

Still Life
Photography

Genre used for the depiction of
inanimate subject matter,
typically a small group of objects

Two types of still life:

Found Still life

and

Created Still Life

Found Still Life

Still life that you run across naturally
rather than setting it up









Created Still Life

Still Life where *you* create an image
rather than capture a moment

You have virtually full control



You are the artist!



And, because the elements in
your photo don't move,
you have TIME ...



Time to select the components of your
subject

Time to choose your background

Time to experiment with composition

Time to play with your lighting

Best of all, *you* don't need a
lot of fancy equipment

Four Important Steps

Subject

Background

Composition

Lighting

Subject

Traditionally when we think of still life, we think of a vase of flowers or a nice arrangement of fruit or vegetables





But, subject matter can be anything -
really is not significant

What's important is finding an appealing
feature, something of interest

You can group a bunch of items
together simply because
you like them
or, they look pleasing
or, they relate to a story

You can use a group of objects based
on their shape, color, function, texture

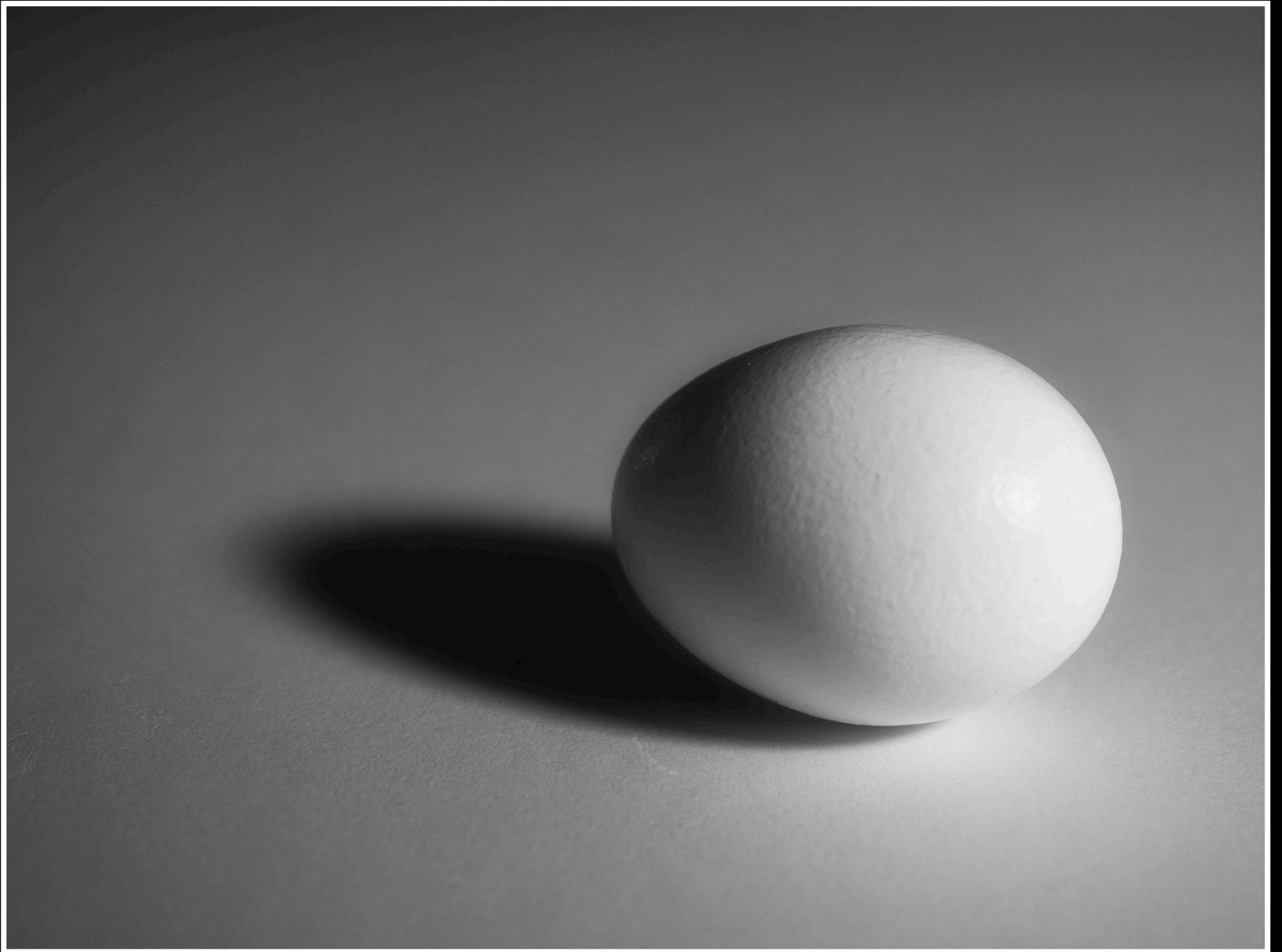






Or, you can use just a single object





Four Important Components

Subject

Background

Composition

Lighting

Background

Choose background that will enhance your subject

Use fabric, cardboard, paper, an existing wall,
wooden boards

Be sure background is not distracting

Keep it simple







Four Important Components

Subject

Background

Composition

Lighting

Composition

Rules of composition all apply -
rule of thirds, leading lines, diagonals,
geometric shapes, etc.

Think about how objects relate to each
other

Invite the viewer into *your* picture







Keep moving your arrangement around until you
find one that works

Photograph from different angles

Zoom in, zoom out

Remove objects that don't work

Add something else that will work

Four Important Components

Subject

Background

Composition

Lighting



Lighting

You don't need anything fancy ...

Natural light from a window

A lamp

Light painting with a flashlight



Experiment with different positions for your
light source

Use side lighting to accent texture and shadow to
make your photo come to life

Think about ...

What feelings do *you* want to convey?

What textures do *you* want to reveal?

What do *you* want to highlight?





July 12, 1859, he patented an improved method of...
The knowledge of mathematics was common and...
The principal instance was in marked...
his collection of a majority of the...
attained because one of the leading...
his collection became one of the leading...
Jocelin's shop tools were carefully...
made a list of several hundred items...
provided with an elaborate and...
making a watch, repairing and...
presence of a "framing and pitching...
first mention of this valuable instr...

Jocelin died in New Haven
seventy-seven.

DANIEL KELLOGG, Hebrew
(b. 1766—d. 1855)
Daniel Kellogg, a son of Reuben
(Wright) Kellogg, was born in...
served an apprenticeship and...
and about 1787 commenced bu...
as a goldsmith and clockmaker...
ried Susanna Griggs. From 1...
but in 1811 removed to Colche...
cotton business. In 1823 he...
February 26, 1855, at the...
activities were apparently con...

ELISHA KENNEDY, M.D.
(b. 1766—d.)
Elisha Kennedy was born in Norwic...
Benjamin and Olive Kennedy. When...
96

LANE, HENRY
Lane, Henry, was born in...
by the...
May 22, 1769.

When...
the...
of all...
Lane, Henry, was born in...
December 4, 1769.

Henry informs the Public that...
James Riley, to one...
which he continues to...
all. Any watch the...
Griggs...
September 1773

