

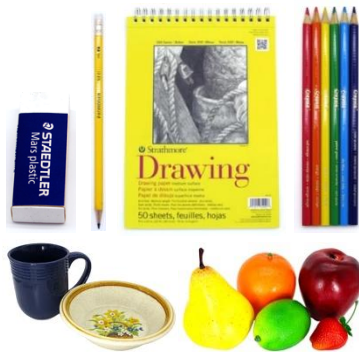
## Colorful Fruit Still Life

Draw a fruit still life using color pencil layering techniques for dimension, texture, and detail.

**draw** from the  
**COLLECTION**  
... at home!

### Supplies:

- pencil
- paper
- eraser
- colored pencils
- fruit (or wax fruit)
- bowls, plates, decorative fabric (optional)



Janet Fish (American, born 1938), *Embroidery from Uzbekistan*, 2008, oil on canvas.  
Museum purchase with funds provided by the Medici Society. 2009.8

### Step 1

Gather several items of fruit for the still life (approx. 5-7 items).

**Helpful hint:** for best results, select a variety of contrasting colors, sizes, and shapes to work with (ex: a tall green pear with a short red strawberry).

**Helpful hint:** use wax or plastic fruit if the still life will need to be set up over a period of several days to avoid fruit from changing color or wilting during the drawing process.

**Note:** real fruit can be altered (ex: cut in half, sliced into sections, etc.) to add more variety and detail to the drawing if desired.



## Step 2

Assemble the fruit into a still life arrangement.

**Helpful hint:** try several arrangements before selecting a final set up. Take a photo of the final arrangement for later use.

**Helpful hint:** use bowls, plates, or cloth to give extra pop to the fruits' colors (ex: orange fruit on blue plate). Bowls can also be turned upside down and used as a pedestal to add height to the composition.



## Step 3

Select the perspective for your drawing (ex: draw the entire still life vs. a close-up view of just a few objects).

**Helpful hint:** for best results, fill the entire page with the objects. Keep at least one object in-view if using a close-up perspective to provide context to the drawing.



full view



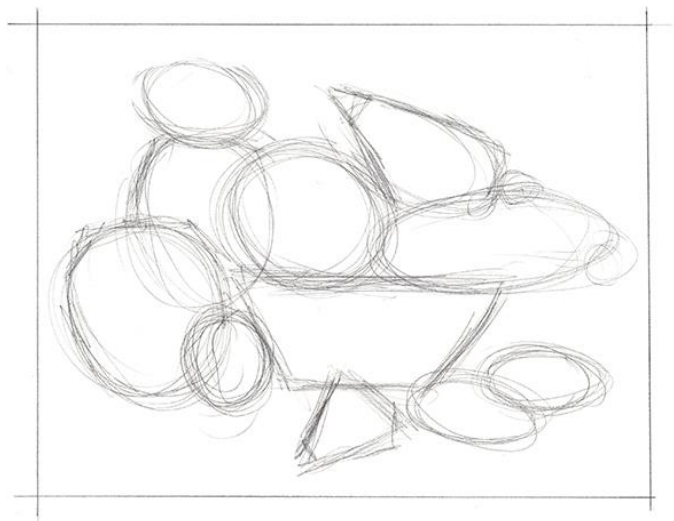
close-up view

## Step 4

Draw a boundary box at the full-size you wish for your final composition to be. Draw the basic geometric shapes of all the still life objects seen in your final composition (ex: circle for an orange, oval for a pear, etc.).

