

Zara's Guide to Still Life Masterpieces

Look closely, arrange with care, and paint the beauty in the everyday!

- **Composition** is how you arrange your objects on the page. Why might an artist choose to overlap some objects instead of placing them all in a straight line?
- A focal point draws the viewer's eye to the most important part of your drawing. How can you use size or brightness to create one?
- Light sources create highlights and deep shadows. How does adding these help to make a flat drawing look three-dimensional?
- Texture is how a surface looks or feels. How might your pencil strokes differ when drawing a smooth glass bottle compared to a rough, bumpy orange?
- Negative space is the area around and between your objects. Why is it just as important to consider this space as it is to draw the objects themselves?

Did you know? Did you know? In the 17th century, artists often painted 'Vanitas' still life pieces. These included symbolic objects like wilting flowers or flickering candles to remind viewers that life is constantly changing and time is always moving forward!

Key vocabulary: composition · perspective · highlight · shadow · texture · focal point · negative space · tone