



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

STILL LIFE INSPIRED BY FAIRFIELD PORTER

In the exhibition, [*Housebound: Fairfield Porter and his Circle of Poets and Painters*](#), you will notice indoor, or interior, scenes which include not only the people in Porter's life, but the many every day objects that are found in rooms: lamps, bowls of fruit, books, even a meal. Look at the painting below, what aspects does Porter pay attention to? Is this a portrait of his daughter, Katie? A scene with a view out the window? What about the objects on the table? Let's focus on those objects. Is it Katie's breakfast? Porter



chose to paint the objects in the foreground of his portrait. If we divide the painting in half, the objects appear as a separate painting, a painting of objects: a still life!

Fairfield Porter, American, 1907-1975, [*Katie at the Table*](#), ca. 1953, Oil on canvas, 32 1/8 x 35 1/8 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Estate of Fairfield Porter, 1980.10.53.

DAY 1

Materials

Paper

Color pencils

Crayons

Look around your house, is there a group of objects or a particular object you'd like to capture in your still life? Maybe you have a favorite toy you'd like to draw. Look closely at the object or objects. Remember, Porter didn't make his painting look like a photograph! He focused on the shapes and colors of the objects, and the shadows and highlights he saw, and the placement of the objects on the picture plane.

Sketch your shapes, and fill in with color. Press harder with a crayon or pencil to create a darker tone, press softly for a lighter one. Use light colors to capture the shape of reflections and darker colors for shaded areas. Think about composition- how are the objects placed on the surface? You can arrange them any way you'd like!



Fairfield Porter, American, 1907-1975, [Couple with Pears and Chrysanthemums](#), 1975, Oil on canvas, 33 x 45 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Estate of Fairfield Porter, 1980.10.181.

DAY 2

Materials

Paper

Pencil

Paint and brushes or markers

You can use the still life from yesterday for your inspiration, or change it. Move some objects to the background, or focus your gaze on one object. Sketch and paint your still life using any paint available to you. No paint? A water-based marker will work. Draw with your marker and go over your lines with a small amount of water with a brush or cotton swab.



TAKE IT FURTHER

Learn more about Fairfield Porter and the paintings he made in and around his homes. Check out the exhibition in person at the Parrish Art Museum and explore our website for more information about Porter on Artist Stories:

<http://parrishart.org/artist-stories/#/artists/8684590>

Housebound: Fairfield Porter and his Circle of Poets and Painters

August 7, 2020 - January 31, 2021



We would love to see what you made! To share, post your artwork on Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudios