

The Drawing Drawing Life Model – Job Description

Line Manager: ICA Associate Curator

Working Hours: 3.5-hour shifts, minimum commitment of 2 shifts per week between 27 January – 29 March 2026 as outlined below

Shifts (includes paid 15 minutes before and after modelling to get ready):

- Shift 1: Tuesdays 11.45am - 3.15pm
- Shift 2: Wednesdays 11.45am - 3.15pm
- Shift 3: Thursdays 11.45am - 3.15pm
- Shift 4: Thursdays 3.45 - 7.15pm
- Shift 5: Fridays 11.45am - 3.15pm
- Shift 6: Fridays 3.45 - 7.15pm
- Shift 7: Saturdays 11.45am - 3.15pm
- Shift 8: Saturdays 3.45 - 7.15pm
- Shift 9: Sundays 11.45am - 3.15pm
- Shift 10: Sundays 3.45 - 7.15pm

Contract type: Freelance (contracted hours agreed in advance)

Wage: £40/h

Application Deadline: 4 January 2026 (applications will also be reviewed prior on a rolling basis)

Start date: From 26 January, as mutually agreed

About the Role

The Life Model will play a crucial role in the Institute of Contemporary Arts' next exhibition *Laura Lima: The Drawing Drawing*, the first London solo exhibition by the Brazilian multidisciplinary artist. The Life Model will pose on a very slow-moving platform in the ICA's lower gallery as exhibition visitors draw them from other moving platforms. Taking the conventions of a traditional life drawing class, the Life Model will be nude and hold poses to be drawn. It is preferable for the Life Model to be able to hold poses of up to thirty minutes at a time, but this is not essential and up to the Life Model's discretion. The drawings may be kept by the exhibition visitors or hung in the exhibition space. The model will have the opportunity to meet with the artist and discuss the work and ensure full understanding of the role and artistic intention, the week before the exhibition opens (week of 19 Jan).

Safeguarding policies and procedures include but are not limited to: strictly no photography or filming of the Life Model; a trained ICA staff member being present at all

times; access to a private changing room and supply of a personal robe; comfortable seating during modelling; relevant training for the Life Model and ICA staff. Full safeguarding measures including the ICA Harassment Response Policy and Procedures will be provided upon invitation for interview.

At the heart of *The Drawing Drawing* is the reimagining of the traditional framework of the life drawing class. It will upend the traditional format of the life drawing class, blurring the lines between audience and artwork. A cornerstone of Western artistic training since the Renaissance, life drawing centres the human figure, upholds drawing as a foundational discipline and promises mastery through faithful representation of perspective and anatomy. In Lima's installation, 'drawing' is redefined as an expansive, conceptual proposition. Visitors will be invited to put pencil to paper in a life drawing class in which the core elements of the setting are recognisable, but any conventions of subject and object, of perspective and representation, mastery and value, are destabilised.

Since the mid-90s, Lima has become recognised for her artworks which explore the relationship between bodies, behaviours and their environment, questioning social expectations and accepted hierarchies by staging live situations where people, objects and spaces relate and play interact in unconventional ways.

Key Responsibilities

- Model nude for an exhibition audience to draw in a gallery setting
- Hold seated poses for up to thirty min at a time on a slow-moving platform
- Participate in an exhibition artwork as a Life Model in keeping with the artistic intention of artist Laura Lima within the work *The Drawing Drawing*

Person Specification

- Aged 18 and over
- Experience in life modelling or equivalent experience
- Ability to hold a seated pose on a slow-moving platform (roughly 20 cm from the ground) for approximately 30 minutes at a time
- Confidence in being nude amongst exhibition visitors in a public gallery setting
- Experience working with artists or arts organisations preferred
- All genders, body types, ages (18+), abilities encouraged to apply

To apply

Please send a CV that demonstrates your qualifications for this role and state which shifts you are able to commit to.

Or send an email answering the following questions:

1. Please describe any relevant experience you have in life modelling.
2. Please describe any relevant experience you have working closely with artists or in arts organisations.
3. Please share why you would like to apply for the role of *The Drawing Drawing Life Model*.
4. Please state which shifts you are able to commit to (refer to Working Hours and Shifts outlined above).

Please submit your application to thedrawingdrawing@ica.art.

The deadline for applications is 4 January 2026.

We are happy to consider any reasonable adjustments candidates may need during the recruitment process or on the job to ensure the role is accessible. If you require any support or adjustments, please let us know when you apply.

About the Institute of Contemporary Arts:

The **Institute of Contemporary Arts** (ICA) is London's leading space for contemporary culture. We commission, produce and present new work in film, music, performance and the visual arts by today's most progressive artists. In our landmark home on The Mall in central London, we invite artists and audiences to interrogate what it means to live in our world today, with a genre-fluid programme that challenges the past, questions the present and confronts the future.

The ICA platforms the daring and the curious, supporting artists and ideas that challenge perceptions, inspire social change, and connect with diverse audiences locally and globally. As a space for bold, boundary-pushing creativity, we cultivate connections across disciplines, communities, and cultures. Our cross-disciplinary programming invites audiences to explore beyond the boundaries of individual art forms, fostering experimentation and the discovery of new perspectives. Open to all voices and ideas, we embrace interplay and interaction across club nights, film festivals, gigs, exhibitions, talks, and digital art. With inclusivity and collaboration at the heart of our work, we remain fearless in shaping contemporary creativity, connecting diverse voices, and making unexpected connections that define the future of arts and culture.

Our history of presenting and promoting visionary new art is unrivalled in London: from Kenneth Anger to Kathy Acker, Kano to Klein, Jackson Pollock to Jean-Michel Basquiat, Gay Sweatshop to Forensic Architecture, David Bowie to Stormzy, Pop Art to queer techno. Today, as ever, our inclusive programme reflects and represents who we are as a disparate and diverse collection of cultures and identities.

Exactly 78 years after a group of artists and poets founded the ICA as an alternative to the mainstream, we are committed more than ever to pave the way for the next generation and to platform creative voices. The ICA continues to celebrate risk and champion innovation, and experimentation across the arts – a playground and a home for today's most vital artists.

Central to the ICA's vision and mission is a commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion at all levels of the organisation. We want to create and maintain an ICA that is a positive environment where similarities and differences of people are valued – a space where everyone belongs and feels welcome. We hold ourselves accountable through our regularly reviewed Anti-Racism Strategic Plan; Equality and Diversity Policy and Action Plan; and Safety Policy.

Since its inception, the ICA has been the home of future-thinking ideas and urgent cultural discourse. We are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment that encourages dialogue and debate, recognising that differing viewpoints are essential to the advancement of contemporary arts and culture.

The ICA is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.