**STEPS TO DRAWING A STILL LIFE**

“Remember draw light ‘til you get it right”



1. Set up your still life making sure you have a good composition and good lighting. In the classroom you may want to turn out the overhead lights because they throw off too many shadows. Use the camera on your phone to photograph your still life. You can print the photo or work from your phone in class. Keep your items because in the end you may want to compare your drawing to the “life” version. Crop if your composition can be improved. **Art 3 needs to fill paper like the example right.**

Note: When drawing objects that overlap, it’s easier to start with the object that is in front FIRST. Then draw the object that is behind it. Only draw that part of the object that you can see.

Also remember that an odd number of objects works better compositionally.

2. Measure & Mark on your paper- Get a pencil & with your thumb and an arm held out straight in front of you (with one eye closed), make accurate measurements by:

 a) Use top of pencil as the top of your measurement and your thumb as the bottom.

 b) Adjust thumb to get the measurement right and compare how the different elements measured all relate to one another.

If you need a good visual on how to do this see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQgjZbGK8Yc>

3.Make Guiding Lines to start your picture establishing (sight lines) heights & widths and proportions (using step 2)

3. Look for basic shapes in your still life. **Lightly** sketch them in. Check your negative space shapes as well as your positive. **Look often** as you sketch these out.

4. Once you have established all shapes, begin to add details in line (ex. the curves of a vase or pot) finish the drawing details before adding value.

5. When you have your line drawing complete compare to the photo or still life you worked from…Is it accurate? Does anything need to be changed?

6. When you have an accurate line sketch complete begin to add value. Make sure you have a full range of tones from white to black (go for 7) and not just a few shades of gray. Use your B pencils for this 2B-8B. Do not try to get all the values with one pencil.

7. Check your shadows and highlights. When they are complete so is your drawing.