still life - a focus on composition and objects through colour, texture, paint and collage.

Natura Morta, the Italian description for the still-life genre, directly translates to “dead nature” and refers to the stillness or inanimate properties of a composition’s elements. Giorgio Morandi was the most famous artist of this genre in the 20th century. With great sensitivity to tone, colour, and compositional balance, he depicted the same familiar bottles and vases in paintings repeatedly, which became notable for their simplicity of execution.

(Giorgio Morandi)

about:

In this class you will develop the skills and confidence to create an impressive still-life. Students will look at examples from a variety of styles and periods with a focus on the use of texture, colour, composition, and pattern.

In particular, students will look at the artists Giorgio Morandi & Henri Matisse, comparing their styles of muted tones versus bold pattern. More periods and styles will be explored through such artists as: Pablo Picasso, Stuart Davis, Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Francisco de Goya, Juan Sánchez Cotán and Georges Braque.

Students will explore how elements such as colour and object placement can be indicators of a certain mood and set a certain tone. Painting and collage techniques will be developed to create wonderfully rich still life artworks.
session 1 - composition, measurement and tone.

- Students will look at the work of Morandi & Matisse, discussing similarities & differences
- Students will learn how to correctly measure proportions & angles
- Students will be taught the principles of creating a 3D effect through shading, tone and perspective

session 2 - creating an interesting colour palette in painting

- Colour wheels will be used to learn about colour combinations (complimentary, monotone, analogous) and creating tones and hues
- Students will be taught about how composition and colour is used in painting to create expression and meaning - discussion and viewing of a variety of artists still life works
- Students will begin painting their final composition.

session 3 – expression, feeling and the final painting.

- Students will focus on creating 3D forms through tonal gradation in paint (highlights and shadows)
- Students will use their chosen colour palette to build up their work, creating a foreground and background
- If students have completed their paintings they will begin a second still life, exploring the technique of collage.
- Investigating colour, tone and texture through paper, how these can be used to create an interesting still life.

session 4 – a finished painting!

- Using the skills that have been acquired in the previous lessons, students will aim to complete their still-life painting.
- Students will apply their knowledge of composition, colour and tone to complete a proportionally correct and interesting collage still life.

Activities
- Quick sketches, tonal practice
- Pencil drawing the final composition
- Practice mixing colours and creating tones and hues with paint
- Experiment with techniques for creating texture using paint
- Find a limited colour palette (to be used for a final piece)
This course will link into Zoe’s fascination with the power of colour and ‘the object’.

Students will need to keep a sketch book as there will be occasions where we will have quick sketch activities. A variety of artists and different types of still life artworks will also be explored and having a sketchbook at hand means that you will be able to practice both sketching your ideas and jotting down written notes, ideas or information about artworks that interest you. These can then be used or referenced in the final painting or at a later stage for another artwork.

**Aims:**

Development of:

- Observational drawing and painting skills
- Analysing tone and colour
- Understanding how to create correct measurement and proportion
- Painting techniques
- Creativity and self expression in painting

**Timings:** Saturdays 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Duration:** 4 consecutive weeks

**Age:** adults

**Cost:** 440AED

**Materials needed:** Canvas or Artist paper (for oil paints). Sketchbook. Pencils HB, 2B. (eraser, sharpener) Oil paints (Titanium white, black, red, yellow, Ultramarine blue), Brushes (thin & medium), Palette knife. Linseed oil or Turpentine (turpentine also cleans brushes, try to get odourless) for thinning if using oil paints. Kitchen roll. Palette

**Enrollment:** on going, students can join at any time.

**Tutor:** Zoe Notara

**To register call 043414777 or email artsreception@ductac.org**