

STILL LIFE DRAWING TECHNIQUE WITH PENCIL

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Annotation. In this article, the author examines the technique of still life drawing with pencil.

Keywords: still life, pencil drawing, light and shadow, composition, proportions, texture, line, graphics.

Fine art is a powerful tool for expressing the most subtle feelings of the human mind and soul. Pencil drawing (graphics) occupies a special place among the disciplines of fine art. In particular, the still life genre is an excellent platform for students and artists to create artistic images by combining simple objects. Drawing a still life with pencil, on the one hand, develops observation skills, and on the other, helps to deeply master the laws of form, proportion, and light and shadow.

A still life (from the French "nature morte" - "still life") is a pictorial composition made from fruit, dishes, flowers, or household items. There are certain pencil techniques.

1. Choosing a Composition

- The arrangement of objects should be harmonious and beautiful.
- The main object, attracting attention, is placed in the center.

2. Line and Proportions

- Pencil lines begin light and barely noticeable.
- If the proportions of the objects are not maintained, the entire still life will lose its naturalness.

3. Working with Light and Shadow

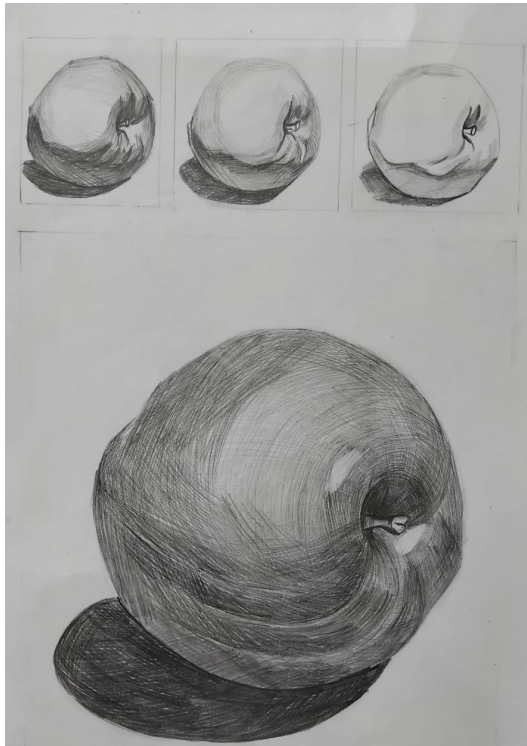
- The key to creating volume is a proper understanding of chiaroscuro.
- Different shades are created by varying the pressure applied to the pencil.

4. Texture and Detail

- The surface structure (texture) of fruit, dishes, or fabric can be expressed through the density of lines.
- It is important to maintain overall harmony without overloading the details.

5. Educational value of the exercise

- Working with still lifes develops patience, observation, and taste.
- These exercises are essential for developing the artistic thinking of future artists.



In a pencil drawing, shadow and light are the soul of the painting. While the paper fades and brightens where the light falls, the part immersed in shadow conceals a mysterious depth. Each object seems to converse with the light: the side from which the sun shines is clear and bright; the opposite side appears silent, heavy, and solemn. Shadow also has its own tone: at first a light penumbra, then gradually deepens, reaching the darkest point. At this point, the pen pressure intensifies, and the strokes overlap. But the shadow is never completely black—even within it, there is a barely noticeable glimmer of light. The surrounding object softens the shadow with its own light. The shadow cast by the object connects it to the ground, as if saying, "I stand here." The contrast between shadow and light brings a painting to life. Pencil is your friend: press a little softer, a little harder, play with the strokes. Make the transition from light to shadow smooth and graceful, and the contrasts clear. Then, not only the form but also the entire mood and soul of the painting will emerge on the paper.

The harmony of shadow and light gives a still life depth; objects seem to stand in space, not on the surface of the paper. Drop shadows emphasize the placement of objects, and reflections make them appear natural. A still life painted in pencil gradually evolves from simple lines into a complex, three-dimensional image. It reflects not only the shape of the object but also the artist's taste, keen eye, and inner mood. Drop shadows connect objects to their surroundings. They seem to stand in space, not on the surface of the paper. The saturation of the background also influences the overall mood of the still life. The pencil line is initially applied with light pressure. The basic geometric shape of each object is determined: for example, an apple is a sphere, a mug is a cylinder, a book is a rectangular prism. At this stage, precision and correct proportions are essential.

Several techniques are used when working on a still life with pencil:

- Parallel hatching is the simplest technique, creating smooth volume transitions.
- Cross hatching—lines drawn in two or more directions create a dark shadow.
- Soft hatching—smooth transitions are created by applying light pressure with a pencil, gradually increasing the pressure.
- Drop shadows connect objects to their surroundings. They appear to float in space, rather than simply on the surface of the paper. The saturation of the background also influences the overall mood of the still life.

Conclusion

By depicting a still life with pencil, the artist develops not only technical skill but also artistic taste. Creating a work of art from a simple set of objects demonstrates the artist's creativity, observation, and patience. Therefore, still life drawing exercises with a pencil serve as an important method of visual education.

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