

Adding Color to Still-Life Drawings Inspired by the Exhibition *Between Sea and Sky*

Practice quick sketches based on elements of nature inspired by the designs found in the exhibition *Between Sea and Sky: Blue and White Ceramics from Persia and Beyond* on view through May 31, 2021.

Time: 45 minutes

Difficulty level: Moderate

Messy level: Low



Top: Japanese, *Arita Vase*, late 17th century, ceramic, Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation, Houston, BF.2014.9.

Between Sea and Sky: Blue and White Ceramics from Persia and Beyond is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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To view an image of this work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

First, Let's Warm Up!

Grab some paper, a pencil, and a stop watch. This is about practicing, warming up, and having fun, not about achieving perfection!

2 minutes: Fill up a paper by drawing as many different types of fruit of which you can think.

2 minutes: Draw your favorite fruit from memory.

2 minutes: Draw your favorite fruit again, but with your eyes closed.

1 minute: Find a photograph of your favorite fruit. Take a minute and quickly draw the fruit based on that image.

5 minutes: Using the same photograph, sketch it again but give yourself more time.

Now, It Is Time to Sketch!

Gather These Materials

- Sketch paper
- Drawing pencils (2B, 4B, 6B)
- Eraser
- Blending stump
- Ruler
- Cobalt blue colored pencil

To purchase recommended art materials, visit [dickblick.com](#).

Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Collect leaves, flowers, or vines that inspire you and arrange them on a plate as a still life.
2. Draw a quick outline of the larger shapes of the objects.
3. Slowly draw in the smaller shapes of the leaves and plants.
4. Observe and lightly sketch the lines on the leaves, petals, and plants gathered.
5. Find the shadows and the darkest parts of the still life. Use a 4B or 6B pencil to create these darker areas.
6. Take the cobalt blue pencil and start to add in the color blue to your sketch. It can be used as a filler for blank spaces or used to add additional highlights and shadows.
7. When appropriate, use different mark-making techniques like scribbling, hatching, and cross-hatching to fill in the plants and leaves.

Take it a step further and create your own blue and white plate or vase.

Remember: If you need a sketching refresher, check out previous [MFAH At Home](#) sketching instructions and videos here: