STILL LIFE AND HANDCOLORING
DEFINITION

Still Life images can be just about anything that doesn’t move. The definition of a still life subject is an inanimate object. It often involves subjects that are simple and commonplace, elevating the familiar and making them dynamic and interesting. They are life forms however they don’t move.

Because the subjects are smaller, lighting coverage is less and alternatively less power is needed. Rather than the need for a massive amount of studio equipment, still life setups can be lit with just daylight from a large window.

*After the Walk, Martin Zalba*

*Sánchez Cotán (Spanish Golden Age), Antonio Diaz*
WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL STILL LIFE PHOTO?

- Still life photography is a demanding art, one in which the photographers are expected to be able to form their work with a refined sense of lighting, coupled with compositional skills. The still life photographer makes pictures rather than takes them.

- All elements of picture making in still life photography are under control. The photographer ideally should be involved in the process of setting up the scene because the subjects arrangement is important.

- Still life photography often uses a neutral, unobtrusive background so as to not detract or distract from the subject.

- Lighting is crucial because still life subjects tend to be small. Studio lighting is not necessary but can be useful for control.
HOW IS THE GENRE USED?

• Still life photography is used in many different facets for a range of reasons. Some of them include:

• Fine art.

The Wave, Andrew Vernon

• Commercially such as advertising, food, book covers, etc.

Photo by Dennis Pedersen
Still life photography has been popular among photographers since the early 19th century, and still is today. Early photographers adopted the still life genre from the painters at the time.

In the early years of photography, still life was a practical and a creative choice. In the 19th century, exposure times were measured in minutes rather than seconds. Because of the need for long exposures, anything that moved would be very difficult to photograph such as landscapes or people.

"Still Life with Fruit and Decanter," by Roger Fenton circa 1860.
PAINTINGS

- Still Life With a Curtain by Paul Cezanne
- Wayne Thiebaud Cupcakes
During the early 1900’s, advertising discovered how powerful still life photography was and this caused advertising photography to be on the same level as fine art. Former art photographers were now in demand as commercial photographers.

MODERN EXAMPLES
OF STILL LIFE
PHOTOGRAPHY
STILL LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY- HOW HAS IT CHANGED?

• The term "still life" changed in the 20th century, creating a broader spectrum of photographs which could be defined as still life.

"Stopping Time" by scientist and photographer Harold Edgerton. The image captures a bullet piercing fruit at high speed.

“Storefront, Avenue des Gobelins,” by Eugene Atget, 1925. There aren’t any living figures in the photograph so it can’t rightfully be a portrait but because the mannequin subjects are inanimate, it could be considered a still life photo.
WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR YOUR STILL LIFE?

Still lives have a foreground, mid-ground, and background.

- This is the layering of objects in front of each other to create depth.

A window or lamp for a light source, you can use the curtain on the window as a filter to create an interesting lighting effect.

As a whole, the image becomes dimensional and the art element of movement is presented in the picture.
Where is the light source coming from in this photo?
SHALLOW OR DEEP DEPTH OF FIELD?
Shallow or deep depth of field?
HANDCOLORING
PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDELINES OF COMPOSITION: CONSIDER USING.....

RULE OF THIRDS

is applied by aligning a subject with the guide lines and their intersection points, placing the horizon on the top or bottom line.

The main reason for observing the rule of thirds is to discourage placement of the subject at the center.
You must have AT LEAST 12 Still Life Photos taken in class with a spotlight/flashlight or natural source (window).
For the rest.....

For the last 12 photos, shoot anything you think might look good with color added.
PROFESSIONAL EXAMPLES