

Art A Day CHALLENGE: A Clockwork Tangerine...Organic vs Geometric

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day during school closures! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE. The order you complete the challenges is up to you!



John Bannon

A Clockwork Tangerine, 1996

Oil on panel

LOOK at this painting by John Bannon called *A Clockwork Tangerine*. Look at the realism of textures in the tangerine peel and its juicy interior. Notice how the warm orange contrasts with the cool blue ribbon which takes our eyes back to the gray-blue clock face. One of the artist's favorite themes is the contrast between **geometric**-mechanical and **organic** shapes and elements. In this painting, the working parts of the clock serve as the **geometric**/or mechanical portion, for example: its gears, nuts and bolts, screws, and hands. The organic shaped object is the tangerine and its peel.

THINK about the objects around your home. Which would you considered to be **organic**? Which objects would you consider to be **geometric**/mechanical? Set up different still life options. Try to create as much contrast between **organic** and **geometric**/ mechanical objects as possible. Think about colors, subjects, textures, and objects' purposes. Are the organic shapes you found man-made or found in nature? How about the geometric shapes?

MAKE a still life that creates a contrast between at least 2 objects, one with a **geometric** shape and one with an **organic** shape. Remember a few still life tips: Try not to draw objects right in the middle of the page; figure out a way to make the lighting interesting (maybe set a desk lamp up or use a window's natural lighting), remember proportion matters (make sure your object sizes make sense when they are next to each other). Title your work in the spirit of this **organic/geometric** contrasting theme!

Writing Prompt Extension: List descriptive words for each of your objects. Create a poem to include the contrasting, descriptive words!

Stuff you'll need: Materials are up to you! Read through the challenge and make your decision based on your idea! ALL ART MEDIUMS WELCOME: cellphone cameras, pencil, paper, clipboards, erasers, paint, etc.!

Words you need to know:

Organic shape are shapes that are irregular or asymmetrical in appearance and tend to have a curvy flow to them. Nearly all shapes found in nature are organic in appearance.

Geometric and Mechanical shapes are shapes made out of points and lines including the triangle, square, and circle. Other shapes are so complex that it takes math in order to create them. These shapes are the opposite of organic shapes. While geometric shapes are more precise and often man-made, organic shapes are natural

DID YOU KNOW?

The title of the painting sounds a lot like a book called *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess. Like the painting, the title of the book also explores the contrast between the natural, organic orange and the mechanical man-made clock.

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