

See and Do Introduction.

WELCOME TO PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM

Welcome to Palm Springs Art Museum!

We are excited to share with you works of art and architecture from our collection and hope you enjoy creating your own pieces inspired by what you learn.

Each Art Portfolio is divided into two lessons. In the first lesson, you will be introduced to an artwork from the collection and the artist who created it. This is followed by questions where you can share your ideas about what you have learned.

In the second lesson, you will create a work of art using similar processes and supplies as the artist.

We hope you have fun exploring the museum's collection and would like to encourage you to get creative! Then come visit us at the museum where you can see these works in person and share what you learned with friends and family.

Land Acknowledgement.

Every community in the United States owes its existence and vitality to people from around the world. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn here in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Recognition of the many layers of our history is critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and differences.

Palm Springs Art Museum respectfully acknowledges the ancestral homelands of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the other sovereign Indian Nations of Southern California. We recognize their ongoing cultural and spiritual connection to this land—past, present, and future.

Lesson 1: Subjects in Art.

What *subjects* are found in art? For as long as human beings have been creating visual forms or images for the purpose of *aesthetics*, or with the goal of creating beauty, art has included many subjects.

The subject (or *subject matter*) in art refers to the main topic or theme. Art may show a person, place, or thing. It can also depict an event or suggest an idea. For each topic or theme in art, we can identify the 5 W's (*Who? What? Where? When? Why?*) to help with understanding an artwork's meaning.

POPULAR SUBJECTS IN ART INCLUDE:



Above: (1) Deborah Butterfield (American, born 1949), *Ryuanji*, 2006, bronze, 86 x 119 x 31 inches. Museum purchase with funds provided by David Kaplan and Glenn Ostergaard, 116–2006. (2) Stephen H. Willard (American, 1894–1966), *Silent Interlude*, 1948, oil on photograph mounted on Masonite, 29 ½ X 40 inches. Gift of Dr. Beatrice Willard, 23–1977. (3) Diane Arbus (American, 1923–1971), *Mrs. T. Charlton Henry on a couch in her Chestnut Hill home, Philadelphia, Pa.*, 1965, gelatin silver print, edition 20/75, 19 7/8 x 15 7/8 inches. Gift of Joe and Pamela Bonino, 89–2010. (4) Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987), *Two High Heels in Still Life*, ca. 1960, ink and watercolor on paper, 28 1/8 x 21 7/8 inches. 75th Anniversary gift of Pat and Bill Wilson, 52–2012.

Still Life

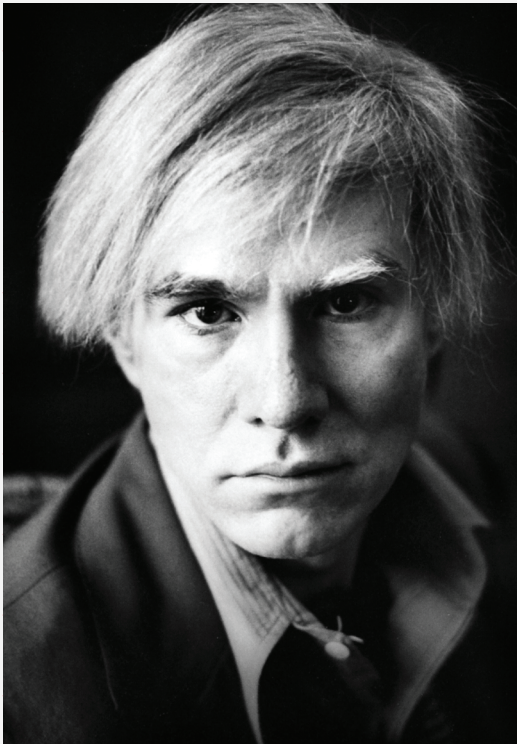
In this lesson we are going to focus on Still Life, which is one of the common subjects or themes found in art. A still life presents a collection of objects selected by the artist and arranged into a display. These objects may be everyday household items or more unique items such as those acquired from travels to faraway places. Gathered together and combined in the artwork, they might give a sense of the interests of the owner of these objects, or even give a sense of a time period or place.

Considering the 5Ws can help guide our thinking about the arrangement of objects placed into a still life. Additionally, artists practice close observation when they want to depict the objects realistically! This is a good skill to develop.

Take a look at the example in “About the Artist and Artwork” below and the example of this artist’s work to learn about one of his still lifes. You can use the 5Ws to examine these art works.

TIP: There are often hints in the artwork or the label information that help identify the 5Ws. Although all five may not be in a work of art, answering Who? What? Where? When? Why? will help uncover the subject of the artwork and other information.

Andy Warhol



ABOUT THE ARTIST AND ARTWORK

Andy Warhol began his career in the 1950s as a commercial artist, and his early work included many advertisements for women’s shoes.

This subject continued throughout his career, including in his fine art, as seen in drawings, watercolors and screen prints.

In *Two High Heels in Still Life*, Warhol combined shoes with an apple, a slice of watermelon, and other fruit. He also included a patch of the weave of a picnic basket. All this is set upon the ground of a blanket—with butterflies floating above. The chartreuse (yellow-green) background gives the appearance of grass. Here Warhol transforms a traditional still life (an arrangement of objects) into a sense of summertime—including one of his most iconic early images, the woman’s shoe.

