

Guidelines for Art Models

As a model, you are providing a valuable service to artists and art students. Without models, there would be virtually no human figures in art. This important job carries with it both rights and responsibilities.

You deserve to be treated with respect, to be provided sufficient physical accommodations to do your job without undue stress, and the ability to set your own limits on what you are comfortable doing, both physically and emotionally.

You also need to respect the artists and their work, and most of all, their time. Do not delay a modeling session by being late due to carelessness or lack of planning.

Arrive at the studio in sufficient time to be prepared to start modeling at the scheduled beginning of the session. This generally requires arriving at the studio at least 10 or 15 minutes before the start time, but allow more time if you feel you need it.

Hold all poses, with minimal movement, for the agreed-upon length of the pose. Do not engage in excessive disruptive movements such as turning the body or gesturing, during the pose. (If the pose proves too physically difficult for you to continue, however, inform the instructor or session organizer.)

Drink your coffee and eat your snacks during your break time, not during the pose.

If you have any limitations or special needs, let the instructor or session organizer know as soon as possible, so that they can adapt the session requirements if necessary.

Make every reasonable effort to accommodate the requests of the instructor or session organizer, in regard to poses, but do not allow yourself to be subjected to mistreatment. If you have any physical limitations, either temporary or permanent, inform the instructor or session organizer at the beginning of the session, or even at the time you schedule the session.

If you need props or equipment, look around to see if they are available; if not, ask the instructor or session organizer for help.

Unless you are modeling for erotic art, it is not appropriate to take a sexually explicit or suggestive pose. To do so would be an act of disrespect to anyone in the room who is sexually attracted to your gender.

If you are troubled by any action or verbalization on the part of a student, try to communicate that to the instructor, and let them handle the situation, rather than dealing with the problem directly yourself. It's the instructor's job to protect you, and they have the authority to do so. If they fail in that responsibility, you can step in, but be sure to report the problem later, to the school administration.

Do not make negative comments on the artists' work.

If you need to cancel a scheduled session, provide at least 24 hours notice, and suggest an alternate if possible. Do not leave a modeling session before the scheduled ending time unless given permission to do so by the instructor or session organizer. If you have an emergency and have to leave, notify the instructor or session organizer.

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A word to models about dependability and punctuality

Art modeling is not just another job. Without a model, there is no life drawing (painting, sculpture, etc.). You are not just another participant in the process, or just another employee in a group. You are the main event.

When you go to a live theatre performance, you don't expect the lead actress to show up 20 minutes late for her entrance. But when you show up 20 minutes late to a modeling session, that's exactly what you're doing.

If you have any concern about the possibility of traffic congestion or unreliable transportation to a modeling session, don't just allow extra time to get to there; allow **EXTRA** extra time, especially if you have some distance to travel. You may get there half an hour early, if all goes well, but that's better than getting there half an hour late, if everything goes wrong. If you don't have sufficient time available for travel, don't accept the assignment.

Furthermore, showing up at the door right at the start time of the session is **NOT** equivalent to being on time. Being on time means **being ready to start modeling** at the beginning of the session. Unless you're modeling for a portrait session and don't have to disrobe or change into a costume, you need to arrive **BEFORE** the start time, to get yourself ready to model.

You're the star of the show (even if you're not getting star wages); be there for your entrance.