>Art and Sciences
>Still life for New Perspectives

A still life painting is a work of art including generally natural materials like food, flowers, plants, dead animals; or common house objects like drinking glasses, books, vases, jewelry. The advantage of still life compositions is to offer the artist a lot of experimential independence at the arrangement of elements rather than a landscape.

In the Western painting, still life emerges with the Netherlandish painting at the 16th and 17th centuries. This particular genre usually uses the elements of the painting to convey symbolic meanings and present a "slice of life" from the painters point of view.

Jan Bruegel

Flowers in a Ceramic Vase

1620

-flowers as compositional elements

-dark background for contrast

-painter nicknamed as "Flower" Brueghel

-various flower species detailed present

-Greek mythological figures for symbolic meanings

Luis Egidio Meléndez

Still Life with Plums, Figs, Bread, Barrel Jug and Other Vessels

18th century

-food and dishwares as compositional elements

-dark background for contrast

-lower point of view to achieve monumental impact

-high and detailed textures

-Spanish delicatessen and culinary habits

-modest and daily life scenes

Vincent van Gogh

Sunflowers

1888

-flowers as compositional elements

-light background lower contrast

-lower details more "feeling"

-light/shadow difference minimised

-as percieved by the painter

-impressionism

Paul Cézanne

Still Life with a Curtain

1898

-additional fabric elements

-lighter backgroud color for lower contrast

-wider scene with backgroud elements

-more focus on color and shapes

-flowers as patterns on vase

-hunderts of hours worktime

-impressionism-cubism

Jean Metzinger

Fruit and a Jug on a Table

1916

-fruits and daily objects as compositional elements

-dark background for high contrast

-only forms and colors, almost no texture

-forms dramatised

-highly stylised and geometric

-cubism