

Zara's Guide to Still Life Masterpieces

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

- **Composition** is the arrangement of objects within your frame; a balanced composition often uses the 'rule of thirds' to guide the viewer's eye.
- A **focal point** is the most important part of your artwork that grabs the viewer's attention first, often created by using the brightest colour or the sharpest detail.
- **Light sources** dictate where your shadows fall; identifying the direction of light is essential for creating realistic depth and volume.
- **Texture** describes how a surface looks like it would feel; use varied brushstrokes or pencil marks to distinguish between smooth glass, rough fruit, or soft fabric.
- **Negative space** is the area surrounding your objects; carefully observing these shapes is just as important as drawing the objects themselves to ensure accurate proportions.

Did you know? Did you know? Still life artists often use 'chiaroscuro', an Italian technique involving strong contrasts between light and dark to make objects look three-dimensional and dramatic on a flat surface!

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