

# Anatomy drawing at Glasgow School of Art

Anatomy drawing has historically formed an important part of art education. Up until 1900, Glasgow School of Art followed the National Course of Instruction, or the South Kensington system. Of the 23 stages that the system prescribed, Stage 9, "*Anatomical studies*", included drawing from the human figure, animal forms and from nature. Furthermore, Francis Newbery, Director of the School from 1905-1916, established good contacts with Glasgow University so that the students received lectures in anatomy, as well as art history, philosophy and literature, beyond those available within the School.

Glasgow School of Art's Archives and Collections holds a selection of material related to the history of anatomy drawing at the School, including prospectuses which outline the place of anatomy drawing in the School's curriculum; photographs of students drawing in the School's Anatomy Room; anatomy drawings by former students of the School; lantern slides of anatomical subjects; and some correspondence related to the teaching of anatomy drawing, such as a letter from the Director to Professor Bryce, Regius Professor of Anatomy at Glasgow University, requesting permission for GSA anatomy students to work at the University.

GSA Library holds a number of rare anatomical treatises in its Special Collections, which have served as inspiration to renowned artists such as Christine Borland and more recently Kate Davis for her exhibition 'Not Just the Perfect Moments' in 2012. The Library is also lucky to hold a number of original 1887 plates from Eadweard Muybridge's seminal photographic study *Animal Locomotion*. In total we hold a representative selection of 63 plates from Muybridge's total set of 781, which were purchased for the use of our students in June 1917.

A small selection of the items from GSA's Archives and Collections is on display here, but do get in touch if you would like more information or would like to visit the ACC to view any of the other items we have. Pop into the Archives and Collections Centre in the basement of the Mackintosh Building or email [archives@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:archives@gsa.ac.uk).

GSA Library holds books, exhibition catalogues and journals relating to anatomy and drawing skills. A small selection of our resources is on display here. For a comprehensive bibliography please visit the "Library Display Cabinets" folder in the Archives & Collections section of the VLE and to arrange to see any items from the library's Special Collections, please contact our librarian Duncan Chappell ([d.chappell@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:d.chappell@gsa.ac.uk)) to make an appointment.