

STILL LIFE



Peter Claesz, *Still Life with Salt Tub* (1644)

What is a still life?

A **still life** is a work of art depicting mostly **inanimate subject matter***, typically everyday natural things (food, flowers, dead animals, plants, rocks, shells, etc.) or man-made things (drinking glasses, books, vases, jewelry, coins, pipes, etc.)

Inanimate: Not animated (not moving, usually not alive)

Subject matter: What you actually see in the artwork

- STILL LIFE ARTWORKS ALL USE ART ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES, BUT DIFFERENT STYLES AND MOVEMENTS OF ART USE THEM DIFFERENTLY.
- STYLES AND MOVEMENTS ARE OFTEN CLASSIFIED BY DIFFERENT HISTORICAL TIMES



Hans Memling (1430–1494),
Vase of Flowers, 1480



Edouard Manet (1832 – 1883)
Carnations and Clematis in a Crystal Vase (1883)



JEAN METZINGER
FRUIT AND A JUG ON A TABLE (1916)



Roy Lichtenstein - *Pop Objectivity*
(1962)

You can often tell the time of the painting based on its subject matter – based on what is actually depicted (shown) in the artwork



Pedro Campos, 2000s



GILES TRAN
A COMPLETELY SYNTHETIC, COMPUTER GENERATED STILL LIFE (2006)

WATCH:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=KXALPIG_CAC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxALPIG_CAC)

TECHNIQUES:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=T3PGcMxEHM0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3PGcMxEHM0)

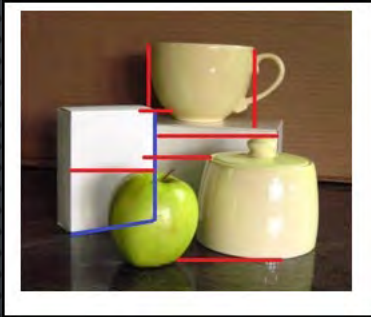
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=PZR4VYR6NYG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzR4vYR6NYG)

WATCH: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=_NWR37DS_HG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NWR37DS_HG)

THREE IMPORTANT PARTS TO DRAWING A STILL LIFE

- **EMPHASIS (THE FOCAL POINT OF HIERACHY OF SUBJECT MATTER)** OBJECTS THAT ARE CLOSER TO THE VIEWER ARE OFTEN LOWER ON THE PAPER
- **OVERLAP** — OBJECTS THAT ARE CLOSER TO THE VIEWER OVERLAP OBJECTS THAT ARE BEHIND THEM
- **PROPORTION** — REALLY LOOK AT THE OBJECTS AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE IN PROPORTION TO EACH OTHER. IS ONE OBJECT HALF AS TALL AS ANOTHER? IS ANOTHER OBJECT THREE TIMES AS WIDE? COMPARE THE OBJECTS TO EACH OTHER.

