

Still Life Photography

- What is Still Life photography?
- Types of Still Life
- Where to find inspiration
- Kit List
- Camera settings
- Q&A



What is Still Life Photography?

Taking the ordinary and making it extraordinary... through:

- Composition
- Light
- Texture
- Colour





Types of Still Life Photography

- Flat lay
- Food
- Product
- Tabletop

Flat Lay

Shot directly from above

A bird's eye view



What is Still Life Food Photography?

Show food in an attractive way

Good enough to eat!



Product Photography

Show off a product without
distractions



Tabletop Still Life Photography

Photographing objects that are small enough to fit on a table.





Take inspiration from the Old Masters

Luis Meléndez



- Considered the greatest still life painter of 18th C Spain.
- Everyday objects
- Careful composition
- Texture
- Colour
- Light

Composition – main focus
Odd numbers

Texture

Colour

Light

Neutral background



Composition

Odd numbers

Texture

Colour

Light

Neutral background





COMPOSITIONAL TIPS

- Rule of thirds
- Odd numbers
- Leading lines
- Different sizes, height, shapes, widths, depth and tilts of objects – create balance
- Move, adjust, rearrange
- Choose objects that link together
- Keep it simple!



Lighting

Creates form, emphasizes texture and shadows, adds interest

- Candle
- Torch
- Window
- Lamp
- Softbox
- Light box

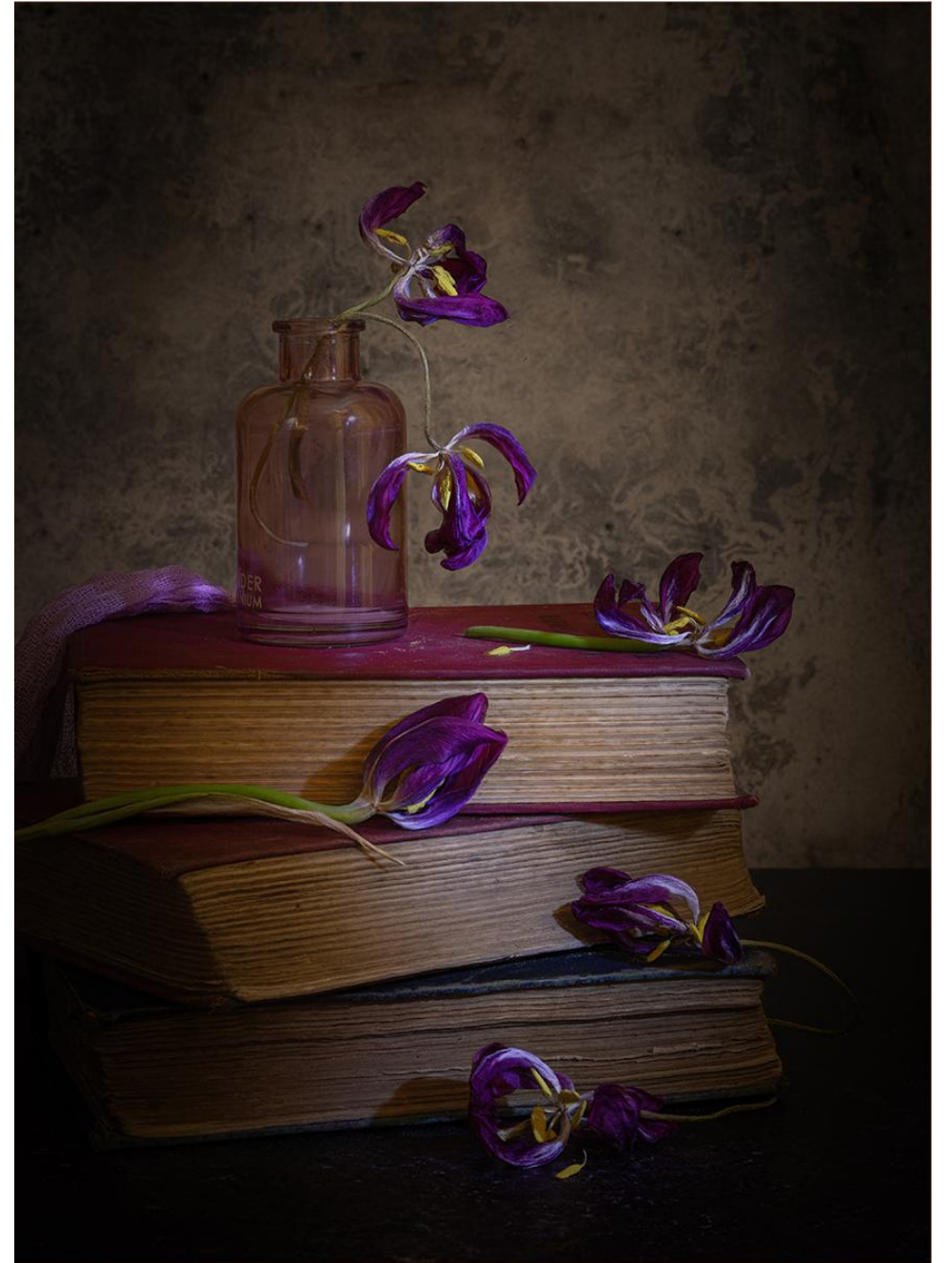
Kit list for Table Top Still Life Photography

