

STILL LIFE



Creating a still life composition is harder than it looks. With so few objects, you'd think it would be simple. But if you're new to this type of photography, you'll probably find it takes time and effort to get everything just right.

Create A Traditional Still Life Composition

When you think of still life photography, the first thing that probably comes to mind is a traditional still life scene like those you find in classical paintings.

It might be a vase of flowers, a bowl of fruit, or some other collection of objects arranged in a visually pleasing way.

If you want to create a traditional still life, make sure you have a neutral wall or other visually pleasing background behind your subject.

When choosing objects to group together in a still life, try to make sure they work well together visually.

You could choose objects based on a particular theme, such as summer flowers and fruits, items found in nature during an autumn walk, or different objects that share the same color.



Things to consider when taking still Life

- Light Source
- Good surface and background
- Interesting Objects
- Composition
- Shadows



Light

Natural Light

- Window
- sunlight / outdoors

Artificial light

- lamps
- candles

Don't make everything
Light, dark , soft or
Shiny.

Mix it up to and your
Picture will be more
lively



Background

You want to make sure that the background works well with the main subject.

Whether the background is in focus or out of focus.

Texture or no texture

Single colour can be effective to make your subject stand out.



Objects

Still life can be an assortment of random items

Or

Can be carefully planned combination

Eg with a theme

- food
- sport
- jewellery



Composition

Consider compositional elements and avoid bland central

Positioning and symmetry.

Rule of Thirds

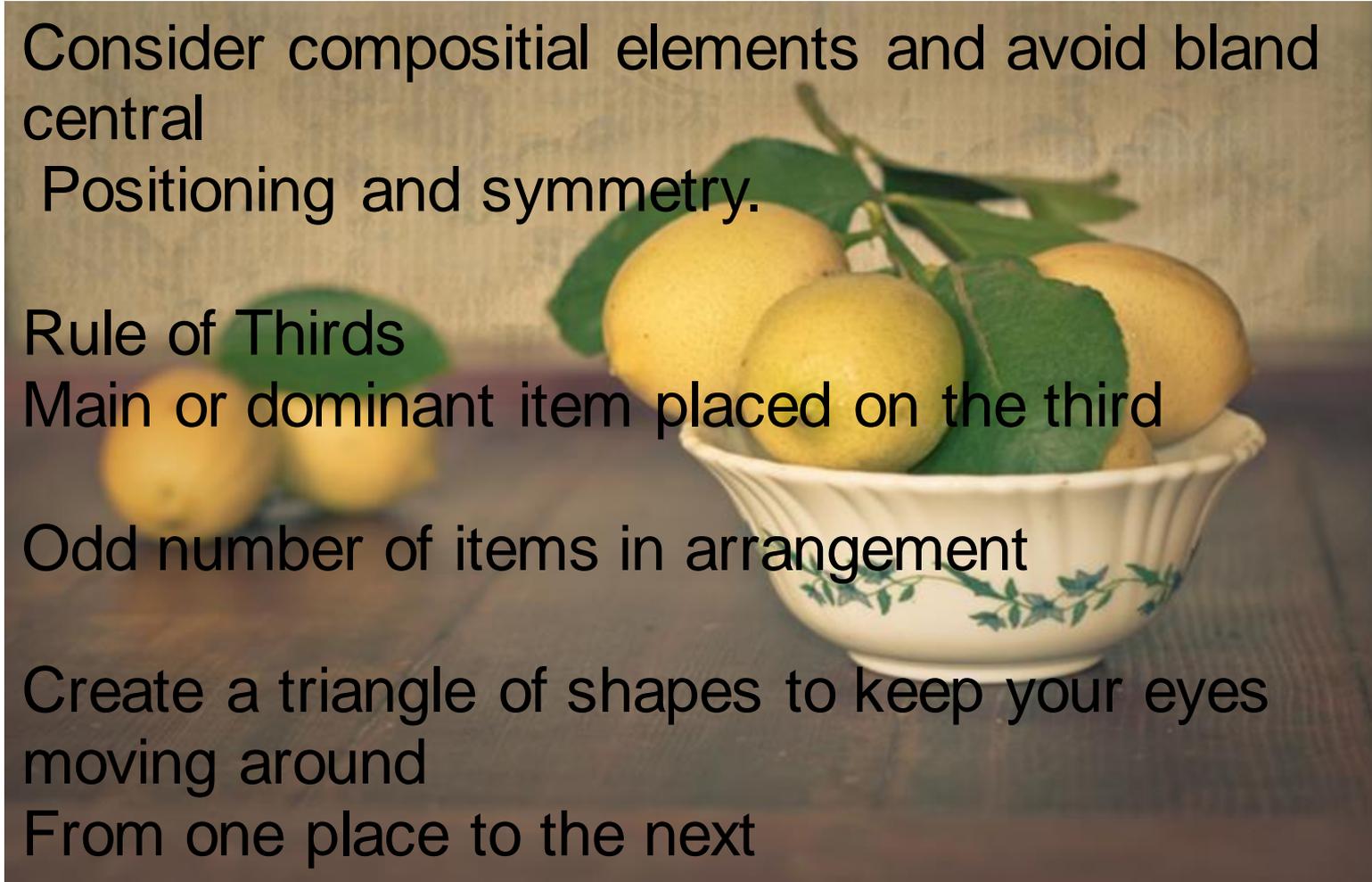
Main or dominant item placed on the third

Odd number of items in arrangement

Create a triangle of shapes to keep your eyes moving around

From one place to the next

Avoid just piling the fruit in a bowl let it spill from the bowl
Or Half eaten on a plate
Or Cut up pieces of fruit



Composition

Give the viewer some different things to look at by varying
The size, shape, texture and colour in your set up

Elevation

Have different size objects
- taller with shorter items

Create different levels through out your scene

Create a focal point

Theme - tell a story



Shadows

Think of placement in relation to light source

- small shadows
- no shadows
- long shadows

Strong light source from the side and some that is higher than

the still life often gives the best pleasing results

Shadows created by your still life objects are important shapes within the composition.

Strong light source will create more definitive and deeper shadows as well as creating greater contrast in form value of the object

Create A Flat Lay Still Life

For something a little different, a flat lay composition is a great option. This involves arranging your still life subjects on a background of your choice, and then shooting from directly above.

Flat lay compositions tend to look more contemporary than a traditional still life composition.