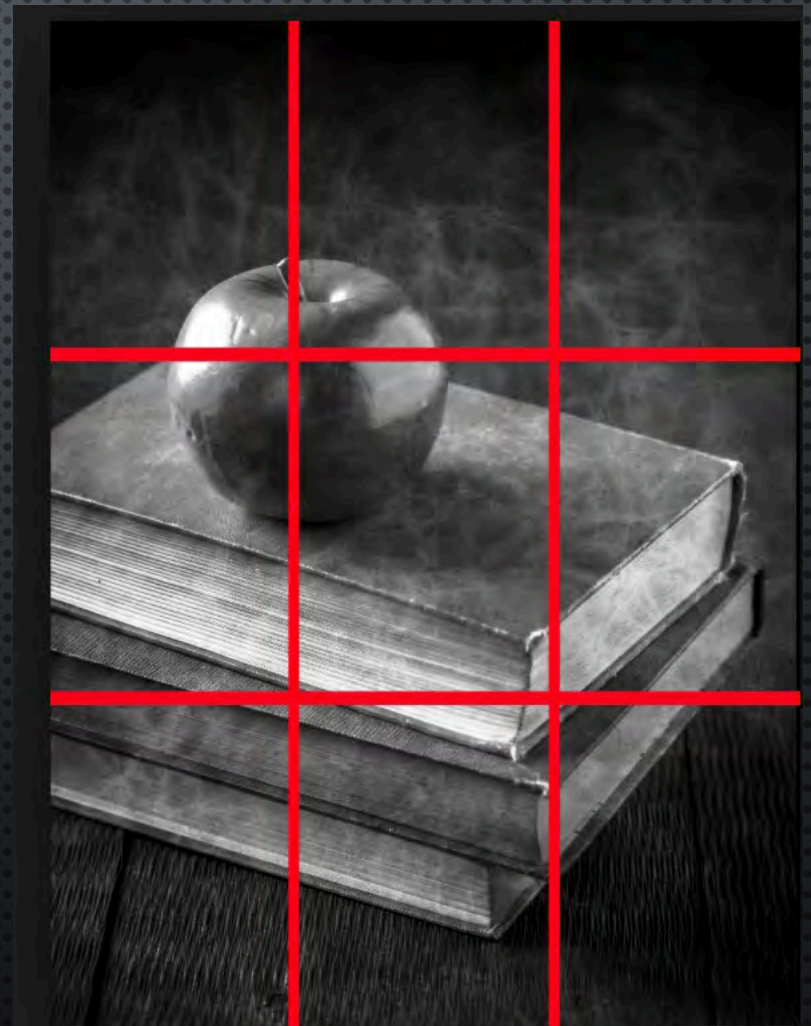
PROPORTION



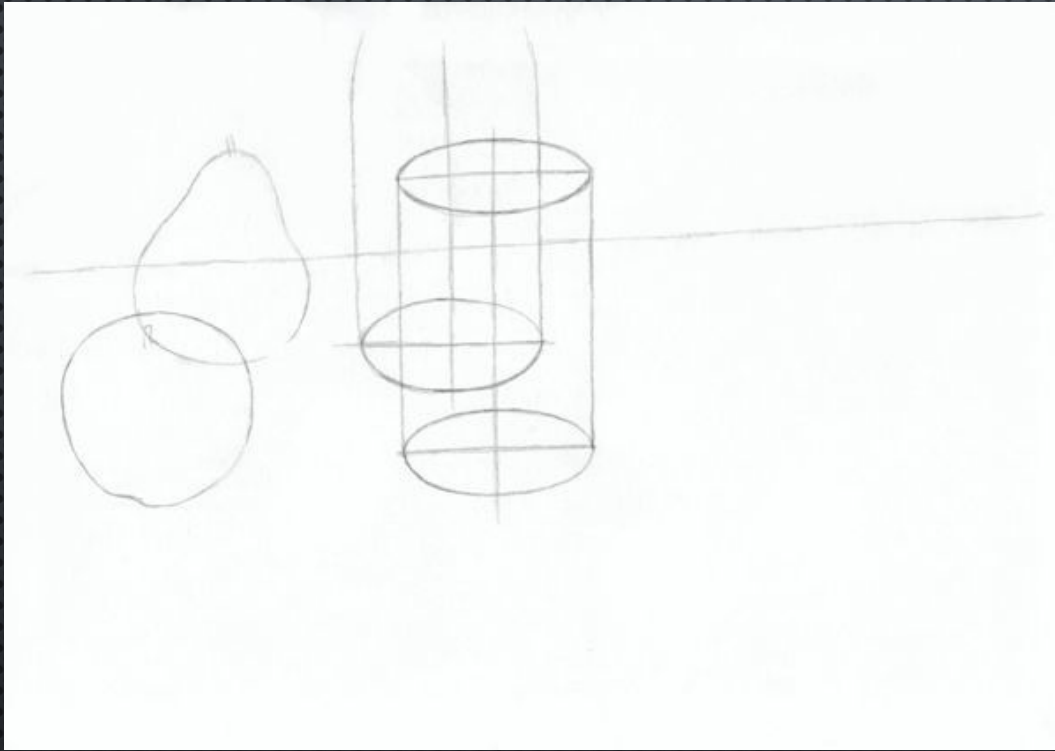
1. Closely look at the objects and make sure that they are in proportion to each other.
2. Is one object half as tall as another? is another object three times as wide?
3. Compare the objects to each other.

