

## Assignment 2: Still life - due 9/25

For this assignment, you will be working in the studio shooting still-life, during a time you have signed up for.

- Still-life can be defined as an arrangement of inanimate objects.
- You will be choosing objects to bring into the studio, choosing the background you want, then composing and lighting the objects.
- This is an art class, so these still life set ups are a means of personal expression, not a means of selling a product. Avoid imitating advertising images that you've seen.

**Objects to choose:** use ones that are visually interesting to you and/or have personal meaning to you

- objects from nature: nuts, leaves, fruit, vegetables, other food, flowers, rocks
- personal items: books, phone, figurines, cosmetics, jewelry, toys, cards, letters
- any other man made objects

**Relationship of objects chosen:**

- visual harmony - examples: all objects rough textured, all light in value, all reflective
- visual contrast - examples: rough vs smooth, reflective vs mat
  
- thematic harmony: all are organic, all feminine, all masculine, all religious
- thematic contrast: natural vs. man made, feminine vs masculine
- complexity: using many objects that crowd the frame
- narrative: telling a story

**Composition:**

- in most cases, keep it simple; 3 is often an ideal number of objects
- emphasis: one has main emphasis or all objects have equal emphasis
- vertical or horizontal arrangement - usually horizontal for still life
- fill the frame all the way to the edges

**Viewpoint:** avoid low viewpoints

- you want at least 45 degrees above, all the way to straight overhead

**Camera settings:**

- ISO setting: 100
  
- shooting mode: Manual (you cannot use Program for this)
  
- set shutter speed at 1/60 sec and leave it there
  
- use f-stop reading that flash meter gives you

**Choice of backdrop:** white, black, mid grey (choose 2)

- background should be a different tone than your objects so they don't get "lost" in background

**Lighting set ups:** (choose 3)

When photographing your subject, please use at least 3 different lighting set ups from the six standard lighting set ups - see other handout

Conventional 3D lighting

Fully diffuse

Rim lighting

Side lighting

Top lighting

**Requirements:**

- **shoot and save** at least 35 pictures

- this doesn't mean 35 different still lifes

- you can vary viewpoint, lighting, composition, etc with the same objects

- try at least 3 lighting set ups, 2 backgrounds, 3 different groups of objects

- note: I do not want to see images on your contact prints that are identical to your shooting partner

- **hand in on 9/25:** 2 contact prints showing at least 35 photos

- 4 prints, showing at least **2 lighting set ups, 2 backgrounds, 3 groups of objects**