

A Still Life of your own

A *still life* is a type of artwork where objects are the most important thing. The objects are often common objects that the artist has at home and he or she places in an arrangement called a composition.



William Michael Harnett (American, born Ireland, 1848–1892).
Still Life, 1890. Oil on panel, Frick Art & Historical Center.

Here is a painting from the Frick's collection. The artist wanted to fool the viewers to thinking the objects were real.

What are some things you see?

Your turn!

Walk around your house and gather 5-10 of your favorite things. Then find a flat surface to be the base of your still life. If you have a blanket or sheet available you can drape this over the table as a uniform bottom layer. Then take turns with your family members adding to your still life. Be thoughtful with where you place the items! When you are done take a picture or try to sketch your still life.