

**Obtaining the gesture:** a workshop in the development of a dynamic and active figure drawing  
Jessica Artman

In this 3 day workshop, we will discuss a method in which to approach drawing the figure from life with a goal of obtaining the original gesture. Students will develop a single drawing exploring the use of line, shape and form as directed by the gesture and proportion of the life model. Often as a drawing develops, what initially inspired us gets lost or stiffens in the technical process of the drawings development. Jessica will demonstrate how to find gesture and obtain it by constructing the figure through proportion and rhythms between key anatomical landmarks. She will give personalized critiques that will guide each student through the development of proportion, the use of anatomical landmarks, and the construction of form to confidently approach drawing the figure on their own.

The workshop is designed for both beginning and advanced students, with a strong emphasis on process and how to begin a drawing. Jessica's hope for all students is to go home with a comprehensive method of starting a figure drawing from the simplest to most complex poses.

**Materials:**

- Paper size: 18x24 inch
- Paper: Fabriano Artistico Paper, 140lb, Hot press (paper can be toned or white) or Strathmore 400 Paper Medium (Standard)
  - if paper is toned, please have it prepared prior to the start of the workshop
- Graphite Pencils: 2H,H,HB,B,2B
- Plum Line (a weighted string)
- Measuring Needle (knitting needle)
- Rubber/kneaded Eraser
- Drawing Board
- Hand Mirror