

Still Life

What is a still life?

A still life is an artwork showing an arrangement of everyday objects. Paul Cézanne and Vincent van Gogh are famous still life artists.



The Basket of Apples by Paul Cézanne, 1893-1895



Vase with Fifteen Sunflowers by Vincent van Gogh, 1888

Subject matter

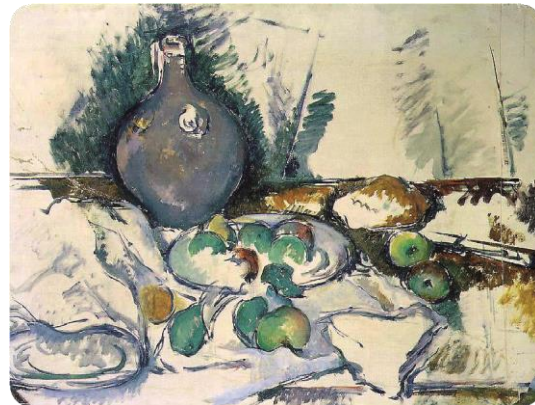
Still life artwork shows a selection of objects. They can be natural or human-made. Food, flowers, shells and skulls are popular natural objects. Vases, bottles, books and candles are common human-made objects.

Techniques

Artists use many techniques when planning and creating still life artworks.

Composition

Artists arrange objects in their artworks carefully. They decide which objects will go in the foreground or background of the work. They also think about the size of the objects they have chosen.



Colour

Artists choose colours carefully. They decide whether to use warm or cool colours and how colours make people feel.



Glossary

foreground	The part of an artwork that seems closest to the person looking at it.
background	The part of an artwork that seems furthest from the person looking at it.
composition	The way objects have been arranged in an artwork.
warm colour	A colour that reminds people of warm things, such as fire and heat.
cool colour	A colour that reminds people of cool things, such as water and shade.