

Exploring Still Life with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the key concepts and techniques used in creating a still life composition.

Read the front of the card to test your knowledge of still life art. Flip to the answer to check your understanding. You can use these cards to quiz a partner!

What is a 'Still Life' in art?

A still life is a work of art depicting mostly inanimate subject matter, typically commonplace objects which are either natural or man-made.

What is 'Composition'?

Composition is the arrangement or placement of visual elements in a work of art to create a balanced and pleasing image.

What is the 'Focal Point'?

The focal point is the part of the artwork that draws the viewer's eye first, often the most important or detailed object in the arrangement.

How do artists show 'Texture' in a drawing?

Artists use different mark-making techniques, such as hatching or stippling, to suggest how a surface would feel, like rough wood or smooth glass.

What is 'Negative Space'?

Negative space is the empty area around and between the subjects of an image. Paying attention to this helps artists draw the shapes of objects more accurately.

What are 'Highlights' and 'Shadows'?

Highlights are the areas where light hits an object directly, while shadows are the darker areas where light is blocked, helping to create a 3D effect.

Why do artists use 'Observational Drawing'?

It means drawing exactly what you see in front of you, rather than what you think you see, to capture accurate details and proportions.

What does 'Medium' refer to in art?

The medium is the material used by the artist to create the work, such as graphite pencils, charcoal, watercolours, or pastels.

What is 'Perspective'?

Perspective is a technique used to represent three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface, giving the illusion of depth and distance.

If a fruit bowl costs £4.50 and a vase costs £7.25, what is the total cost of these still life props?

£11.75.

Why is 'Lighting' important in still life?

Consistent lighting helps to define the shape and form of the objects and creates dramatic contrasts between light and dark.

True or False: Still life objects must be moved around constantly while drawing.

False. They should remain 'still' so the artist can study the shapes and shadows carefully.