- Tripod
- Cable release (or set camera on timer 2secs)
- Light source
- Reflector/diffuser
- Standard or medium telephoto lens:
- 50 – 200mm
- *Wide angle lenses are not particularly suited to still-life photography (less than 50 mm).*



Camera Settings

- Camera on a tripod
- Manual or Aperture priority mode
- Aperture: f/8 (to start, then vary)
- ISO 100



Questions



Compositional ideas

Rules of composition



Vertical



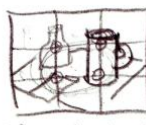
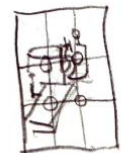
horizontal

Bullseye
Circle composition
- eye jumps from
one object to next.



Triangle
Composition

wide base + tall object



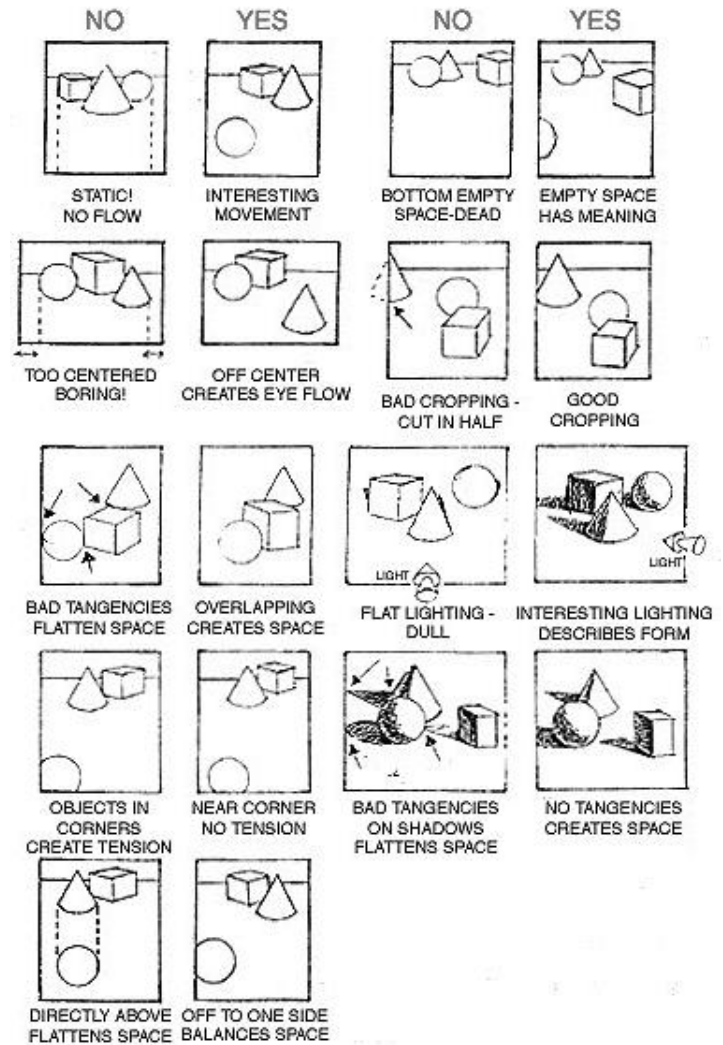
Rule of
Thirds $\frac{1}{3}$'s
tic tac toe

