

# At-Home Still Life

Drawing activity, 25 - 60 minutes  
Learning Objectives: observation, hand-eye coordination, elements of art

**What is a still life?**

A still life is a drawing or painting of inanimate objects. Creating these is a great way to practice drawing from observation and celebrate the everyday objects we live with.

**What you will need:**

objects to draw, paper, pencil, eraser, colored pencils (optional)

**Arranging Your Still Life**

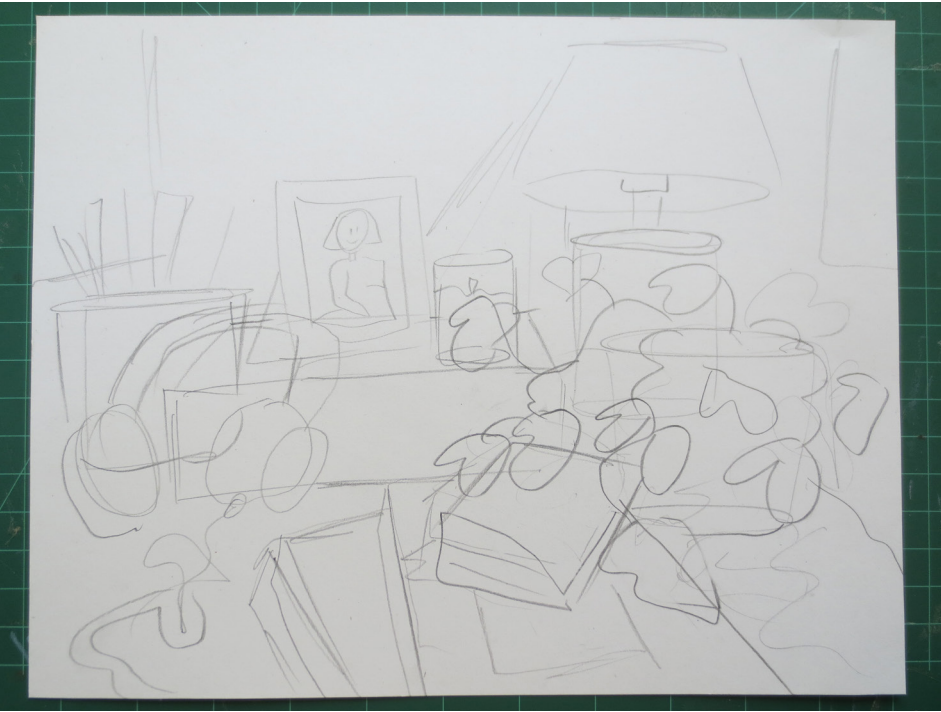
A still life can be made of any still object! This means

anything lying around your house can be used—from houseplants, to stuffed animals, to food in your fridge. Try choosing a variety of shapes, sizes and colors in your objects for interest. The still life can be as silly or serious as you want.

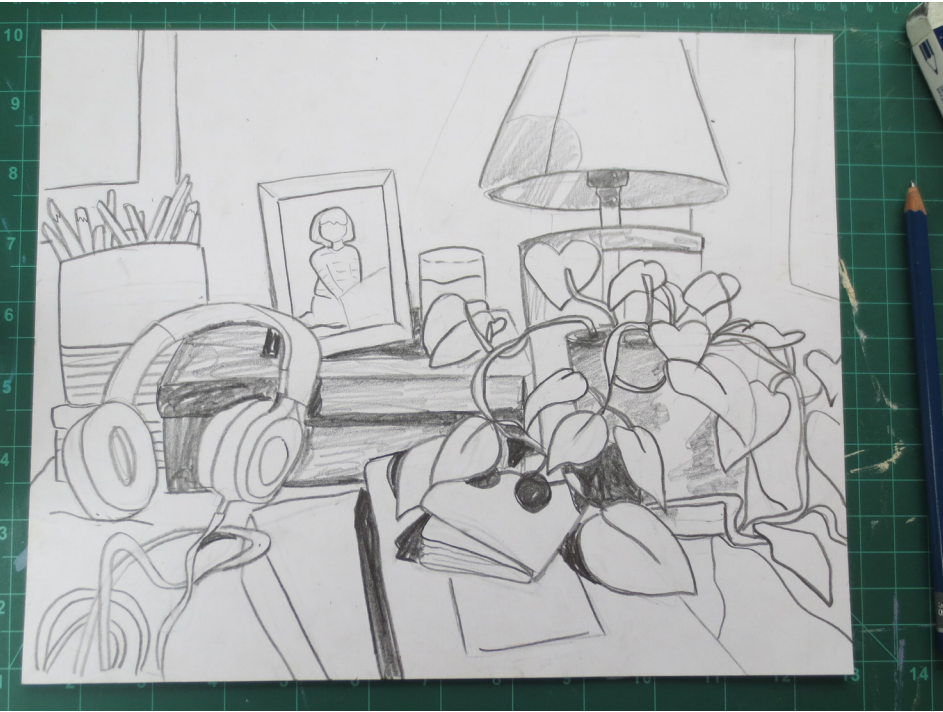
When arranging your objects together, think of how the finished drawing will be composed. Variety is key! Try achieving different heights by stacking some objects on top of a box or a stack of books. Place larger objects in the back and the smaller objects in front. Drape a blanket or towel to add fun colors and patterns to your still life.

Lastly, consider your light source as you arrange your objects. One direct source will create interesting shadows and more drama. Play around with lighting your scene with

## Drawing & Coloring Your Still Life



Start with a pencil and sketch out the outlines of the objects. Draw lightly so that you can easily erase later. Work from the big to small, front to back. Draw each object like it was a wire frame – This will help in creating a three-dimensional drawing. Keep in mind proportions in this stage, the age-old trick of measuring an object with your thumb works great here.



Once your sketch is done, erase any overlapping or unnecessary lines. At this stage, refine your lines and shapes of each object. It's okay if your drawing doesn't look exactly like the object you are looking at. Now, It's time to add shadows! When shading, it's important to draw what you see. Work from darkest to lightest values.



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Keep in mind proportions of each object as you keep coloring. Continue coloring until you have refined all of your still life objects!