

How Artists Assemble Still Lives

Student Worksheet 3



Still Life with Peaches, a Silver Goblet, Grapes, and Walnuts, about 1760, by Jean-Siméon Chardin (French, 1699–1779), Oil on canvas, 14 7/8 x 18 3/8 in., 86.PA.544

INSTRUCTIONS: As we have learned, artists use objects of particular shapes to create still lifes. Sometimes the composition itself is a series of shapes. To see this, take your pencil and draw a triangle around the goblet, peaches, and grapes and along the bottom of the ledge. Using a pencil, color in the areas outside that triangle. What shapes do you see?

Artists also use repeated shapes to add movement to the composition. Inside the triangle, what shapes are repeated?