

How to take a stunning still life photo at home

The best thing about still life photography is that you can really take your time to get it perfect. When shooting moving subjects, it can be tempting to stick your camera in [auto mode](#) for fear of missing a shot, but if your subject is stationary then you can experiment until you get it right. That's why it is a fantastic genre for practising with manual modes.

What's more, there are subjects wherever you look. You don't have to stick to a bowl of fruit or vase of flowers, although they do make for beautiful shots; just let your imagination run wild and get creative with whatever you can find. Still life photography is also a great way of showing off your kitchen or craft creations, as once you have taken your shot you can [share it](#) with the world online.

Once you have found your subject, you can experiment with ways of shooting it. Try making use of shadows or [reflections](#) and look for interesting angles. You can even give your shot an added wow factor with a bit of creative editing. Let us guide you through the process of capturing a still life masterpiece.



1.

Find a subject

When looking for still life subjects, keep an eye out for interesting colours, patterns and textures. You could shoot one subject on its own, or group objects together. [Flowers](#) and

[food](#) are good starting points, you're likely to have lots of objects at home that will work just as well.



2.

Pick a theme

Rather than just bunching a group of random objects together, try and find objects that work within a particular theme. You could work around an item you have already found, or decide on a theme first and then find subjects that will fit it.



3.

Add a simple backdrop

Make sure there are no distractions in the background of your shot, or zoom right in to crop them out. You could [add your own backdrop](#) using a piece of card or paper and experiment with different colours that compliment your subject.



4.

Pick your settings

If you're confident with shooting in [manual](#), then this is a good time to practice your skills, however a slightly easier starting point is to switch to [aperture priority](#) mode. Pick a narrow aperture (large f-number) to keep everything in focus but widen it (pick a smaller f-number) if you want to create more background blur. Your camera will pick the shutter speed for you, but if you are shooting in [low light](#) then it may set a slow speed that will mean you will need to use a [tripod](#). Keep your ISO at 100 unless your shots are too dark.



5.

Light the shot

Natural [light](#) is best for your shots, so either shoot outside or by a bright window. For an even coverage of light, either [fire your flash](#) or bounce the light back into the shadows using a reflector. However, shadows can sometimes enhance a still life shot, adding more depth and interest, so consider what works best for your image.



6.

Create a home studio

Alternatively, you could shoot using artificial light and create your own home studio. Fix a piece of paper to the wall as a backdrop, then place a desk lamp to the side. To soften the light from the lamp, place a piece of tracing paper in front of it.



7.

Get creative

You can get as creative as you want with still life, so consider adding different effects to your shots. Some camera's have built-in filter effects that you can experiment with, or you could apply [creative edits](#) using editing software. Many editing programmes have preset effects that you can add with one click.

For more fantastic photography tips and tricks, see:

[How to edit your photos creatively](#)

[How to take great shots in low light](#)

[How to choose a backdrop for still life](#)

[Story behind the shot: Still life](#)

[Tips for mouth-watering food photography](#)

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[BH2.6](#) **Beginners Guide to Successful Still Life Photography**

Still life photography depicts inanimate subject matter and has creative arrangement of things. It is the kind of [photography](#) that gives the photographer the freedom to set up the subject in a manner he wants. The photographer also have a lot of time to spend in taking pictures, thus, giving him more chances of taking a good shoot. But still life photography is also challenging for one has to make use of good lighting, good compositional skills and good angle. Every still life image has a story to tell. It depends on the photographer on how he can tell the story through images.

Undoubtedly, **still life photography** is an interesting field. Many amateur and professional photographers are into it. But for [beginners](#), you might need a little input in order for you to come up with a good still life photograph. Today, we will be giving you a little help to serve as your benchmark in still life photography. The tips we have below can also aid you to ensure that your images will pop out a unique character. Here we go:

1. Think of a good concept.



Image: [Carlo Pautasso](#)

You can do this first in order to come up with a good result. Try to think of what story and message you want to convey. You can also think of certain colors that you want to use or textures that you can combine. This way, you will have an idea on what you kind of image you want to get and how you will design the set up.

2. Look for interesting subjects.



Image: [Lotte Grønkjær](#)

Look for something unique and simple. That would be good for the first shot. Avoid using glass and metal for it would be difficult for you to take a shot of it. Once you have mastered still photography, you can now combine various materials. Aside from looking for objects and arranging them for the purpose of photographing it, you can also look for some subjects that tell a story and looks interesting. Still life can also be done even outdoors as long as you can make still objects look alive. You do not necessarily set up your subject. Even those that are already there can be a good subject.

3. The location of set up.



Image: [Black World](#)

If you think that you need to be in a studio in order to get a good result for still life photography, you are wrong. You can even set up a set at home. Look for a place in your home where there is good lighting. You can also place your subject in a table near a window or an open door. You can use thick curtain to block so much light.

4. Lighting.



Image: [Andy Barnes](#)

When you have chosen a location for your subject, you have considered the proper lighting that you would need. Look for a room that can give you ample light. If you want to block some light, you can use curtains. You can also use lamps if you want to. Try to position it in a manner you want to control the light on your subject.

You can also use tin foil or a large white paper to add some reflection. Use side lights to give texture, shape and dimension to the subject. Lighting doesn't need to be expensive. Also, don't forget to consider your camera's flash.

5. Choose a good background.



Image: [Ruta Korshunova](#)

Make sure that your backdrop looks good on camera. No matter how beautiful your subject is, it would be worthless if your backdrop is crap. Use a simple backdrop so that the attention will be centered to your subject. You can look for a clean white wall or you may place a white sheet behind it. But if want to use a different color for your backdrop, look for one that is appealing and won't steal the attention from the subject.

6. Image composition.



Image: [Ozure Flame](#)

It is important to have the best composition for your image. You can do this by combining objects of various sizes, color and texture. Consider the amount of negative space that you will use. You may want to consider the rule of thirds to give it a nice look and a strong composition. See to it there are no distractions in the image.

7. Focus.



Image: [Jjuuhhaa](#)

In taking a picture of your subject, use a small aperture to increase the depth of field. This will make everything sharp. Try to get shots of different focus, too. This way, you can choose which ones look better. Also, make sure that you will not make it blurry due to some movements while taking the image.

8. Use a sturdy tripod.



Image: [Sven Fennema](#)

You will not like it if your images have blurs. So, have a good support by using a tripod. This will help you to position the camera in the manner you want. You can also make sure that your still image would look good the way you want it. It can even save you from holding the camera for long hours.

9. Experiment shots.



Image: [Andy Barnes](#)

Unlike other photography, you are given all the time to experiment various shots and angles in your subject. Adjust your lighting in different ways and try to check your shots which one looks best. This is the advantage of still life photography because your subject won't get tired, won't wear out and would always be there.

10. Look for inspirations.



Image:

[Emma Crossland](#)

Before you actually go into still life photography, you might want to be more inspired by looking into the works of renaissance still life artists. Their works can tell you what still life really means. Also, look into photography works of experts. Try to study on how these images were taken. This way, you will not only be inspired but you will also learn how to get great still life images. Look into the shades, the colors, the composition, the lighting, and everything that is in the picture. You can also observe that each one gives a unique story making it engaging.

It's Your Turn Now

Seeing the images above would inspire anyone to take their own still life photographs. Still life images are indeed charming. What makes them even more attractive are the stories that are seen behind each of them. **Still life photography** is not mere taking a picture of a subject but it is giving life to objects that are still. Have you tried doing still life photography? Would like to share some important points to us?

[EZ](#)