



Still life and your senses

GRADES 1-3

Goodridge Roberts's painting *Still Life on Sideboard with Yellow and White Flowers* is full of colour and energy! With a bit of imagination, it engages the five senses.

Explore still life and your senses with the following activities:

ART ACTIVITIES

Expressive mark-making

Using paper and a pencil, marker or paint, try making lines that express a feeling. What would an excited line look like? What about an angry line? What about a sleepy line?

Draw fruit two ways

Find a piece of fruit such as an apple or a banana. Using a pencil and paper, make a drawing of the fruit. Observe it carefully and make your drawing as realistic as possible. Next, take another sheet of paper and draw the fruit again. This time use lots of colour and don't worry too much about making it look realistic—try to make it look exciting and full of energy!

Still life scavenger hunt

Create your own still life. Think of a theme for your still life. Maybe you include only blue items, or only objects that are made of wood, or perhaps a collection of your favourite things. Draw, paint or photograph your still life. For an added challenge. Try to find an object for each sense: something that has a smell; something with an interesting texture to touch; something that makes a sound when you move or tap it; a piece of food with an interesting taste; and something you like to look at, maybe it's your favourite colour.



Goodridge Roberts

Still Life on Sideboard with Yellow and White Flowers
1961, oil on panel

Purchase, Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund, Wintario matching funds, the Walter and Duncan Gordon Charitable Foundation, Dr Albert Fell, and the Gallery Association, in memory of Dr Ken Gunn, 1987
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If you'd like to extend the lesson beyond visual art, here are some other activities

Create a "favourite things" list

Create a list of your favourite things for each sense. What is your favourite smell, taste, touch, sound and sight? Why do you like these things? Describe what they smell, taste, touch, sound and look like.

Make a rainbow meal

Make a snack or meal for your family. Look through the fridge and cupboards and try to find things that you can eat of all different colours.

Sort and count objects

Take a look at Roberts's painting. Sort the objects you see into different groups. You could sort by colour, things that you can and can't eat, things that are man-made or natural. What are some other ways you could sort the objects? Count the number of objects in each group.

GLOSSARY

Still life: A still life is a type of art that focuses on still objects placed together. This often includes man-made objects such as books, glasses and candlesticks as well as natural things like cut flowers and fruit.

Man-made: A man-made object is made by humans. It is not something that occurs or is made naturally.

Senses: Our senses are how we observe and understand the world around us. The five main senses are sight, touch, smell, taste, and hearing. Each sense uses a different part of the body (sensing organs): our eyes to see, skin to touch, nose to smell, tongue to taste and ears to hear.