

# KS5

## Art and Design

### Year 11 Summer Transition project

A knowledge and skills based project exploring different areas of Still Life.

The areas of study are meant as projects to get you thinking about Art both analytically and practically. You are required to complete Essential work and are encouraged to complete Desirable work. The tasks will be labelled top right on your page.

**The deadline for your transition work is Friday 2nd September 2022**

#### **Weekly Essential tasks:**

1. Using the National gallery website or other sources to research a **Vanitas artist**.
2. Create a **pastiche** (copy) of an art work in a media of your choice. Do this A4.
3. Label the objects and their meaning. You will have to research further to do this, and can use the information on slide 5 to help. **Thought Co.** is a good website for information on Vanitas Art.  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/vanitas-painting-definition-183179>
4. Write a paragraph on each of the following:
  - Research the meaning of Vanitas Art and other exponents.
  - What could the objects be about? Are they symbolic?
  - Why would artist like Jan Jansz Trek paint those objects?
  - How do the meanings of objects painted hundreds of years ago relate to today's world?
5. What objects would you choose for today? What could each object be symbolic of? Create your own **personal response** inspired by Vanitas Art.



**Curtain, Jug and Fruit bowl (1893-1894) by Paul Cézanne**

- **Still-life** is a painting or drawing of an arrangement of objects, typically including fruit and flowers and objects contrasting with these in texture, such as bowls and glassware.
- You will look at the symbolism of the objects. What do they mean to us and others? What significance do they have when put together in an arrangement? Can they relate a story/narrative?

**Narrative:** a spoken or written account of connected events; a story. Do the objects do this?

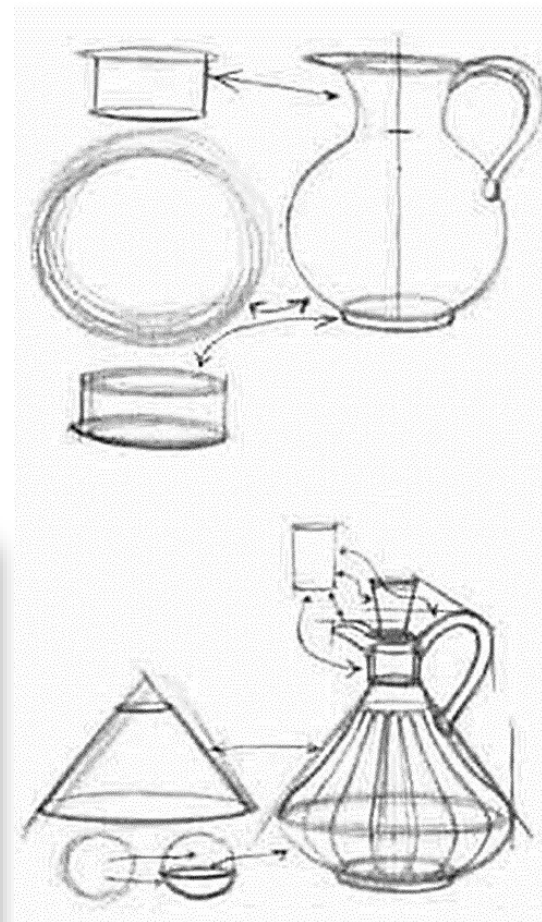
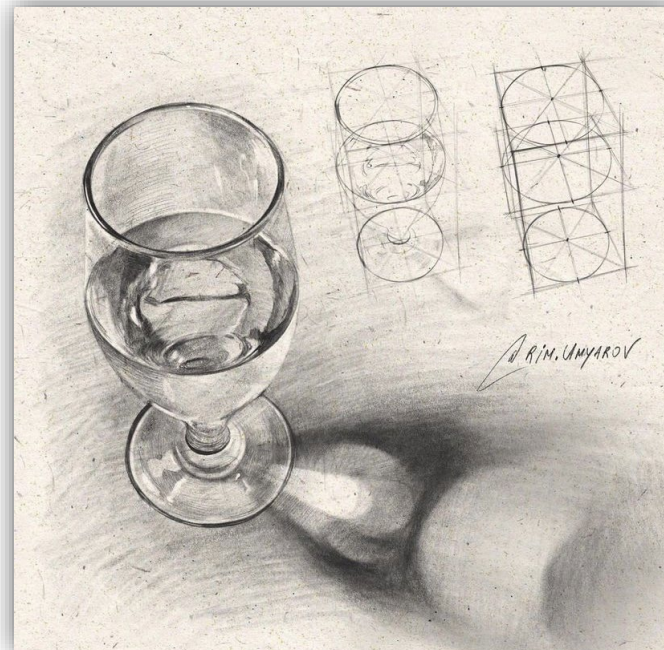
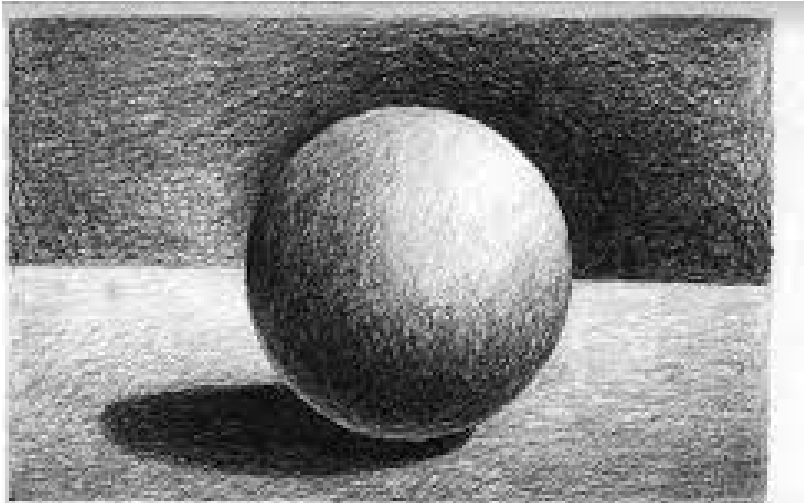
**Symbolism:** the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities. In this case objects

