

Zara's Guide to Still Life Masterpieces

Arrange, Observe, and Create: Bring the Ordinary to Life!

- **Composition** is how you arrange objects within your frame to create a balanced or interesting view.
- **Light sources** create highlights on the side facing the light and deep shadows on the opposite side to show 3D form.
- **Texture** is the surface quality of an object, such as the smooth skin of an apple or the rough surface of a wooden table.
- **A focal point** is the main object that draws the viewer's eye first, often placed slightly off-center for a professional look.
- **Negative space** is the area surrounding your objects; including it helps to ground your drawing and prevent it from looking crowded.

Did you know? Did you know that in the 17th century, artists often included hidden symbols in their still life paintings? A wilting flower might represent the passing of time, while a silver bowl could represent wealth and status. What story will your objects tell?

Key vocabulary: Composition · Focal point · Highlight · Shadow · Texture · Perspective · Negative space