Left: Michael Childers (American), Andy Warhol in his New York Studio, 1976, gelatin silver print, edition 51/60, 19 5/8 × 16 inches. Gift of Michael Childers, 2016.705.

Let's take a closer look at this Still Life.



Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987), *Two High Heels in Still Life*, ca. 1960, ink and watercolor on paper, 28 1/8 x 21 7/8 inches.
75th Anniversary gift of Pat and Bill Wilson, 52–2012.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW

1

What objects can you identify in this image?

List them here:

2

In this image, there are clues to help understand or interpret what this artwork is about. Why do you think the artist, Andy Warhol, brought the objects you can see together? Write down your ideas:

HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- When do you think this picnic occurred?
- What was served at the picnic?
- Where do you think this picnic took place?
- Who do you think these shoes belong to?

HERE IS ONE POSSIBILITY

- The bright and cheerful colors are a reminder of summer.
- The small part of the basket suggests a picnic, taking place on a square orange blanket.
- The blanket is placed on the green grass of the background.
- Butterflies are floating overhead.

Although there are times when an artwork reveals only a few clues about its subject, asking the 5Ws can help to uncover potential ideas. There are no right or wrong answers when thinking about the meaning of a work of art, so be creative when thinking about the meanings you see.



ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW

Right: Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987), *Two High Heels in Still Life*, ca. 1960, ink and watercolor on paper, 28 1/8 x 21 7/8 inches. 75th Anniversary gift of Pat and Bill Wilson, 52–2012.



Why?

Write or draw a short story below about *Two High Heels in Still Life* using the 5Ws. Get as creative as you like!



Glossary

AESTHETIC The study or knowledge of beauty.

COMPOSITION (IN VISUAL ARTS) The placement of the elements in a given art work; also the arrangement of objects when they are brought together.

PORTRAIT The artistic representation of a person's likeness, usually a close up of their face.

STILL LIFE Artwork made up of objects in an arrangement. Subject matter may vary from arrangements of flowers, food, or everyday items, to objects that are important or carry personal meaning.

SUBJECT (IN VISUAL ARTS) The topic, theme, and/or meaning of an artwork.

SUBJECT MATTER The recognizable elements in a work of art, such as people, places, and things; not all artwork has subject matter.

WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY (THE 5WS) Words that are used as questions to ask for information about an event or scene.

Who is the artwork about?

What is happening in the image?

Where is the location or setting of the scene?

When is it happening (year, month, season, or time of day)?

Why is the scene happening or important?

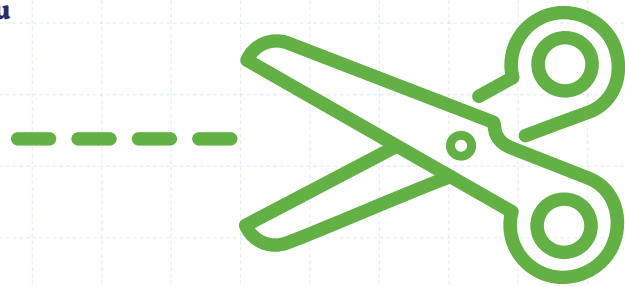


Lesson 2: Create your own still life and tell us the story it shows!

Objects chosen for a still life often have special meaning. Observe the space around you and think about items that catch your attention. Consider the 5W's when you are examining them. Place them in a still life and then draw your display.

Supplies

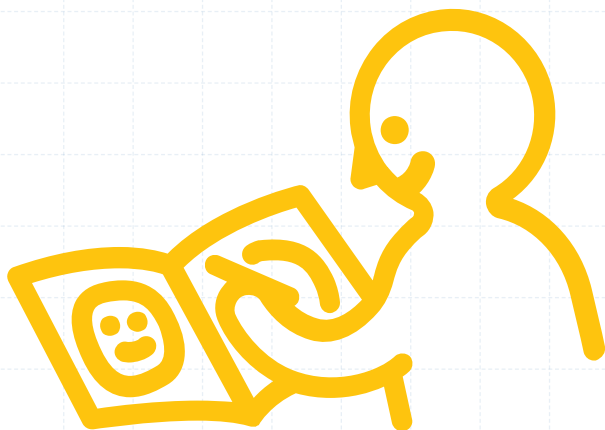
- Still life objects like fruit, flowers, household items, or things that have meaning to you
- Drawing paper
- Pencil
- Optional: Coloring supplies



INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1

- The subject matter in a still life is indicated by the objects in the work of art.
- Take time to observe the space around you. Look for things you see every day but might overlook because you see them often. Think about what subject you would like to show in your still life.
- Once you have observed your setting, select and collect two or more objects. They might be everyday household items, such as a favorite cup, a toy, or a flower. They might have personal significance or act as symbols—objects that represent an idea or a memory important to you—such as a memento or souvenir. They might represent a person or pet. Or you might decide to be like Warhol and use shoes!



See and Do. Lesson 4, The Who, What, Where, When, and Why in Art Subjects.

