materials Storage**

If you are not a currently enrolled student, you may not leave any art, supplies, or other personal items at DARA. 'Currently enrolled' means you are actively following a course at DARA at the present time. It does not apply if you used to be a student in the past, or intend to enroll at some point in the future.

DARA accepts no liability for any items left in our building by anyone who is not currently enrolled as a student.

- **Disruptive Behaviour**

All disruptive behaviour, including (but not limited to)

- refusal to follow DARA's studio policies;



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- discrimination, harassment, verbal abuse, or physical violence directed towards another artist, staff member, or model;
- destruction or theft of another artist or staff member's property;

will result in dismissal from class and / or permanent expulsion from DARA, with no refund.