

# Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

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### Life Drawing is a Regular Event ...

Artists find different ways to keep their drawing skills sharp. Many keep regular sketchbooks and/or journals, and use them to draw and record their ideas and inspirations. Some use them as an auxiliary creative tool to explore more complex ideas that may be developed in other media.

Some who use the figure in their work, be it painting or sculpture, often seek out models from which to develop their finished pieces.

Drawing from life has a long tradition in art, being a standard means by which an artist gains understanding of the human form, and learns to translate what is before him to paper, canvas, or even clay.

Life Drawing, "aka drawing from the nude", is a regular part of any art student's training, but often after leaving school hiring live figure models becomes a group activity.

There are a few reasons for this: Paying for professional figure model is expensive, varying in amount from at least \$15.00 to \$25.00 an hour in most places. In a group the expense can be shared.

Finding models in rural areas and small towns is not easy most of the time, as professional figure models need more than occasional work.

Also, unless you have willing friends, attracting models to pose can sometimes be difficult if you are working alone.

This is why many Art Organizations schedule Life Drawing sessions as a ser-

vice to members, and provide a venue large enough to accommodate a group of interested artists.

For over forty years I have taken part in regular group sponsored life drawing sessions. I have many drawers and

sketchbooks filled with efforts good and bad. I can honestly say that I have drawn from a couple hundred models, both male and female, fitting every body type and physique imaginable. Often, it is the new faces and figures that makes this practice of drawing so fascinating.

In early 2010 I decided to start a life drawing group in my studio for all my artist friends who might be interested. It has been very successful, and meets one evening weekly throughout most of the year in my studio in Walpole.

At this time there are 22 artists on my list, not all of whom come to draw every week, but usually there are 6 to 8 for each 3 hour session. I also have a list of 10 models who have regularly worked for our group, as well as others who have expressed interest in posing.

I organize all aspects of the program using email for contact and scheduling and pride myself with providing a warm environment for the artists and models, with coffee, tea, music and snacks during the drawing breaks.

I am gratified by the positive responses I have received from all who attend, but mostly I enjoy the company of friends and fellow artists joining me to draw.

