

Art at home!

Still-life at Home

The ASU Art Museum's interactive space, the Artists' Workshop, gives visitors an opportunity to learn and experience the museum in creative ways. One of those ways is our still-life station.

A still-life is a painting or drawing of an arrangement of inanimate objects. Common objects in a still-life range from flower vases, fruit platters, plants, jewelry and drinking glasses. Artists like Paul Cézanne and Henri Matisse were well known for their bright and expressive depictions of fruits and vases. Creating a still-life is an easy way to slow down, reflect and explore your relationship with your surroundings.

Today we want you to fashion your own creative space by making a still-life at home!

Materials:

- Paper or canvas.
- Pencil.
- Eraser.
- Tape.
- Object(s) of choice.
- A flat surface.
- A brightly lit room.
- A lamp.
- Cloth.
- Extra paper or a board for a backdrop.
- If painting: paint, paint brushes, container with water to rinse brushes, cloth to wipe brushes.

How to:

Setting up your space:

1. Pick a space to set up your still-life, preferably one with bright lighting or a window. You also need a flat surface to work on.
2. Set up a backdrop and surface for your objects to sit on. You can use a cloth, sheet, cardboard or paper for your backdrop.
3. Set up your chosen object(s) against the backdrop. It's okay to be particular; make the arrangement interesting to you. Some example objects are: books, food, candles, eating utensils, shoes, cups, bowls, vases with flowers or toys.
4. Use a lamp for more lighting on your object(s). It is not necessary, but it is fun to use a light source and see how the still-life creates different shadows depending on the lighting.

The drawing process:

1. Gather your drawing or painting materials.
2. Lightly sketch the basic shapes of the object(s). This step allows for lots of adjustments in the composition (what you are drawing or painting).
3. Lightly map out the light and shadow areas on and around your object(s).
4. Build up the values for your drawing in layers, using either a pencil or paint. Pay attention to the spaces around your object(s) (also called negative space) as much as the objects themselves.
5. Continue building the value of your drawing until complete. Take your time, and feel free to look up videos for more references.

That's it! Now that you know what still-life art is, and how to make one at home, continue to practice your skills! Please share your experience and still-life art with us on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook and tag us @asuartmuseum. See the links below for the history of still-life art, and tips.

Safety:

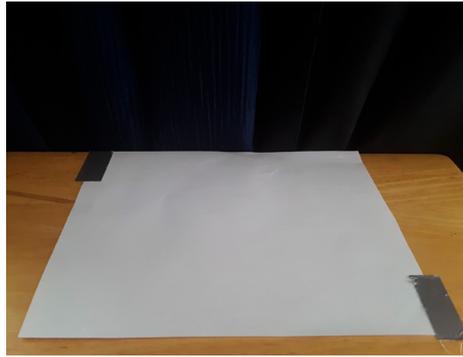
Use non-toxic paint for children.



Art at home!



Find a well lit space.



Set up your still-life background.



Arrange your object(s).



Use a lamp to adjust lighting on the object(s).



Gather your materials.



Start drawing with basic shapes first. Like: circles, squares and rectangles.



Then, map out the light (highlights) and dark areas (shadows).



Build up the shapes and values in layers.



Continue building values until you're done!

Still-life history:

<https://mymodernmet.com/what-is-still-life-painting-definition/>

<https://www.britannica.com/art/still-life-painting>

Tips/ideas:

How to Draw a Still-Life Accurately: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zqi7S74ouqw>

Wet and Dry Brush Techniques in a Watercolor Painting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWOsqCypfEU>

Rendering 3D objects: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/775745104548194957/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/639651953312927799/>