

Household Still Life Challenge

A still life is a work of art that shows objects that don't move—like fruit, flowers, cups, and other things! The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts has several still life paintings in its collection. One of our favorites is *June* by Janet Fish. What items do you see?



June, 1999, Janet Fish,
Collection of the Kalamazoo
Institute of Arts

Play the Still Life Scavenger Hunt!

To make your own still life, you will need to find the following items in your house:

- A plant (real, plastic, toy, or handmade)
- Food (such as fruit, a cookie, eggs, or toy food)
- A drink
- A bowl or plate
- Something with an interesting texture
- A few items with interesting colors
- Something you love

Turn this challenge into a household scavenger hunt! Each person in your household can be assigned to find a few items from a category. Once you are all together again, you can decide which items to use for your still life.

Once you have all your items, think about:

- How will you put your items together? Try different arrangements. Maybe arrange them by color or shape?
- Should the objects overlap?
- What surface will you put your items on? A blanket, a nice table, or something different.
- Play with the lighting! Try positioning a lamp nearby, or setting up your still life in direct sunlight.

When You Are Finished:

- Take a picture and tag the KIA
#KalamazooInstituteOfArts
Instagram @KalamazooInstituteOfArts
Twitter @KzooInstArts
- Try drawing or painting your creation!

Check out this still life example made by one of the KIA staff!

