

Assignment schedule: Painting a Still Life

The pace of this assignment is up to individual classes. This schedule is only provisional.

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| Day 1 | Watch video Students choose simple objects to practice drawing with watercolor pencil. Can be done in process journals. Practice using a “view finder,” demonstrated in the video |
| Day 2 | Practice drawings continue Students consider using a central still life set-up with a group of students sitting around it, or they can choose to set up their own arrangement. |
| Day 3 | Continue working on still life. Drawing is finished and a transparent glaze painted over it. |
| Day 4 | Color mixing done. Colors saved in small containers as the work continues. |
| Day 8 | Still life painting completed |

Instructions:

1. Begin by making preliminary sketches of simple objects that register both positive and negative space, using construction lines and contour lines.
2. Use a “view-finder” (two L-shaped pieces of card) to find different compositions.
3. Draw preliminary compositions that include value shapes. (in process journals)
4. Begin a final composition on a small canvas or board.
5. After glazing the surface with a solution of acrylic paint and acrylic medium, allow the glaze to dry before you begin to paint.
6. Mix the main colors in your composition. Use complimentary colors + white to replicate the colors and values you will use in your painting. Store colors in small plastic containers. (my students often used plastic containers from fast food restaurants).
7. Follow the protocols described in the film:
 - a. Paint the large shapes first with a general semi-transparent color—medium value
 - b. Secondary shapes registered in dull, medium values.
 - c. Student begins to work on smaller shapes, attention to details sharpen.
 - d. The smallest shapes are added on top of the more general shapes.
 - e. Final highlights and darkest shadow shapes are added last. using more tightly controlled shapes

Vocabulary Words:

Dark ground: The underlying layer within a painting; the value of the surface on which one begins a painting.

Value shapes: Patterns of dark and light shapes that describe objects.

Acrylic Medium: A milky liquid that dries clear and is the medium inside acrylic paint.

Glaze: A layer of paint that is at least partially transparent.

Color compliments: Colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel.

Positive and negative space: The object being painted is the positive space, the area around it is the negative space.

View finder: Two pieces of L-shaped card moved together to create a rectangular shape in the middle.

Opaque: Not able to be seen through; not transparent.