

Gage Life Room Etiquette

In order to ensure a safe and respectful working environment, the following protocols should be observed whenever a model is posing in any life room affiliated with Gage Academy of Art

Etiquette for Everyone in Life Room: Models, Instructors and Students

Be present, set up and ready to start when the session is scheduled to begin. Session cannot begin without the model(s) or monitor/instructor. If artists come in late, wait for a break to set up. Setting up while model is posing is very distracting for everyone else in the room.

Everyone be kind and polite and all will be well.

Minimize talking during pose. Some personability can be helpful, but too much chatter can be distracting.

Don't critique art or model work unless asked. Both Artists and Models are vulnerable in this situation.

Avoid prolonged eye contact during poses unless negotiated ahead of time for purposes of the art. This also goes for both artists and models.

Avoid drugs or alcoholic beverages in Life Room (this aint no disco.)

Pose timing and breaks: Expect pose times for periods of several seconds up to 20 minutes max. There should be a minimum of a 5 minute break between every 20 minutes of active modeling. Expect a long break of between 10-15 minutes about half way through the class, or after three to four 20-minute pose segments. Depending on chat & lecture time, in a three-hour studio class, this could add up to a maximum of seven 20-minute pose segments.

Communicate any problems respectfully and privately one-on-one with the party involved. Involve the administrative staff if necessary. We are here to inspire each other and we're all friends and peers and want a healthy, collaborative and inspiring environment.

Conform to extant policy regarding masks. **Masks are encouraged** but not required. Portraiture and long poses spanning several sessions may require at least some unmasking by the model.

Students/Artists:

1. **ALWAYS respect the model's personal space and body.**

No touching the model is a cardinal rule, not to be broken, ever. This rule also applies to artists when working with models privately for life drawing or photography sessions. Maintaining five feet of distance is a good starting point. Only instructors or monitors may move inside this space, and only then with the awareness and consent of the model.

The model stand is the model's space; Model stands are for the exclusive use of models and for set-ups designated by instructors/moderators. They are not for use as an easel substitute, picnic table, reclining etc. Model stands and environments should be clean and be clearly demarcated from the studio space.

Avoid qualitative comments about a model's body (positive or negative). Comments about the pose should be directed to the instructor/monitor and be informative and for feedback purposes.

Minimize entering or exiting the room while the model is posing. Only take a break from your work while the model is on break. If you come to class late, wait outside the classroom until the next break. If you have to leave the room or enter late, please be as discreet as possible so that the model doesn't feel exposed to the outside world.

2. **We are here to make art.** Attend drawing sessions or classes only if you're interested in creating art from the human form.

Your model is an artist as much as you. Your work with them is collaborative in the creation of art. Treat their work with as much respect as you would ask them to treat yours

DO NOT ask the model out on a date or even ask the model personal questions such as their last name, where they live, etc. This is a place of work, and can be perceived as harassment. This goes for models as well. Life-room is not a place to hook up.

3. **NO UNAUTHORIZED photography** allowed. Cell phones should be put away for the duration of the pose to avoid any unintentional or unauthorized photos from being taken. The model may not have any idea whether you are taking pictures of them or your work, so wait until the model is clothed and done working before taking out your phone. Calls and photos of art can be done outside of the room (if you are able to discreetly exit the room) or when the model is clothed during breaks.

Photographic references from the model are strictly circumscribed. Gage does not authorize the taking of any photographs that include the model without their explicit and prior consent.

Models and Artists may make a separate appointment and financial arrangements for pose photography. Photographic modeling rates are at least two to four times as much per hour as live models. Photographers/artists should have a model release specifically stating the intended use and distribution of the photographs. See appendixes.

Teaching Artist/Monitors:

1. **Monitor** or teaching artist should take the lead when communicating with the model to help models maintain their pose and get back into it after break. This person will speak for the group, giving verbal directions to the model rather than having multiple people telling the model what to do.

2. **Timing.** Monitor is responsible for timing the pose and the breaks unless the model has agreed to time themselves. See timing apps such as *Intervals Pro*.

3. **Marking the Pose;** For longer sets that require returning to the same pose after one or more breaks, model should keep track of foot, arm, and head positions before breaking the pose. With the model's consent, the Monitor/Teaching Artist will place tape or other marks around the model to help them return to the same spots after the break. In cases where marking is challenging, offer the model the ability to mark themselves. Be sure to never touch the model when marking the pose.

4. DO make sure the model is **warm and as comfortable as possible**.

Models should always be offered **clean cloths** on which to sit or place their bodies, It's both a psychological comfort and a point of hygiene. Some models may prefer to provide their own, or teaching artists may have particular colors/patterns they need for the session.

Provide space heaters or cooling air as appropriate. Avoid drafts! Remember only one space heater per circuit. Avoid extension cords where possible.

Padding or props can help support a model. Every model is literally different so some require more padding than others, Check in with the model periodically to determine their comfort. Anti-fatigue mats are cushioned while allowing visibility of the pose. Props should not cover the pose from the artist view as much as possible.

Music: choose playlists/sources that are appropriate for the mood/pose and agreeable to all present. Model or Instructor should set the tone.

Breaks, and changing area's Establish a clean and dedicated space for the model to take a break with sufficient room for their things and personal space. There should also be a private and clean space for the model to change before and after the pose

3. **Keep the door closed while model is posing** and the model out of line of sight from outside the room

Avoid allowing non-artists to wander through the room. This is distracting to the artist and may compromise the model's sense of safety.

4. **Setting the Pose.** Pose setting should be a collaborative process between Instructor/Monitor and Model. Instructions to the model should be clear, precise and neutral as possible. Students should not attempt to direct the model unless invited.

It can be helpful, especially with long, multiple day poses or ones that involve elaborate setups, to have the **model come in advance** of the first class before students have arrived. These situations should be arranged beforehand, and the model should be fairly compensated for the extra time. There should always be a third person present whenever a model is posing.

Models:

1. Notify the Model Coordinator no less than 24 hours to cancel a scheduled booking, or risk not being booked again in the future.

2. **Show up** no later than 10 minutes before a scheduled session in order to find your room, get changed and be ready to start poses as close to class/session start time as possible.

3. Indicate to the Instructor/Monitor **how you would like to be addressed**; name, preferred pronouns, etc. at the beginning of the session.

4. **Bring a robe** or other garment to cover your body and change into it, out of sight from the group, in a bathroom or other space provided.

5. **DO NOT wander around naked** anywhere other than in pose. Wear a robe on breaks.

6. **Always ask artists before photographing** their art.

7. Do not share the artist's work on social media without **giving them credit** and preferably a link to their site.

These rules have been sourced/compiled from:

- Gage Model Agreement
- Flack Atelier Student Code of Conduct

- Artist Terry Strickland's blog
- The Art Model's Handbook: The Naked Truth about Posing for Art Classes and Fine Artists by Andrew Cahner
- Cornish College of the Arts Rules drafted by Ilana Zweschi
- Atelier Primer Rules - Riley Doyle
- Aron Hart Rules
- Magrath Sculpture Atelier Protocols for working with models and use of Model Images
- Everett Community College Rule
- Code of Conduct from Art Model Tips