

Fourth Grade: April
Lesson 6: Food Still Life
Oil Pastel

Objective: To create a still life of familiar food objects

Technique: Drawing with oil pastels

Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)

8 ½" x 11" white cover (card) stock paper

Pencils

Oil pastels

Visuals:

Still Life with an Open Drawer, Paul Cézanne

Sample artwork

Photographs of still life

Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Paul Cézanne, was known for his still life oil paintings, and one of the great impressionist artists. He did not draw his pictures before painting. He created space and depth of perspective by layering colors and creating visual interest. Show, *Still Life with an Open Drawer* by Paul Cézanne. Today you will be drawing a still life, focusing on form and composition, working with oil pastels. Show sample artwork.

1. Review (5 min)

- Pastel use and technique:

Holding and applying: Hold your pastel sideways (NOT a like pencil or crayon), between thumb and forefinger. Press softly but firmly on one spot of the paper; this will give you a short but broad mark/streak.

Blocking: Blocking is filling in a space with color. You can use the side or the tip of the pastels and color in your shapes. Your hand will control how dark or light you want to make the color—a bit more pressure on the pastel may make the color appear darker; and less pressure may make the color appear lighter.

Layering: Layering is done by starting with one color, then adding another color over the first one. These two layers will visually blend, making a lighter or darker color.

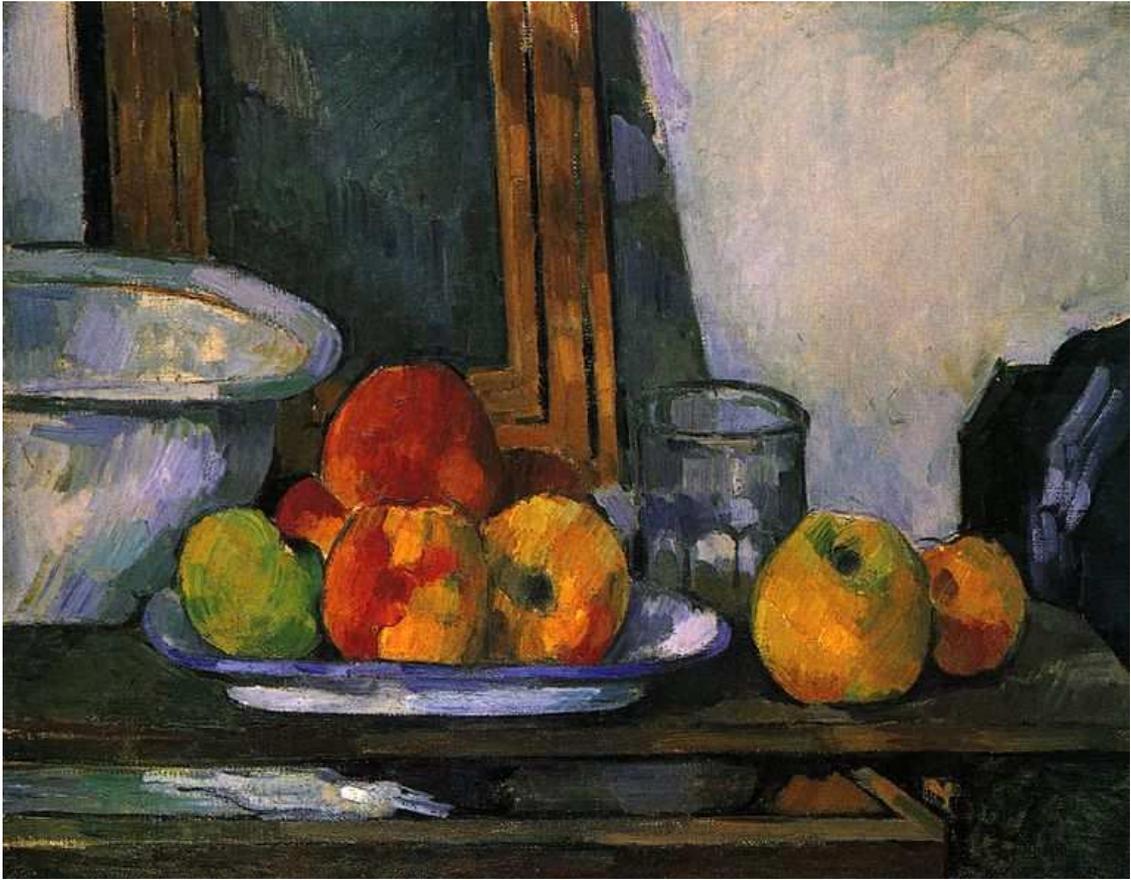
- **Tip:** Advise students to BE CAREFUL. Oil pastels are soft and the color transfers from your hand to the paper, and colors may not always blend completely.
2. Plan (5 min)
- **Show visual:** Photographs of still life (use document camera if available). Note the direction and shape of the subject; how the pieces are arranged; light source and shadows. Select a composition that appeals to you.
 - **Form**
 - a. Consider shapes: Identify the major shapes you see in your composition: Circles, ovals, curved lines, straight lines, etc. With overlapping subjects, shapes may not be complete.
- Composition**
- a. Consider scale: The still life selections will determine how big your shapes are, and their relative size to each other
 - b. Consider placement: Where the subjects go: groupings, on or off a bowl/plate, near the edge of a table, direction of subjects, etc.
 - c. Consider variety: Types of food (fruit, vegetables, cut, whole), how they are mixed.
3. Draw Still Life (15 min)
- **Sketch with a pencil :**
 - a. Choose the orientation of your paper (portrait or landscape)
 - b. Sketch horizon line
 - c. Sketch a platter or bowl, if desired
 - d. Sketch large shapes first, no detail is needed; keep composition (scale, placement & variety), and direction in mind. Add smaller shapes to accent.
 - e. Sketch any large shapes in the background. Keep general and with less detail; keep the fruit/vegetables as the main subject.
 - **Tip:** The scale and size of this artwork is important. Encourage large sketches, true-to-life size, give examples.
4. Block-in and Layer (30 min)
- Vary the pressure with pastels to create bolder, thicker and richer colors
 - You may choose to build up one color, or layer and blend different colors within each subject
 - Try to use different hues, or colors, next to each other; this way your fruit and vegetables will look very colorful and interesting (blue next to green, red next to orange, etc.). Avoid using only one color to block-in.
 - After your sketch is completed, block/color-in fruit and/or vegetables, covering all pencil lines
 - Start with main subjects, and complete them. Then work on horizon (table, surface, bowl), then last fill-in background (use different colors to create depth).

5. Complete and Share (5 min)

- **Light Source:** With the tip of a white oil pastel, add highlights to the subjects, being consistent with the direction of the light source
- **Shadows and depth:** With the tip of a darker color of an oil pastel, add shadows and depth by outlining and shading-in
- Erase any smudges with a soft eraser
- Make sure all pencil lines are covered
- Sign name
- Give a title
- Share

Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)

- Close the lesson, clean up the classroom
- Sharpen pencils
- Return pastels to containers
- Return all materials to bin
- Return all materials to the art closet
- Ask teacher where to store artwork
- Arrange time with teacher to display artwork



Still Life with an Open Drawer, Paul Cézanne



Sample artwork



Photographs of still life