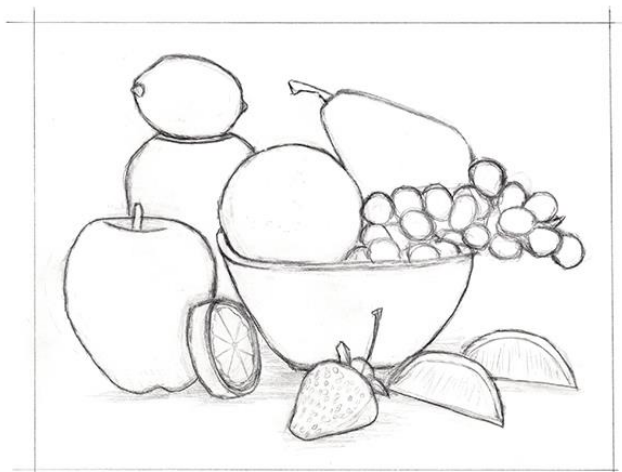
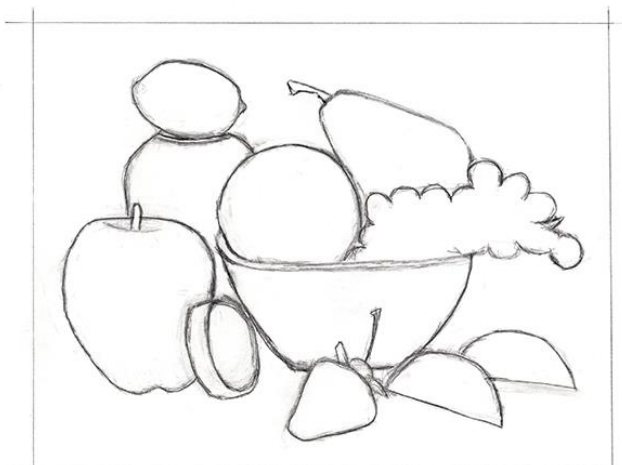
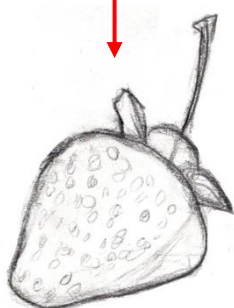
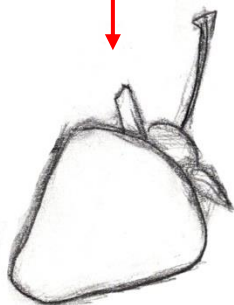


**Helpful hint:** compare the sizes of all the objects to accurately gauge proportions (ex: apple is twice as tall as strawberry, but apple is equal in height to pear, etc.).



## Step 5

Refine all outer contours of the geometric shapes to best resemble their corresponding elements (ex: refine triangle to look more like a strawberry, etc.). Draw lightly and erase former lines as needed.



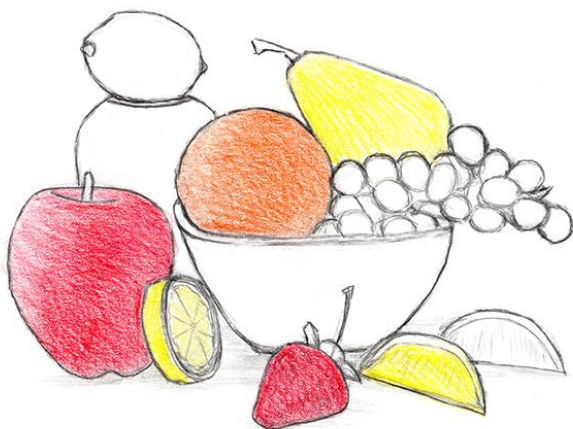
## Step 6

Lightly draw all interior shapes and refine those details as needed (ex: draw the individual grapes inside the shape representing the whole grape bunch or seeds seen in a strawberry shape).

## Step 7

Lightly fill in the base color of each object with colored pencils (ex: use just a base color orange first for an orange fruit).

**Helpful hint:** apply base color in a circular motion rather than straight lines to prevent rounded objects from appearing flat.

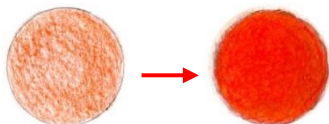


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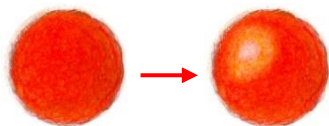
## Step 8

Add more layers of color and shadows to give the still life objects dimension and detail.

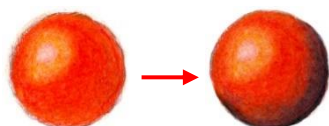
**Helpful hint:** enhance base colors by blending other similar hues into them (ex: add red to an orange base color) and by continually adding firmer pressure with each color layer.



**Helpful hint:** create highlights by layering white or lighter colors (ex: yellow) over the base color or use eraser to lighten areas of color.



**Helpful hint:** create rich color values by layering darker hues (ex: blue, brown, or purple) rather than black for shadows. Use black sparingly as it is difficult to erase and color over.



## Resources

[Color pencil blending techniques](#)

[Still life composition tips](#)

[Learn more about Janet Fish](#)

**draw** from the  
**COLLECTION**  
... at home!

Questions about or ideas for Draw from the Collection? Email [edu@daytonart.org](mailto:edu@daytonart.org)

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