THE RULE OF THIRDS

- TO CREATE AN ARTWORK THAT LOOKS FINISHED, YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU PLACE YOUR OBJECTS.
- USING A 'VIEWFINDER' WILL HELP YOU WITH THIS TASK



STILL LIFE WITH PENCIL – STEP 1



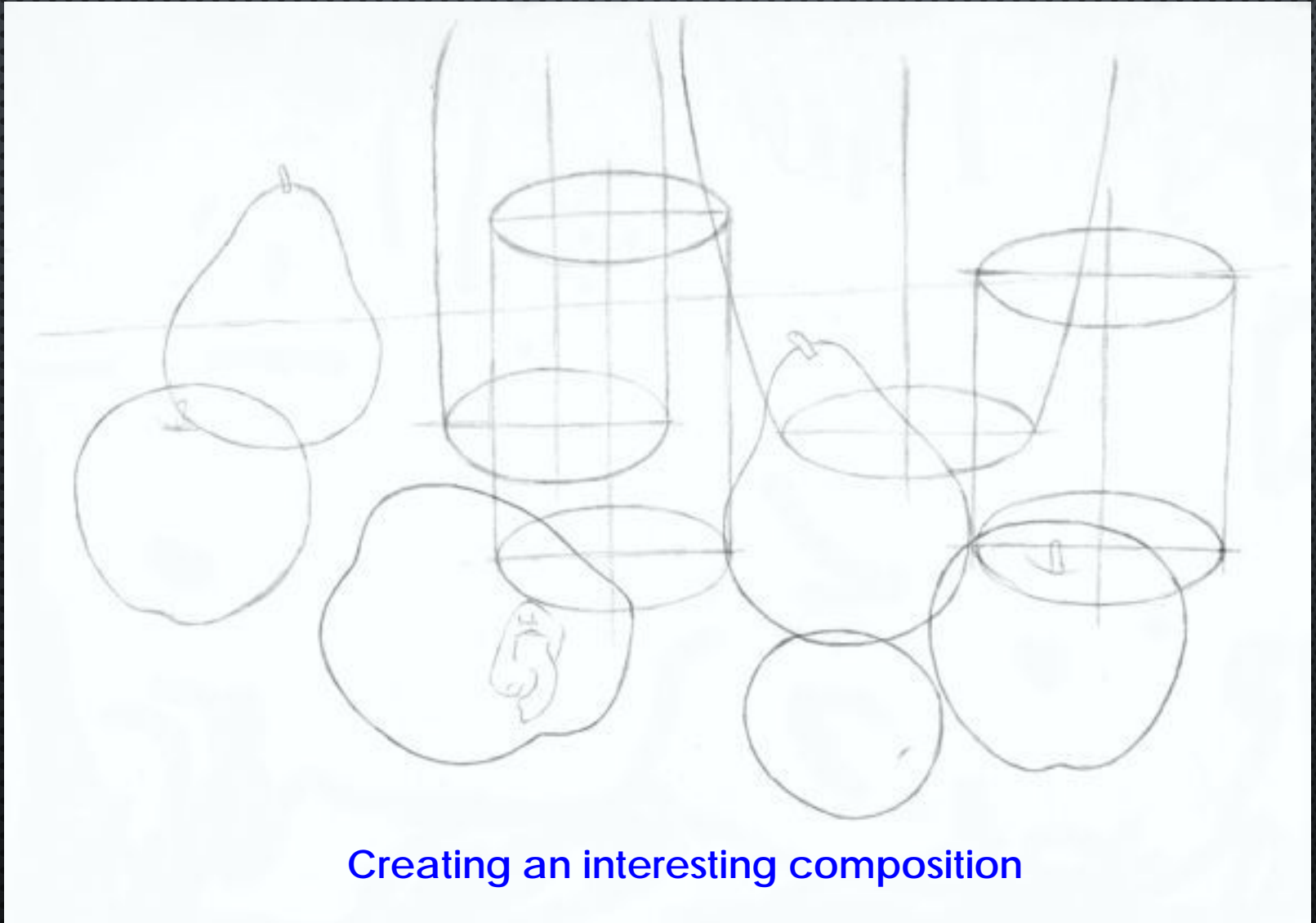
Starting a still life drawing

TECHNIQUE: In any still life, you should start to draw the objects as if