

Art Activity #1

Make your own hand-coloured photo inspired
by Janina Green.



Janina Green, *Still Life series (Klytie Pate)*, 1988, hand coloured silver gelatin print, collection of the artist.
Copyright Janina Green. Image: Janina Green.

Recommended
for kids aged 8
and up

Key Idea

This activity is inspired by a beautiful still life by artist Janina Green. Still life means a depiction of objects, man made or nature. This could be a drawing, painting, sculpture, here we are using photography.

While Janina's work is colourful, it began as a black and white photograph that she took of both ordinary and special things she found in her home and arranged: a ceramic lampshade, an orange half peeled, a pearl necklace, and a bunch of wattle.

Notice how interesting the light is... coming from one direction it casts great shadows and shines on different surfaces, such as glass, pottery, peel and wattle. The space we look at is quite shallow, the objects are up close.

Janina then hand-coloured the photograph with special 'Pelikan' inks to make an evocative observation of domestic life.



Left: Janina Green, *Still Life series (Klytie Pate)*, 1988, hand coloured silver gelatin print, collection of the artist. Copyright Janina Green. Image: Janina Green.

Right: Janina Green, working photograph for *Still Life series (Klytie Pate)*, 1988, silver gelatin print, collection of the artist. Copyright Janina Green. Image: Janina Green.

Have a go at making your own still life artwork like Janina Green.

YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 – 2 hours
- A smartphone or digital camera
- A black and white printer
- Coloured pencils or watercolours
- Paper
- A collection of still life objects
- A desk lamp

Process

1. Take a look around your home and ask for permission from you parents/guardians to carefully choose and gather some decorative domestic objects, fruit and flowers from around your home for the still life. If the objects you are working with are precious ask your parent/guardian to help you with this project.
2. Arrange the objects you have chosen on a table or desk. Try moving the objects into different positions until you are happy with how they look together.
3. Use a desk lamp and/or the daylight coming in from a window to light your objects. Experiment with the placement and direction of the light source in relation to the objects.
4. Use your camera or smartphone to take a series of photos of your arrangement from different angles and perspectives.
5. Looking at your photographs, see how where you will stand to take the photo, changes what the viewer sees. In Janina's photograph she is standing quite low, so we look across at the still life.
6. Have a look at all the photos you have taken and choose your favourite image to print and colour.
7. Print your selected photograph in black and white
8. Use colour pencils or water colours to delicately apply colour to different areas of your image. Build up areas of intensity until your artwork is complete.
9. Show us your artwork! (Please find submission form on page 5)

Reflection

Still life is one of the main themes of Western art. The subject matter of a still life artwork includes all kinds of man-made objects or natural objects including cut flowers, partly peeled fruit, vegetables and so on.

Still life objects can either symbolise a celebration of beauty and material pleasures, or a warning about the passing of time and impermanence of life. For example, images of clocks, wilting flowers, broken things and hunted animals such as foxes and rabbits symbolise the passing of time and fragility of life.

Do the objects in your still life tell a story or have any special significance to you or your family? What is the symbolism and meaning in your artwork?

FURTHER READING

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Still_life

ABOUT THE ARTIST JANINA GREEN

The daughter of Ukrainian parents, Janina Green was born in a displaced persons' camp in Germany. Her family migrated to Gippsland, Victoria in 1949 and she spent her childhood growing up there in the small country town of Yallourn North. For 20 years she worked as a secondary school art and crafts teacher. During this time, she studied printmaking and art history. Her hand coloured photographs explore personal and reflective themes of domesticity, motherhood, psychology and the feminine while creating a dialogue between memories of the past and their relationship to the present. Janina is currently exhibiting at the Castlemaine Art Museum.

Show everyone your artwork!

Email us your artwork for display in our online gallery.

Please email this filled in form, and an image of your artwork to frontofhouse@castlemainegallery.com.

Your Details

First name:

Age:

Title of your artwork:

Do you have your parent/guardian's permission to send in this artwork? Please tick box to confirm:

Do you and your parent/guardian agree to the CAM KIDS RULES: Terms and Conditions below?

Please tick box to confirm:

CAM will try to showcase all artworks that are submitted in our online gallery, but they have to be within CAM KIDS RULES (Terms and Conditions). Once you fill in this form and email your artwork we will check it in the next week.

CAM KIDS RULES: Terms and Conditions

Read this section with your parents or guardian:

1. CAM staff will check all artworks before they go online to make sure they are suitable for everyone. We will use our discretion to make sure the artwork is not rude or scary for others before it is published,
2. Please don't include yourself in photos of your artwork.
3. If you send us your artwork, it means that you and your parents/guardian are happy for CAM to publish it in our KIDS gallery and promotions now and into the future.
4. When you send us your artwork, it should be work that you've created. Make sure you only use your first name when submitting artworks.

Thank you for your time and your work!