
Looking at Van Gogh

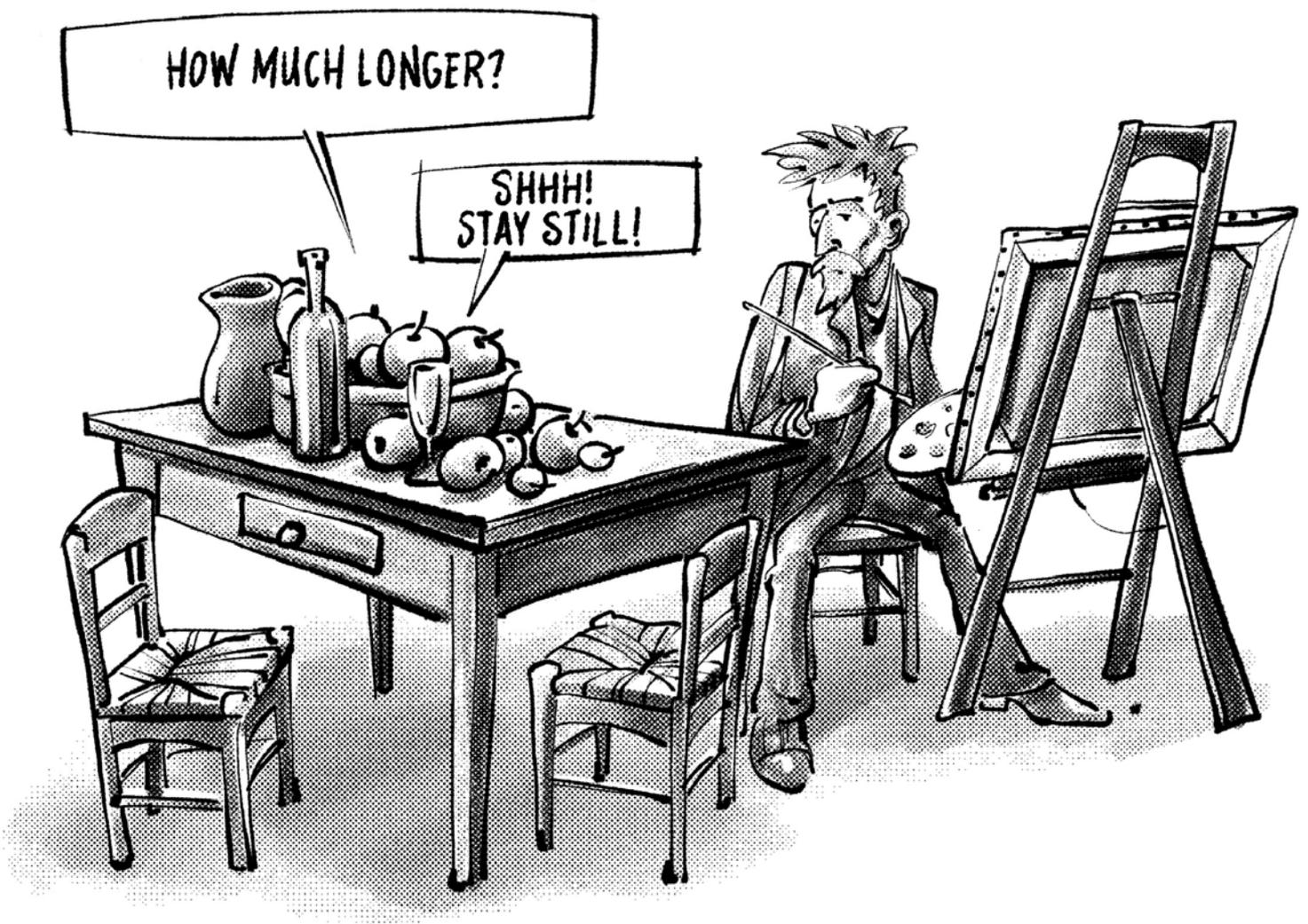
Van
Gogh
Museum

Amsterdam

Still life

Welcome to the Van Gogh Museum! Learn all about Vincent van Gogh's work with this guide. Form your own, personal opinion of his paintings. Make use of what you see, what you *know*, and what you can *find out*.

A still life is a group of objects that don't move. The name "still life" says it all: life is made still for a while. Vincent often painted still lifes. He didn't need to go outside to paint them - there were always objects within reach.



1 Still life

Look for a still life that appeals to you. Which did you choose?

Title

Year

Place

2 What do you see?

What objects has Vincent painted here?

.....

.....

3 What's your view?

A What do you think of the subject of the painting?

I think it's

.....

B Would you also have chosen these objects to paint?

Yes, because

.....

No, I would choose

.....



4 How does he do that?

A Look at the work from a distance. What colours do you see?

At a distance

.....

.....

Now look again, close up. What colours do you see?

Close by

.....

.....

B Look again at the objects. Do they look flat or 3D?

The objects look flat.

The objects look 3D.

5 Style

A How would you describe Vincent's style in this work? Circle the words you agree with:

Colourful	Not very colourful
A bit messy	Neat and tidy
Dark	Light

B Screw up your eyes and look at the painting again. Do you stick by your choices?

Yes No, now it looks

6 Why a still life?

A What do you think Vincent wanted to achieve with this still life? You can tick more than one answer.

- He thought that it would sell well.
- He wanted to try out colour combinations.
- He wanted something special for his house.
- He wanted to practise working with light and dark.
- I have another idea. I think that he

B What makes you think that?

Because

7 The composition*

A In still lifes, painters usually try to arrange the objects in an interesting way. Do you think Vincent succeeded in this?

Yes No

B Draw the most important objects in the still life below:



C Add at least two extra things to your drawing and see what effect that has.



* Composition: the way objects are placed in the image; the arrangement.

