

Providence Art Club Guidelines for Portrait Class Etiquette

Professionalism is expected of all students at all times in their behavior toward portrait models.

DO NOT invade the model's personal space. This includes sitting on the model stand any time the model is on it, five feet away is a good starting point. Always ask for permission to work in close proximity to the model stand if required for observational detail. Avoid prolonged eye contact with the model.

DO NOT touch the model.

DO NOT photograph the portrait model unless you ask for permission in advance. Do not get too close to the model or invade the model's comfort zone with your camera.

DO NOT chat with the model when he/she is modeling. Conversation is distracting for the model and your fellow artists. Students should be ready to work when the portrait model takes the pose that has been determined by the instructor. It is impolite to continue talking or to not work while the model is on the stand posing.

DO NOT make comments about the model – features, body type, ethnicity, etc. Students should refrain from making comments that could be interpreted as derogatory or racially condescending. Even comments made in private to a fellow student can be overheard. Please be respectful.

DO NOT address the model directly regarding the pose that the instructor has determined. When students suspect that a model has not correctly resumed the pose or shifted out of the pose, they should inform the instructor. It is recommended that students first verify that it is not their perspective of the pose that has changed such as a shift in their view of the portrait model. If the instructor asks for feedback from students about correction of a pose, students should address the portrait model in a professional manner.

DO NOT ask the model personal questions such as their last name, where they live, etc. and do not ask them out on a date.

DO NOT allow visitors to wander through the room. Unauthorized visitors are not permitted in studios.

DO discuss concerns related to the portrait modeling session with the instructor privately. Such concerns might include the model's inability to hold a pose, excessive breaks taken by the model, or students being rude or not working while the model is posing.

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

DO maintain friendly and polite interactions with models while on break. Models may want to look at student work to assist them in their posing.

DO thank your model profusely for participating in the art making process.