

Go Dutch!

Take inspiration from *Still Life with Shellfish and Fruit*.

Enjoy arranging your own still life from food and objects around your home.

Make it dramatic by lighting it from one side in a dark area.

Still life with Shellfish and Fruit

Cornelius de Bryer (active 1634 –1671) was a Flemish artist whose life and career remain largely unknown. The large still life (below) is one of de Bryer's most ambitious works. The stone table is richly spread with over twenty varieties of fruit, including apricots, strawberries, grapes, pears, oranges and chestnuts.



Take a closer look.

The tableware features a blue and white Chinese export dish and several pewter dishes containing a half-peeled lemon, walnuts, oysters, a crab and a lobster.

Some of these things were included because they were expensive or rare while others remind people of the fleetingness and fragility of life.

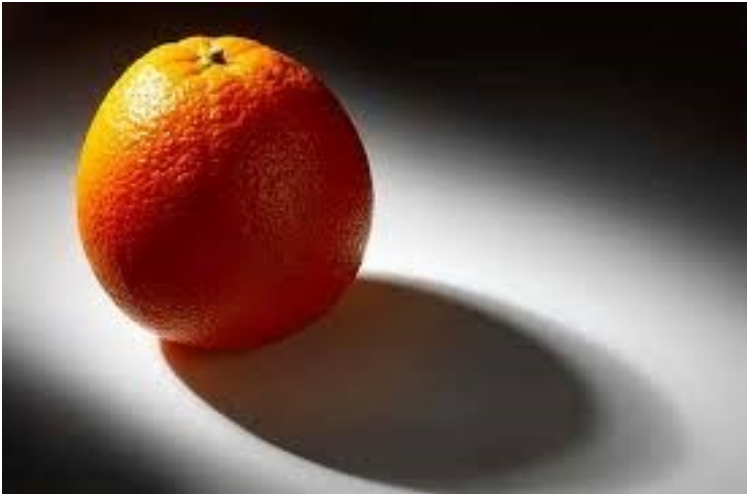
Still Life with Cheese


Jan van Kessel (1626 –1679) was from Antwerp where still life painting flourished during the 17th century. This composition shows a selection of simple foods: bread, cheese, bacon and fruit.

Notice in both paintings that the background is very dark and how the painter has highlighted some of the objects as though there was a light shining from the side or the front of the table.



Still Life —Inspiration board



Share a photo of what you make!
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Anne Vallayer Costa was a French still life painter. Born in 1744 to a family of tapestry makers, she was one of only four women admitted to the French Royal Academy before the revolution.

Activity (see next page for further help!)

Select objects for your still life; they could be related to a feast or celebration. It might help to have a plain background, using a tablecloth or sheet.

To create dark shadows close the curtains and use a bedside lamp, table light or torch (there's often one on your phone) to shine on to the objects.

You could:

- Take a photograph of your still life
- Draw your still life on a dark piece of paper using light coloured pencils, pastels or paint
- Make a collage using dark and light colours or objects from newspapers or magazines



- Think about the colours and heights of your objects to add interest
- Arrange them with some in the foreground and some in the background
- Look carefully at shadows and highlights; looking through half closed eyes can help focus on where it is light and dark

