



Lesson: Still Life Drawings at Home

Ages: 5-18

Projected time: 1 hour

Supplies needed: Paper and Pencil. Optional: colored pencils, pens, markers, charcoal, pastels, paint, etc. I love using watercolor after the first pencil drawings.

Project Intro: Still Life is type of observational art, which became popular hundreds of years ago in Asia and Europe. A still life is art about something that's still (not moving) and refers to 'life' because these art pieces often include plants, food, and other things that have to do with life. You've seen still life paintings of vases of flowers... flowers in art are often meant as symbols of passing time and life cycles. Very cool! A Still Life can be an observational drawing of anything, and I encourage you to be creative and make fun choices here.

Artist or Medium Reference: Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was an American artist who was mostly famous for doing big screenprints and paintings about popular objects, like brightly colored soup cans and famous people. He was part of an art movement called Pop Art in the 1960s. He also made a lot of Still Life drawings, of a big variety of things. I have included two of his drawings at the end of this lesson for you to observe and find inspiration from today. Look closely at these drawings, what do you notice? How has Warhol chosen to represent shadows? What kinds of lines did he use in the shapes of the objects?

Vocabulary:

Still Life is a painting or drawing of an arrangement of objects, artists observe objects carefully as they make these works of art.

Contour is the outline of an object.

Line is an element of art – what kinds of lines can you think of? Some examples include straight lines, wavy lines, zigzag lines, lines that cross each other...

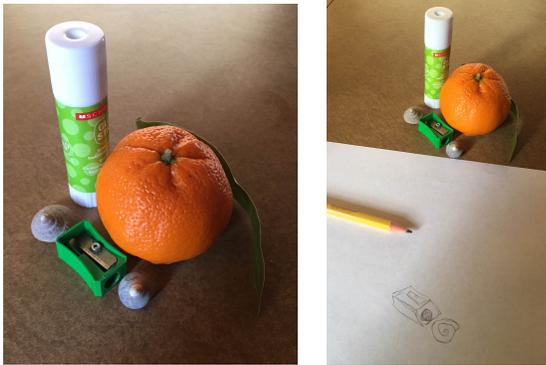
Observational means when you look closely at something to draw or paint it, using your scientific mind to observe the object.

Project steps:

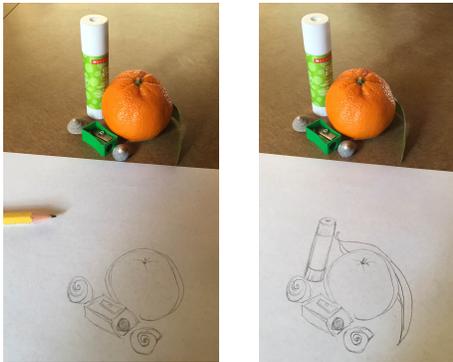
Step 1: Find a few things you like at home and arrange them. These can be anything! Pick objects you like, and arrange them in a fun way. Don't forget to include a natural object, like a leaf, flower, acorn, shell, apple, or whatever you have on hand.

Step 2: Look closely at your still life. What shapes do you see? What kinds of lines and patterns? Think about the contours of the objects, and draw what you see.

Step 3: Start by drawing the object that's closest to you, and just draw one thing at a time. Draw with light 'whisper' lines, pressing too hard will make your pencil hard to erase later if you need to. Draw slowly and carefully observe the outline – start by drawing the contours.



Step 4: Keep drawing the objects as they go further from you, this way it's easier to make them look like they're overlapping. It's not necessary to make them overlap, and overlapping is easier for kids over 6. Have fun! Don't forget to sign your artwork when you're done!



(Optional) **Step 5:** Shade or color your art work in with anything you like!

Make sure to look closely at the objects in your Still Life. The parts where the light hits the objects will be lighter and brighter, the shadows in and underneath the objects will be darker (but usually aren't black). You can include the background if you'd like, and don't forget the table or surface too.





Andy Warhol, *Still Life*, Ink on Paper, 1956



Andy Warhol, *Still Life with Coke Bottle*, Ink on Paper, Late 1950s