

## APS Adventures in Pastel B-4: "Still Life "

Welcome to our fourth Adventure in Series "B". This challenge is titled "Still Life" which Wikipedia describes as "a work of art depicting mostly inanimate subject matter, either natural or manmade". The Tate Gallery defines it as "anything that does not move or is dead". The French call it "nature morte" (dead nature).

Now before you grab the nearest apple or orange, first consider the history of still life painting. The Egyptians painted food and objects on tombs as offering to the gods. The Greeks painted vases and murals. But it was not until the 16th Century when it became an art form, with Jacopo de Barbarini's 1597 painting "Dead Partridge and Iron Gauntlets".

Caravaggio followed in 1597 with "Basket of Fruit" and Jan Brughal painted lush scenes of fruit and game in the 17th Century. In more contemporary times, Paul Cezanne painted "Basket of Apples" in 1895 reminding us of his bold and famous quote: "I will astonish Paris with an apple". Vincent van Gogh painted "Still Life with Coffee Pot" in 1885. In the Victorian era, a still life could send a message to the viewer. Skulls, clocks and decaying fruit reminded them that "You must die".

On the lighter side, flowers and plants revealed secrets: buttercup (ingratitude), white chrysanthemum (Truth) and azalea (temperance). So as you are painting an apple (temptation) or a tulip (fame), be careful of the message you are sending. Or you may want to just enjoy the time spent at the easel!

**Step 1:** Select the objects you want to paint and arrange them with particular attention to use the light in creating shadows and highlights. Surface, size and color palette are all up for you to decide.

**Step 2:** Choose to do your still life with realism or abstract design or anything in between. The style is your choice.

**Step 3:** Take of **photo of your arrangement and your pastel** and send these to Kay Gordon ([jkaygordon364@gmail.com](mailto:jkaygordon364@gmail.com)) by **October 26th** at 6:00 PM. **Please include the size and title** for your work. Feel free to also comment on your particular surface, pastel brands and your experience in creating the artwork.

**Step 4:** Remember this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6:00 PM on **October 26th**. Your painting does not need to be in its finished form! This Adventure is so we can be painting, experimenting, learning and sharing our experiences with each other.

**ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO BE STILL...AND PAINT!**



Van Gogh "Still Life with Coffee Pot" c. 1885



Barbarini "Dead Partridge with iron Gauntlets"  
C. 1597



Victorian still life showing message



Cezanne "Basket of Apples" c. 1895



Caravaggio "Basket of Fruit" c. 1597