

Intro to Still Life

A detailed still life painting by J.M.W. Turner. The scene is set on a light-colored, draped tablecloth. In the center, a large, pale fish with a reddish head and a blue dorsal fin lies horizontally. To its left is a smaller, vibrant red fish. Further left, a cluster of oysters is depicted, some open to reveal their glistening interiors. In the foreground, a dark green snake is coiled on the tablecloth. To the right of the large fish, a bright yellow lemon sits next to a small sprig of green herbs. A dark knife lies on a white cloth in the lower right corner. In the background, a large, dark, rounded object, possibly a pot or a basket, is partially visible. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sense of texture and volume. The overall composition is balanced and detailed, characteristic of Turner's style.

Week 1 of Still Life Drawing

Expectations:

Each week, students will be present at the class start time, 4:30 pm

Class will begin with a 20 minute discussion on art history, examining identifiable periods of art and how technique, style, and purpose changes

Students will spend the remaining class time working on their still life drawings, using topics discussed in lecture to influence their compositions

Week by week breakdown:

Week 1: General introduction of still life drawing: why do we do it, how are we going to practice it from home, and how we can get creative with what we have at hand

Week 2: Students will come to class prepared to work with charcoals and from a still life set up for the duration of class

Weeks 3 & 4: based on the lectures, students will have 2 still lifes set up: one short term that they can change around for warm ups and short 'poses', another for a long term graphite drawing

Materials:

Students will be working in charcoal and graphite for the duration of the course. Students will need paper to work on, preferably newsprint for warm ups and charcoal paper for class drawings. Paper can be anywhere from 9x12 to 18x24 inches.

Charcoal paper: strathmore 300 series or 500 series charcoal pads

Tinted/colored paper, OPTIONAL: Mi Tientes, anywhere from 16x20 - 18x24 in preferred, OPTIONAL - conte crayons (sanguine, white, black)

Students will have the option to work on colored paper the last two classes if desired

A little about your teacher...

My name: Maura Roncace, (she/they)

Teacher's assistant name: Marnie, a mix between a giant schnauzer and standard poodle. She may try and interrupt here and there, but she's mostly a good girl

Education: BFA from the University of Pennsylvania, 2018. MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 2020

Background in: Painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, video work

You can call me Maura!

Website: mauraroncace.com

Weekly 'assignment'

If you can, please email a picture of your drawing from class to mauraroncace@gmail.com before class the following week. This will allow me as your teacher to be prepared to help you with different aspects of your drawing and allow us to identify our strengths and progress in the beginning of each class