**Vanitas:** A still life artwork which includes various symbolic objects designed to remind the viewer of their mortality and of the worthlessness of worldly goods and pleasures

**Composition:** The arrangement of elements in a work of art.

#### Still Life: How to draw objects

- Look at each object and split it into simple shapes. Use geometric shapes to help you. Draw the light outline of the basic shapes.
- Draw a vertical line lightly and make sure it is in the middle. Use this line to help you plan each half of the object.
- Add detail. Use mark making techniques to create texture.
- Look at how the light source is affecting your object/s. Where is the light coming from? Is there reflective light or a shadow from another object?
- Start to shade in the shapes, looking for tonal changes across the surface. Vary the pressure with your pencil to create different tones.
- Use 2b and 4b pencils to create deeper tones.



- **Basic shapes**
- **3D**
- **Light sketches**
- **Tone**

Examples of Vanitas paintings



Still Life with Glass of Wine, pewter Jug and other Objects, Jan Jansz Treck



Vanitas Still Life, artist Jan Jansz Treck



Vanitas Still Life with violin and glass ball, 1628 by Pieter Claesz

*Vanitas still life with a skull, sheet music, violin, globe, candle, hourglass and playing cards, all on a draped table, 1662, by Cornelis Norbertus Gijsbrechts*



Vanitas still-lives, which are associated with artists in Northern Europe in the 16th and 17th century, depict objects with symbolic importance, which convey a narrative through their symbolism. These works are meant to highlight the fragility and transience of human life, depicting versions of mortality, as well as emphasise the emptiness and meaninglessness of worldly possessions. Artists still use this genre today.

#### Symbolism:

- Skull – The fragility of life and the inevitability of mortality
- Rotten Fruit – Aging and the passing of time. Mature fruits mean fertility and wealth, due to the abundance of being able to let fruit go rotten. Different fruits have different connotations, such as apples, tomatoes, grapes, peaches and pears meaning the fall of man, whereas apples and peaches, as well as figs and plums have erotic symbolism.
- Peaches – symbolises truth and salvation.
- Apple – wisdom, yet temptation and original sin.
- Watch, Hourglass or Timepiece – the transience and limitation of time.
- Books – Human curiosity and knowledge, and the limitations and temporary nature of this.
- Shells – a sense of exoticism and wealth, as they were not commonly found in the Netherlands, where Vanitas paintings originated. Only the very wealthy would be able to afford exotic items such as shells, therefore they represent a sense of vanity and uncouth ostentatiousness. Large shells symbolise lust and beauty, therefore hinting at lust as a sin and the power of temptation. Also a sign of death and frailty, as shells were often once homes for a living animal.
- Decaying Flowers – the decay of the body, and the inevitable mortality of human nature. Decaying flowers were often included in works with a variety of rich objects which depicted wealth, in order to contrast the beauty of wealth with the inevitability of impending death. Different flowers symbolise different virtues



Follow the steps and complete the tasks below to help you create your own Personal Response to Vanitas:

1. Looking at the guidance sheets, collect items together that have **symbolism** for you; Eg, A clock for time, a toy for childhood, etc. A skull is not necessary, but could be copied from the internet if really needed or something else decaying...a flower/fruit?
2. Arrange your chosen objects carefully and **photograph** your compositions.
3. Create 2 different **compositions** of these objects. Create an observational drawing for each composition. Both drawings should be **sketches**. Do this A5/ postcard size.
4. Choose your most successful composition and create a completed, **high quality drawing** A4 size. This time create a **full range of tone**. Really push the **shading** looking for subtle changes.
5. In a paragraph (5 sentences) explain the significance of the objects you have chosen.



**Key word:** Composition is the arrangement of elements in a work of art.

**Photography: Light and Dark**



**Assessment Objective 3:**  
Record ideas and observations.

Collect and carefully arrange glass objects. Take a minimum of 20 photos that show different viewpoints, angles and effective compositions. Play with the idea, Light and Dark, using lighting techniques.



Light makes an image seem brighter while shadow can draw drama to a certain part of an image's composition.