

STILL LIFE PAINTING CONCEPTS: VIDEO 1

1. The subjects of still life paintings are usually ordinary, inanimate objects, arranged in a controlled setting. Still life painting dates to Etruscan and Egyptian tomb paintings, but within European art history, still life painting was not done until the 17th century.
2. Still life painting in Europe began in the Netherlands when Dutch merchants became wealthy enough to commission works of art. They were a culture of middle-class merchants rather than members of a nobility, and wanted paintings that reflected their own values and belongings.
3. Before that, European art was mostly based on religious and mythological subjects and royal portraiture.
4. The obsession of European art previously, had been subjects that reflected eternal truths outside of time. Still life subjects are placed emphatically in time, in linear perspective (which is determined by a single point of view in time), and in a specific place.
5. The transitory nature of time, where death is always present, was the subject of a still life genre referred to as vanitas painting.
6. Though styles of still life painting changed over the centuries, the same central significances of a still life painting remains: the beauty of ordinary objects in a specific moment of time.