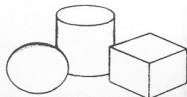


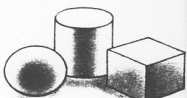
Lighting effects

You can arrange your own lighting using a reading lamp or desk light positioned about a metre away from the objects.

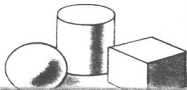
Experiment by moving the lamp around to see what effects you get.



Lighting from the front can look harsh and make the objects appear flat, as there are few shadows.



Back lighting is not very satisfactory as the front of the objects will be in deep shadow.



Side lighting from slightly above or below gives the best effect. The shadows and highlights help to define the shape and form of the objects.

Negative space

Start a still life by roughly sketching the objects in position, using the measuring technique (page 7) to get the proportions right. It can help to look at the objects as if they were simple, flat shapes at this stage. Pay attention to the shapes of the spaces in between the objects too. This is called the "negative space" and it is as important to your drawing as the actual objects.

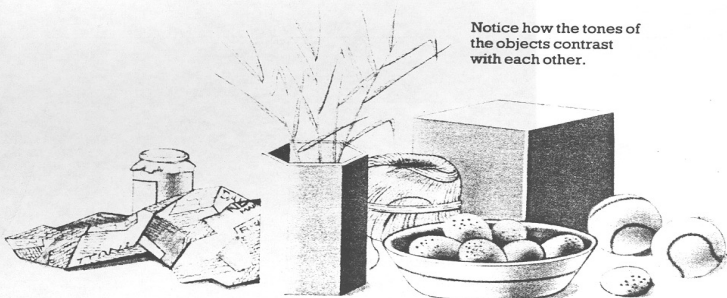


Practise drawing the spaces between objects by using areas of flat colour. You can build up the outline of an object by drawing the space around it.

One colour still life

An interesting project to try with charcoal, ordinary lead pencils or black ink, is to set up a still life composed only of white objects. Choose things with different textures

to introduce some variation. Where two objects meet, or overlap, there will be a contrast between their tones, although they are the same colour.



Notice how the tones of the objects contrast with each other.

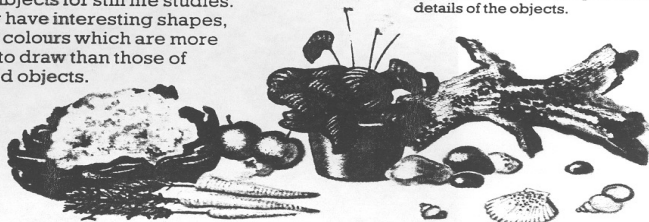
You can try a similar experiment using colour by setting up a still life using, for example, only red or green things.

Do not use outline but rely on subtle graduated colours and tones to build up the picture.

Drawing natural objects

Natural objects such as shells, stones, driftwood, plants and vegetables make very good subjects for still life studies. They usually have interesting shapes, textures and colours which are more challenging to draw than those of manufactured objects.

Vegetables often make good patterns when sliced in half.



Ordinary or coloured pencils are a good choice for this sort of drawing as they can be used in a very light and sensitive way to capture the details of the objects.

Drawing larger than life

In most drawings you are making things, such as people or buildings, look far smaller than they really are. It can be exciting to draw small objects like beans, sweets, keys, pins and so on, very much bigger than life size. You will need to study your subject closely and carefully to do this.