Step 2

- Create a display with your objects on your desk or table. While arranging your items, think about “What does your still life mean?” or “What story does it tell?”

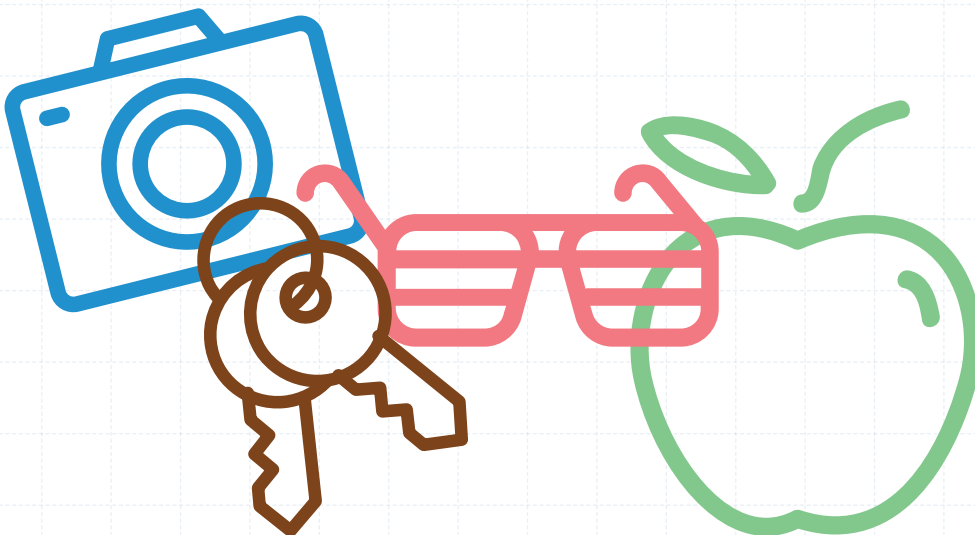
Consider the following when making your arrangement:

- **Placement** – How you will arrange your objects, such as laying them flat or standing them up or a combination of positions.
- **Composition** – What objects will be in the front, middle and back of your arrangement? Make sure all of the items are visible and the arrangement is balanced so the eye is not more attracted to one area over another.



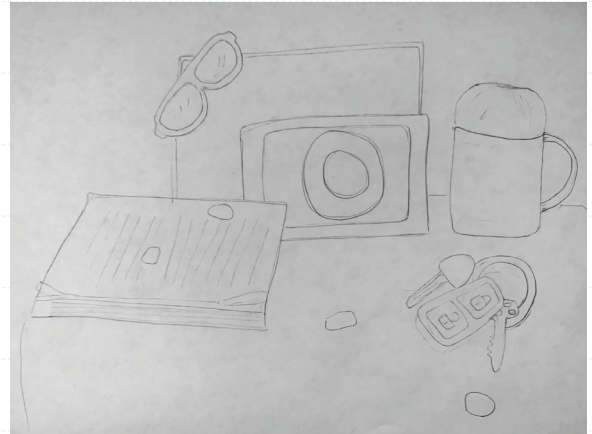
Step 3

- After you have arranged your items, observe your display from different views. For example, look at your still life from a bird's eye view – looking down on it from above. Then look at your objects from a portrait view, seeing it at eye level.



Step 4

- When you have finished creating your display, draw your still life from your chosen view.
You can draw all of your items or choose to focus on one. If you choose to draw one, focus on an item that best identifies the subject of your work.



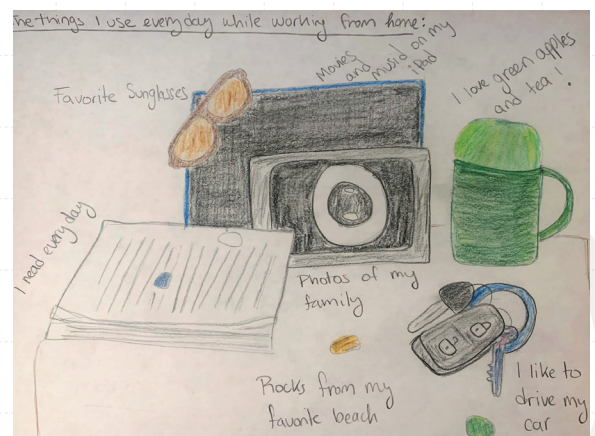
Step 5 (optional)

- Add color!

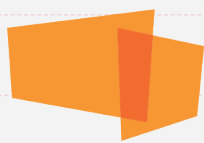


QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Why did you select your chosen objects?
- What was your thought process when laying out your items?
- Does your still life tell a story? If not, can you create one? What is the meaning of your still life arrangement using the 5Ws?



See and Do. Lesson 4, The Who, What, Where, When, and Why in Art Subjects.



**Palm Springs
Art Museum**

California Arts Standards for Visual Arts
(Lessons also integrate the
Common Core State Standards)

3.VA:Re8; 4.VA:Re8; 5.VA:Re8

3.VA:Cr2.1; 4.VA:Cr2.1; 5.VA:Cr2.1

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