

Still Life Drawing

Information for students

Still life drawing is a fundamental in art instruction. Traditional still life drawings use everyday objects arranged on a tabletop. To start a still life drawing, you will need to arrange several objects such as fruits or vegetables, a vase or bottle, and a variety of objects of your choice. Use a direct light source; such as your phone flashlight or a desk lamp, you can position the light source on one side of your objects. This will create highlights and shadows and give you a better view of the forms and composition.

Begin your drawing by lightly sketching the objects, as you define shapes you can then add highlights shadows to enhance the objects in your drawing. Don't worry if you only get to the sketching part. This exercise is to help students develop observation skills, understand composition and work on basic drawing techniques. The better you observe the details, by adding elements such as implied texture and patterns, the more visual interest will be included in your drawings!

Have fun, try it several times and compare, the secret to all drawing is being able to take the time to closely observe the shapes and forms.

Materials required

Found objects from around your home (ex. fruit, vegetables, bottle, vase, bowls, books, etc.) try with at least three different objects. Place objects in an interesting manner by creating different levels with books or boxes, which you can cover with a tablecloth.

- Plain Drawing paper, 8.5" x 11" but larger paper and or sketchbooks will work just fine.
- Drawing materials; Pencils, eraser, charcoal (optional), color pencils (optional).
- A directed light source if possible, such as a desk lamp would be ideal but not necessary.

Information for parents

- This drawing activity is suitable for **all** grade levels and parents are encouraged to participate as well. (The attached link gives step-by-step directions to assist in completing this lesson.) <https://youtu.be/Xie8oMIME44>

Try this lesson a few times with different objects or mediums for practice and to challenge your drawing skills. If possible, you can research on-line Still Life drawing and or Still Life painting.