

The Life Drawing Session is a Privilege

We are privileged to be part of a tradition passed from the seventeenth century to the Ateliers of Paris, to the Arts Students' League and on to us.

We are privileged that men and women share the expression of their most revealed selves for us to use in the pursuit of our self expression.

We accept that with this privilege come obligations.

We are obliged to respect, acknowledge and safeguard the privilege by respecting, acknowledging and safeguarding the relationship with the women and men that we engage as our models.

We are obliged to pass the privilege and its obligations to all who join, as they will eventually become those who come after us.

We therefore endeavour to keep our drawing session free of any sexual talk or innuendo as that would suggest that our privilege is something that it is not, which in turn would compromise what it is.

We endeavour to respect a large personal space around a working model, to ensure her or his comfort.

We ask permission of that model and, only if we receive it, do we trespass in this space to move such things as heaters or lights. If we are not sure of this personal space, or of that permission, we err on the side of caution.

We endeavour to create an environment within which a model can feel comfortable to express her or himself, because this is our obligation to the model and because the quality of our expression is directly related to the quality of the expression of that model.

Please share our privilege.

Please share our obligation.