they are transparent wire frame forms with visible lines of construction.

This technique helps you to be fully aware of the shape of each individual form and its position in relation to the other forms.

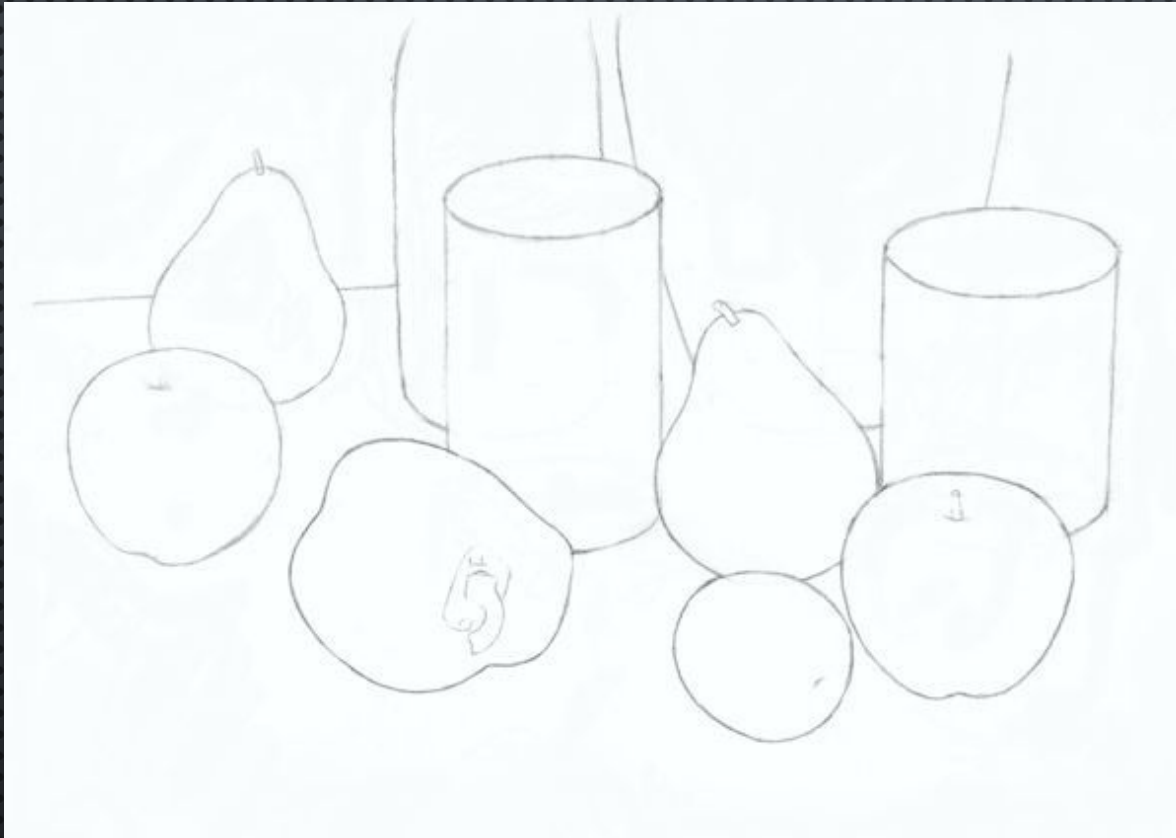
It is important to sketch the objects lightly as this makes it easier to change any mistakes and erase any lines of construction

