

Still Life Mastery: An Artistic Exploration with Zara

Learning objective: To understand the core components of still life art, including composition, lighting, and texture, whilst developing critical analysis skills.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of still life techniques. Zara the zebra has curated these to help you observe the world like an artist!

Still Life

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

Composition

The arrangement or placement of visual elements within an artwork to create a balanced image.

Focal Point

The area of an artwork that draws the viewer's eye first, often the most important object in the arrangement.

Negative Space

The empty or unoccupied area surrounding the objects in a composition.

Highlight

The brightest area on an object where the light source is hitting it directly.

Texture

The perceived surface quality of an object, such as smooth, rough, shiny, or fuzzy, represented through shading or brushwork.

Contrast

The arrangement of opposite elements, such as light and dark colors, to create visual interest or drama.

Perspective

The technique used to represent three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface to give the illusion of depth.

Foreground

The part of the scene that appears closest to the viewer.

Background

The area of the composition that appears furthest away, often providing context for the objects.

Medium

The materials used by an artist to create their work, such as charcoal, watercolors, or oil pastels.

Observation

The act of looking closely at the details, shapes, and shadows of an object before beginning to draw.