

Total time:
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Points:

- Composition
- Lighting
- Mastering basic camera functions

CREATING STILL LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS



Themes surrounding still life art provoke thought and reflection in a viewer. The order of arrangement of the objects within the still life (the composition) as well as the lighting and color scheme are meant to touch the emotions.

KEY LESSON: Still life is a genre of photography that most often depicts all 7 formal elements of art including: line, shape, form, tone, texture, pattern, color, and composition.

EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**
With option to use manual shooting mode.
- **Lens**
Close focusing down to at least 40cm (17 inches)
- **Light bounce cards**
of varying sizes in white & silver
- **Window & Table**
with indirect light and no window shade
- **Remote camera**
release & tripod (optional, but highly recommended)

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Review sample photographs, gather food items, flowers, and kitchen props.
- 2- Position your table next to the window and slightly to one side of it. This creates a sidelight that is also slightly coming from the front.
- 3- Set up your still life composition on your table.
- 4- Concentrate on the 7 formal elements of art as discussed in the theory section. Don't be afraid to copy an existing photograph.
- 5- Use the positioning and window light to create a mood and story. Use the bounce cards, if necessary, to fill in deep shadows.
- 6- Use the ISO setting, color balance, and chosen aperture to create a technically proficient image that helps to convey your story.
- 7- This is a still subject; therefore shutter speed is a moot point other than the prevention of camera shake.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Do your photographs convey the intended message to others? Ask around. Share your work.
- Did you properly expose for the lighting, and did you create shadows that gave your still life photograph dimension without becoming solid black areas?
- Does the color balance of your still life photograph look appealing and help reveal your intended story?
- Does the composition lead the viewer's eyes through the still life, and did you create a stopping point within the composition for a final resting spot?