STILL LIFE WITH PENCIL - STEP 2



Creating an interesting composition

STILL LIFE WITH PENCIL - STEP 3



Erasing the lines of construction

TECHNIQUE: Once you are happy with the shape, proportion and composition of the still life, you can erase its lines of construction. This will leave you with an accurate outline of each form and the confidence that all the objects are positioned correctly. You are now ready to work on the

STILL LIFE WITH PENCIL - STEP 4



Adding the details in line.

TECHNIQUE: Now lightly sketch in the shapes of any shadows or reflections onto each object.

NOTE: The more care you take over the accuracy of these marks, the easier you will find the next stage of the drawing - the shading of tones.

STILL LIFE WITH PENCIL - STEP 5



Shading stage – 1.

TECHNIQUE: In this step, some basic tones are lightly applied to each object to help build up its three dimensional form.

STILL LIFE WITH PENCIL - STEP 6



Shading stage – 2.

TECHNIQUE: The second stage in building up the tone focuses on the spaces between and around the objects.

NOTE: The drawing of the light and shade between the objects must be treated with as much importance as the drawing of the objects themselves.

STILL LIFE WITH PENCIL - STEP 7



Shading stage – 3.

TECHNIQUE: In the third stage of building up the tone, you focus back on the objects. This time you deepen their tone, increasing the contrast between the areas of dark and light. This will enhance the form of the objects and increase their impact.



THE FINISHED STILL LIFE: The completed still life should work on two levels: as a realistic representation of the group of objects and as an artwork that used the visual art elements, How will you harmonise and contrast your use of line, shape, tone and textures?

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=O EZMAVBQWXC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O EZMAVBQWXC)

Open Up your Sketch Book-

Title a new page with:

Pencil Drawing Techniques



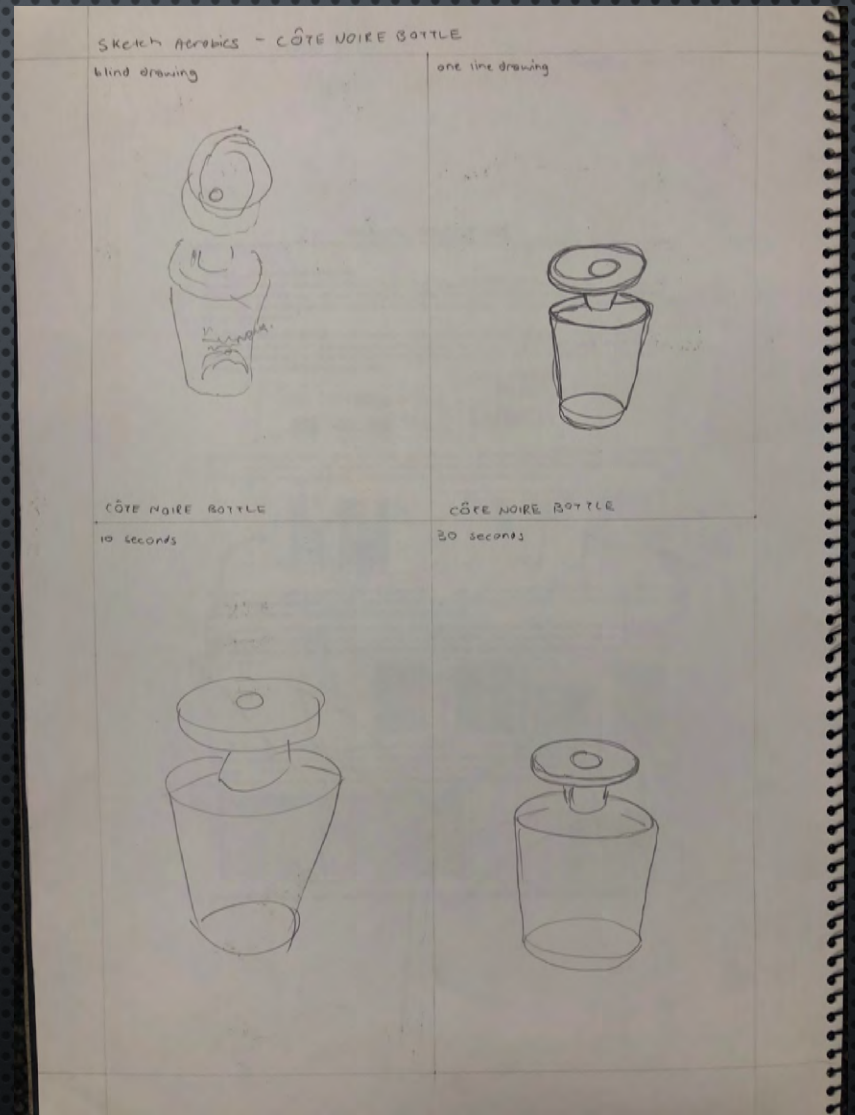
The video player shows a man with grey hair, wearing a light blue shirt and blue suspenders, holding a red pencil and pointing upwards. The video title is "HOW TO DRAW basic techniques: PART 1" and the content includes "holding the pencil", "creating outlines and edges", and "basic shading". The video progress bar shows 0:34 / 8:20. The video player interface includes a play button, a volume icon, a settings gear, a full screen icon, and a "Subscribe" button.

