



No. 7 | Setting the Table - Drawing a Still Life



Bertram Brooker (1888-1955)

Cabbage & Pepper, c. 1937

oil on canvas, 41 x 51 cm

Purchased, 1973

CAG 73.5

Activity Description

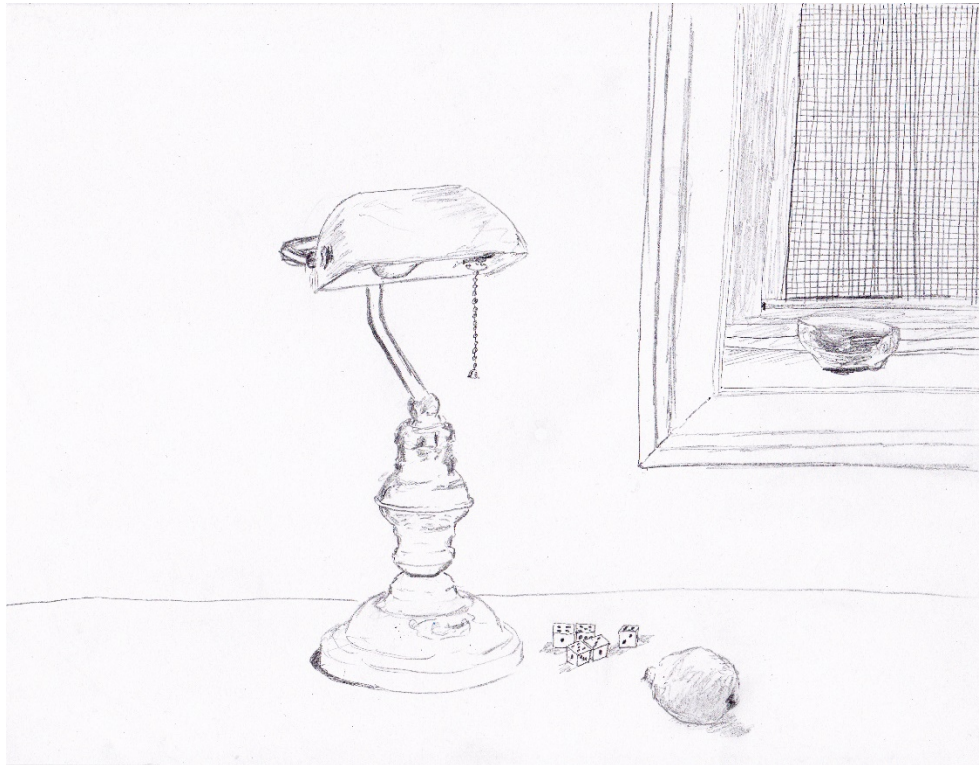
This painting by Bertram Brooker is currently featured in the Confederation Centre Art Gallery's exhibition *Setting the Table: Still Life and It's After Effects*. This exhibition looks into the history and evolution of still-life painting as an essential lesson when learning how to draw. Using this artwork as inspiration, this activity will have you draw a still life of objects that you have lying around your house.



Definition

Still life: An artwork that depicts an arrangement of inanimate objects usually sitting on a table. They traditionally feature fruit, food, flowers and sometimes man-made objects like cups and cutlery.

Example



Instructions

Step 1. Find items to draw around your house. There are a few things to think about when choosing your objects:

Texture - Are your objects smooth, rough, or fuzzy?

Shape - Are they organic shapes (lots of curved edges) or are they more geometric (lots of straight edges)

Scale - Are your objects big or small? It is good to have a mix of different sizes.

Step 2. Gather them into an interesting arrangement on a table top.

Step 3. Sit in front of your set-up and try to draw it with a different combination of techniques:



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Try a blind contour drawing where you only look at what you are drawing, not at your page.
Try drawing the background in addition to the objects on the table.

Draw one at a time.

This activity can be done at any time and in an infinite number of ways. If you get bored of one still life make another! The more you do the better you will get at drawing.

When you finish your still-life drawing consider sharing it on social media! Be sure to tag the Confederation Centre Art Gallery (@ccoag) and use the hashtag #ccagartclassfromhome!