

# **OBSERVATIONAL STILL LIFE DRAWING**

Create a still life composition through observational drawing. In class find an area of the still life you would like to choose as the composition for your still life drawing. The first thing to do is create 5 thumbnail sketches of various areas of the still life to consider as your final. Use any of the notes below to help in determining a good still life: framing devices, seeing shapes to help you draw, and using the various measuring devices. The more you become familiar with these methods and techniques the more accurate and successful your drawings will be.

## **Instructions for your final still life drawing:**

Paper size: 11 x 14 horizontal or vertical (various colors and textures to choose from)

Medium: Charcoal, pastel and conte chalk

Color: Monochromatic color scheme only

(use white, black and a third tone or color, best suitable with your paper choice)

ex: [white, black and grays] or [white, black, grays and brown], or [white, black, grays and blue]

Things to consider: The least amount of outlines you use, and the greater amount of value changes you show, the more depth and volume your still life will have, to create a more realistic looking still life drawing. Don't forget to add highlights you may see to your objects as well. The final touch is to work on your craftsmanship so be sure to sharpen up all edges, refine the detail and clean up any smudges.

Points: 100pts (craftsmanship, criteria, creativity)

## **STILL LIFE**

- Inanimate objects arranged in a way that is pleasing to the eye
- Select things that are quirky or fun, symbolic or themed
- Incorporate different shapes and textures for interest and variety
- Overlap objects to provide depth
- Consider POINT OF VIEW

## **FRAMING DEVICE CONSIDERATIONS**

- Crop objects off the page or keep objects within the page
- Decide on a portrait or landscape format
- Use your paper to its capacity

## **THUMBNAILS**

- Draw small quick sketches to work out the faults in the composition
- Quick problem solvers, not finished drawings
- Do not include value or detail

## **SEEING SHAPES**

- Basic shapes can be seen in all objects
- Some objects are simple using one shape
- Some objects are more complex made of various shapes

## **MEASURING DEVICES**

### **1. VIEW FINDER or VIEW CATCHER**

- A simple device that allows you to isolate or “crop” a scene within a rectangular area.
- Some have a grid to help with proportions
- Some have red acetate, for determining value masses

### **2. GRID**

- Usually larger than a view finder
- A framing device that includes a grid for measuring
- It breaks down the complexity of the subject
- Can be made with glass, acetate, a picture frame or mat
- Lines marked with pen, string, rubber bands, wire etc.

### **3. SIGHT-SIZING**

- Use the tool that you are currently using like a pen, pencil, compass
- Hold the tool out at arms length and measure a section of your subject. A compass you can lock in place
- Use a pencils edge and thumb as end points
- Transfer these measurements to your drawing

### **4. CROSS-REFERENCE**

- Check where objects are in relation to one another
- Check negative space relationships