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Simple Still Life Drawing

A still life is a painting or a drawing of an arrangement of objects. Historically, these objects were usually fruit or flowers. A still life is different from a portrait, or a drawing of a person, because a still life only contains non-living or inanimate objects.



Supplies

- Paper – drawing paper is best, but any paper will do
- Pencil or Charcoal – whichever you prefer or have on hand
- Eraser
- Objects to Draw



Directions

1. Gather your supplies and objects.
2. Set up your still life on a table, counter, or the floor. It is helpful to put your objects up against a plain background or wall. Arrange your objects in a way that you like. In the example above, we chose a vase, a pear, and some flowers, but you can pick whatever you want to draw.
3. Begin drawing the simple shapes of the objects that you set up. Don't forget a line for the ground, that is, what the objects are sitting on.
4. Change lines and erase mistakes as you go.
5. Make sure to keep looking at your still life objects as you draw. This will help your drawing look as much like the objects as possible.
6. Once you have finished the outlines of your objects (the first drawing above), you might choose to stop here and be done, which you can. However, you can also add more detail to your drawing by shading it.
7. Shade your drawing by using your pencil more horizontal with the paper, so that more of the pencil lead touches the paper. Shade in the darkest areas of your still life using the heaviest pressure with your pencil.

For example, in the example drawing, the darkest areas are the flower stems and the inside of the vase. You can leave the lightest parts of your drawing be the white of the paper. In the example drawing, the lightest areas are the background and the shiny spots on the vase.

8. When you're happy with the shading in your drawing ,you're done! You can shade your drawing loosely like the example, or you can try to make the different shades blend in seamlessly with each other for a more realistic drawing. Feel free to repeat the process with different objects or the same objects looked at from a different angle.

