Still Life Painting

William Henry Johnson, *Untitled, Still Life with Flowers*, watercolor and pencil on paper, ca early 1930s, Borrell Collection, Florence County Museum

Holcha Krake Johnson, *Still Life with Yellow Flowers*, watercolor on paper, ca early 1930s, Wright Collection of Southern Art

William H. Johnson and his wife, Holcha Krake, occasionally painted still life paintings. A still life is a painting of arranged objects.

What do you notice about the paintings above? How are they the same? How are they different?

1. Gather the following materials:
   - Pencil with eraser
   - Paint brush or cotton paint swab
   - Watercolor palette and a cup with water
   - Sheets of paper
   - Vase, jar or cup
   - Flowers or small branches (Artificial or Real, Dandelions work well!)
2. Put your flowers in your vase (or jar, or cup) on a table.
3. Using a pencil draw a horizontal line showing the edge of the table.
4. Draw the flower vase. Look carefully at the shape. Follow the outline of the vase with your eyes. If it doesn't look right, erase your lines and try again.
5. Draw the flowers and/or leaves. Look at the shape of the flower petals or leaves. You don't have to draw every petal for it to look like the flower.
6. When you are happy with your pencil drawing, you are ready to paint.
7. Paint your flowers with watercolor paint to bring your flowers to life.
8. Your Flower Still Life Painting is complete! Allow it to fully dry before display.