

Still Life Drawings and Paintings

Grades 1-4

Overview

Students will be introduced to the still life and will explore their drawing skills by drawing objects from direct observation. They will draw simple outlines of their choice of still life objects. When drawing, they will draw one object right over another to create overlapping. The final step is adding colour.

What you will need:

- drawing paper
- pencil
- eraser
- still life objects
- ruler
- anything you can colour with - markers, oil pastels, pencil crayons, wax crayons, pens

What you can also use:

- watercolour/painting paper
- thick black marker
- paint brushes
- paint



What is a Still Life?

A still life is a type of painting or drawing where inanimate objects are arranged, or put together, in a specific way. Inanimate objects are things that don't move. Objects that are typically found in still life drawings and paintings include fruit, flowers, tables, bowls and glassware. They are usually commonplace objects or things that we see every day. Objects for a still life can be chosen because they mean something special to the artist, or because the artist simply likes the way they look.



This still life painting is part of the Helson Gallery's exhibition, *The Collector's Eye*. The exhibition features artwork by Canadian artists. This artwork was painted by William Walton Armstrong, who was born in Toronto.

What objects did the artist include in his still life?

Can you find these objects in your house? Where would you look for them?

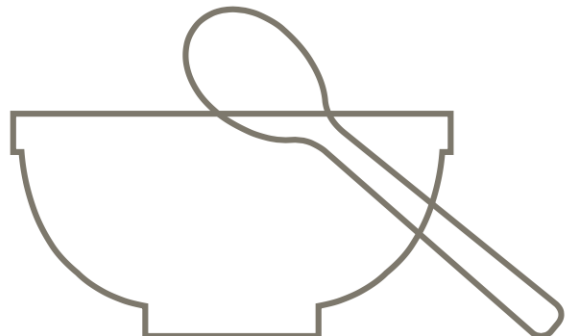
Would you use any of these objects in your still life? Why or why not?

Step 1: Set up your still life

Set up your own still life arrangement. As the artist, it is up to you to choose which objects you want to have in your still life. There is no right or wrong choice. You can choose objects that you think will be easy for you to draw, or you can try to draw something new or complex. Place the objects somewhere where you will be able to look at them while drawing them.

Step 2: Draw your still life

To draw our objects we are going to use contour lines. Contour lines are just the outlines of the objects. Draw the contours, or outlines, of your first object. Now, draw your second object, but make



part of it overlaps, or covers part of, your first object. It should look something like this:

Complete the drawing by overlapping the rest of your objects. If you like, draw a horizontal line across the page to create a table top on which the objects are standing.

Step 3: Colour in your artwork

When your drawing is finished, you can colour it in or paint it. The overlapping pieces of your objects have divided the drawing into different shapes and areas. Colour each shape or area using a different colour. You can also challenge yourself by using tints of a single colour to create a monochromatic artwork.

You can use a variety of materials to colour in your artwork, such as markers, pencil crayons, oil pastels and wax crayons. You can also use paint.

If you like, you can go over your drawing with a thick black marker, crayon or oil pastel to make your contour lines stand out.