Start Drawing: PART 1 - Outlines, Edges, Shading

OUR STILL LIFE TASKS

- STILL LIFE RESEARCH PAGE- WEEK 8
- SKETCH AEROBICS- WEEK 8
- TONAL TECHNIQUES – WEEK 8
- STILL LIFE CHARCOAL OR TONAL DRAWING- WEEK 9
- STILL LIFE CROPPED COLLAGE (IF TIME ALLOWS!)- WEEK 10

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING WITH STILL LIFE? SKETCH AEROBICS

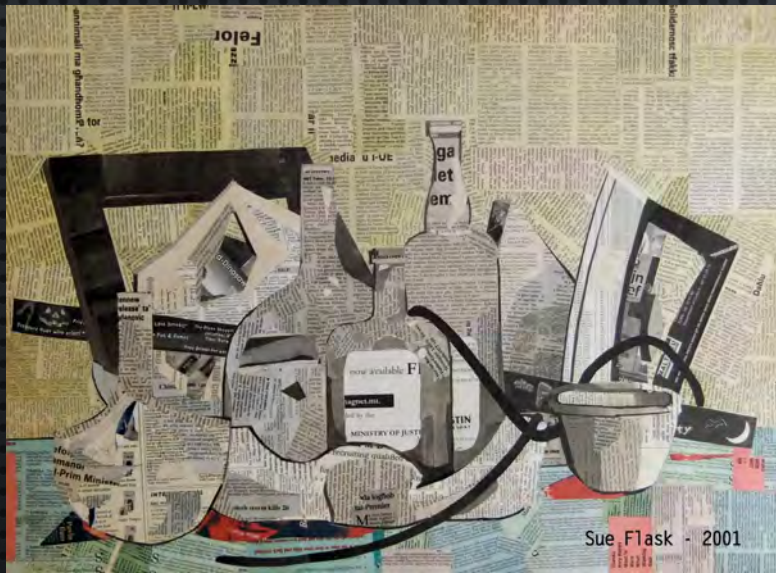


Still Life Tonal Drawing or Charcoal





Still Life Collage:
What is a collage?
a piece of art made
by sticking various
different materials
such as photographs
and pieces of paper
or fabric on to a
backing.



SOME STILL LIFE COLLAGE ARTISTS: KATHY BURMAN



MEGAN COYLE

