

Sketchbook Assignment

1. Find an artist who paints food whose style, compositions, and/or subject matter interest you.
 - a. Print out three pictures of their work to use as inspiration for your food still life.
2. List it: List out types of food, drinks, candy, etc. that you might want to focus on.
 - a. Find pictures of the food items, print them out, and add them to your sketchbook. See which shapes, colors, and styles appeal to you.
3. Choose three from your list. Set up still lifes for all three and photograph them.
 - a. You can bring items in to class to photograph if you need better or lighting or camera equipment.

Still Life Photography Tips

- Consider your elements of art and principles of design. In particular focus on: line, shape, texture, and color.
- Think about your composition:
 - Have part of the food cropped out of the picture plane
 - Get close up and crop out the background. You want to focus on the food, not the countertop or a wall.
 - Overlap: if you have more than one item, overlap them
 - Focal point: if you have more than one item, which one will be the focal point?
- Make the lighting interesting:
 - Look for strong highlights and shadows.
 - Turn off overhead lights and set up a spotlight with a lamp.
- Consider what surface it is sitting on, what is going on in the background. You can always omit any background in the picture and add your own, but try to get the photograph as close to your final painting as possible.
- Try multiple angles.
 - Overhead view
 - Eye level with the food
 - A shot from below
- Think about other props to include in addition to the food:
 - is it on a plate?
 - Does a knife or fork add interest?
 - How do the colors blend with the food item?

