

# Knowledge Map: Composition

**Observational drawing** is drawing what you see in front of you It can be a flower, a person, a still life, a landscape,

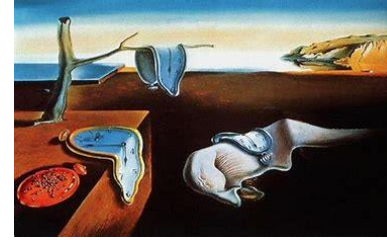
A **still life** is a work of art depicting mostly inanimate (not alive) subject matter, typically commonplace objects which are either natural (food, flowers, dead animals, plants, rocks, shells, etc.) or man-made (drinking glasses, books, vases, jewellery, coins, pipes, etc.).

## Composition

The term composition usually refers to the arrangement of the formal elements within a work of art.

An artist arranges the different elements of an artwork to bring them into a relationship satisfactory to them and, it is hoped, the viewer.

The artists thinks about the placement of colour, shape, line, tone, form, scale, texture.



Salvador Dali  
(Surrealism)

Audrey Flack  
(Realism)



Background

Arrangement of objects

Pattern

Texture

Proportions

Mid-ground

Scale

Tone

Colour

Form

Complimentary  
Colours

Shape

Orange and Blue



Foreground

## Things to think about when developing a composition:

- Does it tell a story?
- Have you created relationships?
- Consider all the formal elements of art. How you will use them in your own composition?
- Use rules of thirds if it feel appropriate to your design.
- Consider the background, mid ground and foreground or maybe your composition will be a close up?
- Design more than one composition before making an outcome.
- How can you make sure the audience looks at the main focal point?
- Could you create drama by using an unusual viewpoint?
- How can colour affect the atmosphere of the piece?
- Consider the balance of the piece.