



# Still Life in the Style of the Dutch Masters...

Art of Photography Project

# Dutch Still Life – the Golden Age

Breakfast Still-life with  
Bread, Cheese and  
Cherries, Clara Peeters



# Historical Points

- Still-life painting rose to new popularity in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as the Protestant Netherlands broke away from the Catholic Church, the use of religious subject matter was coming to an end in Dutch art.



Pieter Claesz, *Still Life with Large Roemer, Lemon, and Grapes*, 1646



# Types of Dutch Still Life:

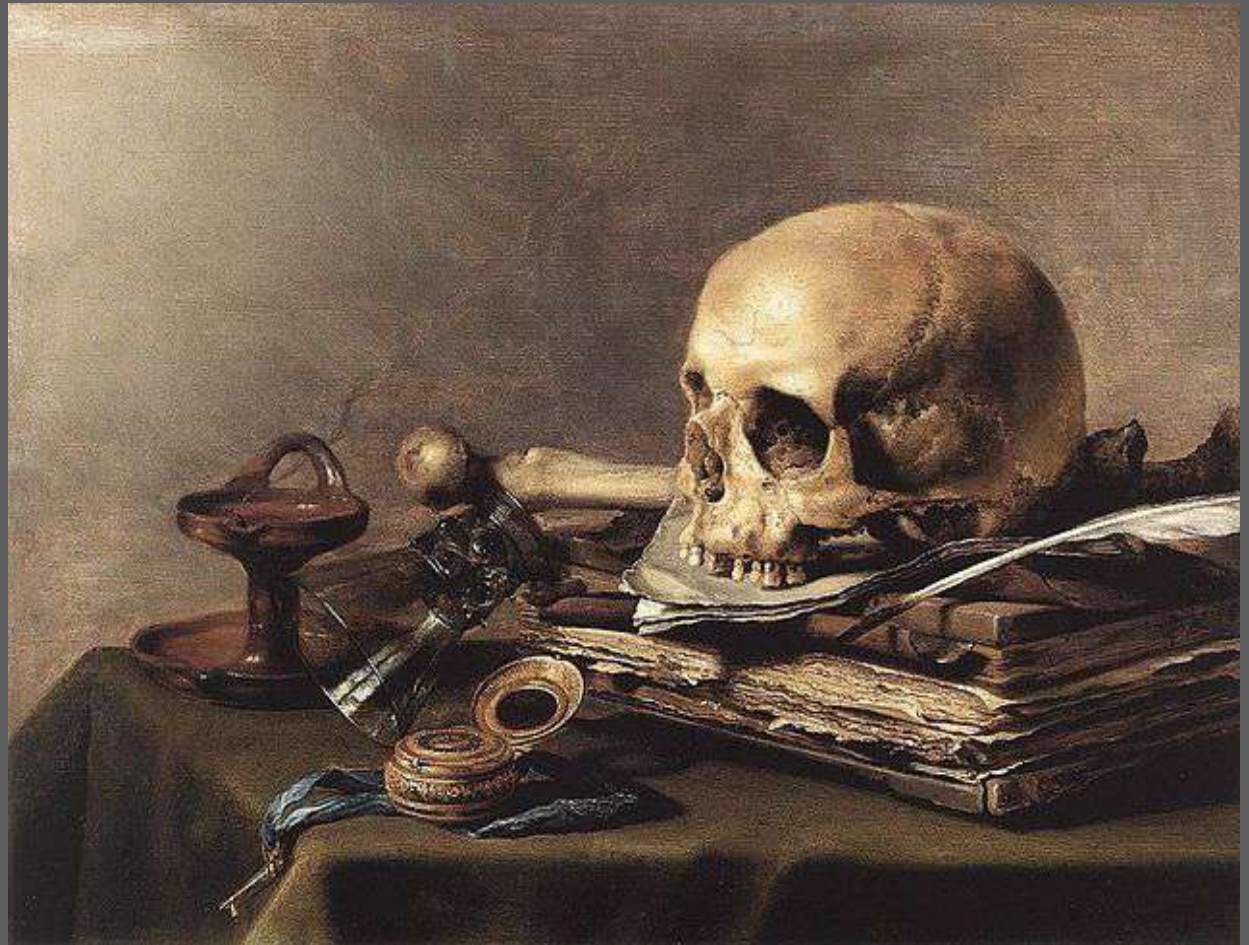
## ■ “Breakfast Paintings”

*Breakfast Still Life with  
Glass, Blackberry Pie,  
Willem Claesz, 1631,*



# Types of Dutch Still Life, cont'd:

■ “Vanitas”



*Vanitas,*  
Pieter Claesz



# Types of Dutch Still Life, cont'd:



## “Banquet Paintings”

Abraham van  
Beyeren, After 1655  
*Banquet Painting*

# Types of Dutch Still Life, cont'd:

## Floral Still Life



Cornelis de Heem  
*Still Life with Glass*

# Types of Dutch Still Life, cont'd:



■ Game


*Still Life with Dead Game*, 1661





# Common Features of the Still Life



- Lighting is important.
  - Early images especially were muted in color.
  - Images are very tonal.
  - Often used a dark background.
  - Texture and space are key elements.
  - Reflections.
  - Items are symbolic.
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# Modern Photographers who emulate this form of art:

*Le cabinet de l'astronome,*  
2007, Guido Mocafico



# Modern Photographers, cont'd:



Guido Mocafico, continued





# Modern Photographers, cont'd:

*Lemons and  
Pomegranates,  
After J.v.H.*

Paulette Tavormina



# Modern Photographers, cont'd:



*Crabs and  
Lemons, After  
P.C., Paulette  
Tavormina*



# Your Photographs.....

- Shoot a still life using props for this assignment.
- Make sure the background is NOT distracting... **ELIMINATE the BACKGROUND**
- What is UNDER the arrangement? Use a cloth or backdrop to eliminate a distracting area under the objects as well as behind objects.
- Think about your lighting and center of interest.
- Try window lighting and spot lighting. Remember the Golden Hour.
- Don't place objects in a row.
- Overlap objects creating the compositional triangle, with the tall object to the side - not centered.
- Compose your best shot and use as many of the compositional elements that are appropriate for your subject.



Remember  
to have  
FUN.