Important objects land at intersection
or on lines



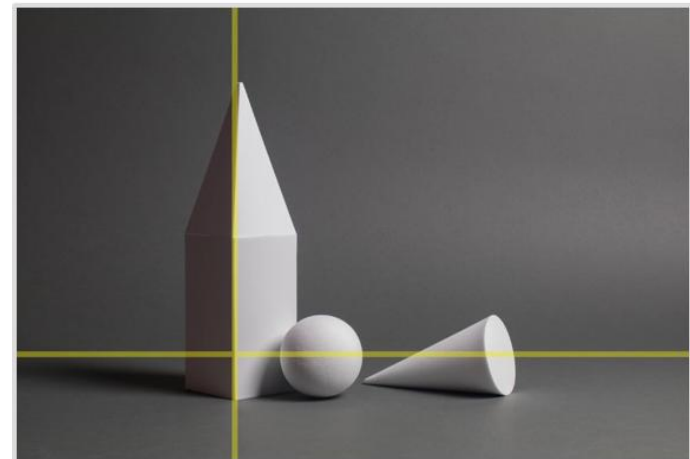
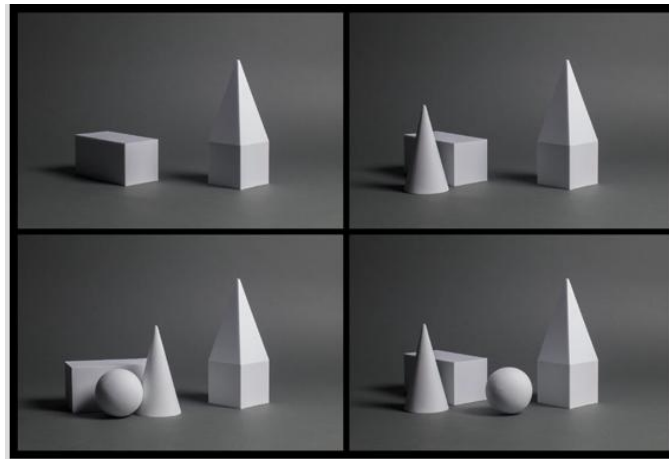
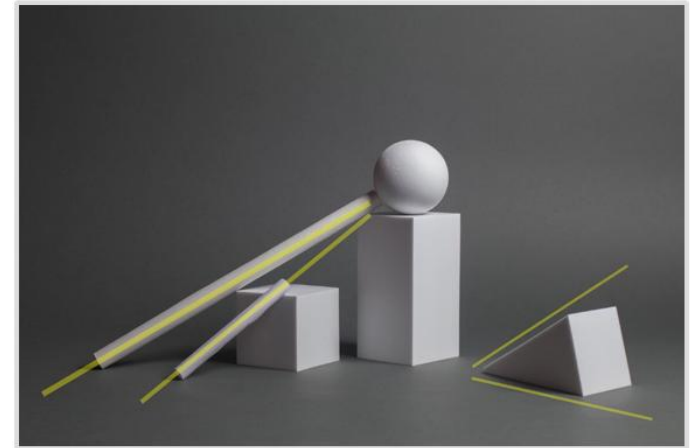
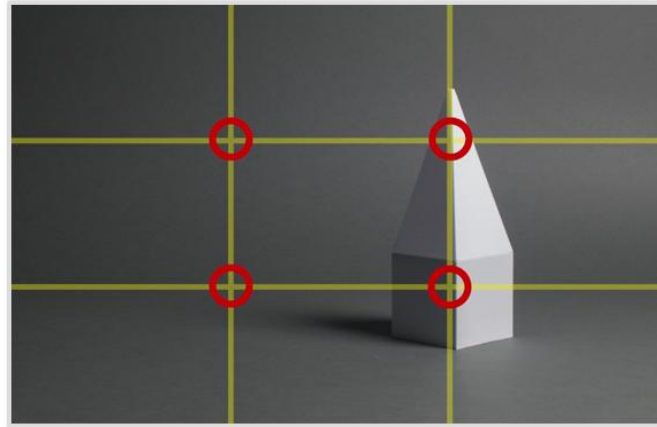
Rule of
thirds $\frac{1}{3}$'s
tic tac toe

Important things land at intersections
OR the lines.



Compositional ideas

- Rule of thirds
- Odds
- Leading lines
- Groupings
- L shaped



Top Tips Summary

- Composition – height, width, overlapping, objects at different angles, creative leading lines, flow within the image...Make lots of small adjustments
- Lighting – torch, lamp, softbox, window light
- Neutral background
- Choose objects that link together