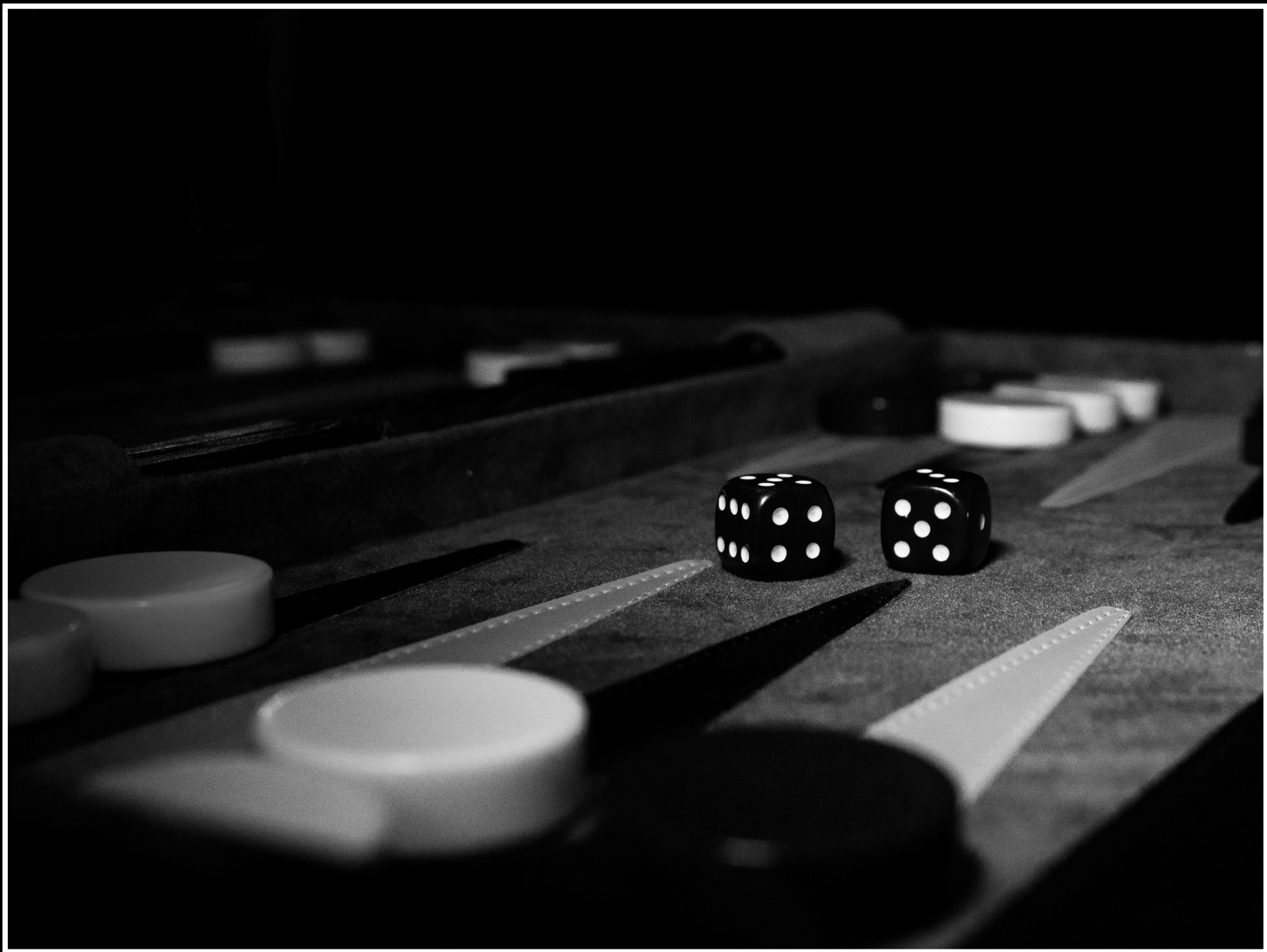
(Clock and watch...
at the shop of...
Lane, Henry, was born in...
December 4, 1769.



Focus and Depth of Field

Do you want everything sharp or do you want some things out of focus?

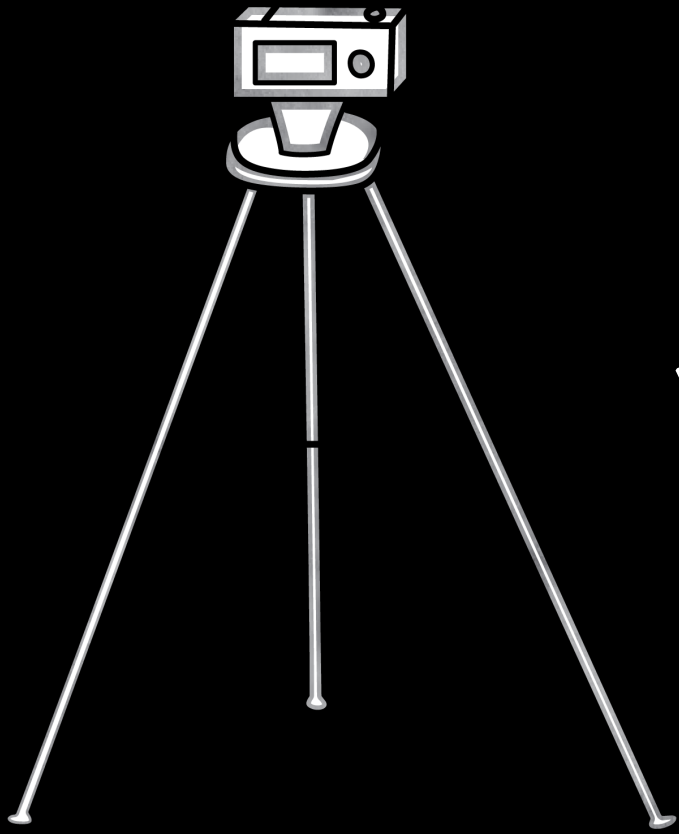




Try reflections with a simple piece of glass







Use a tripod so that,
when you find the right angle,
it stays constant

Tripod is also important since still life works
well for longer exposures

Stay close to *your* computer!

You will want to take a few shots, put them into
your computer, analyze them and see what needs
changing, what could be better
Then, go back and shoot some more



Work Flow to Create a Still Life

Take an idea



Select some possible components



Select your background

Arrange these Components



Rearrange, Rearrange, Rearrange!



Light Your Composition



At each step:

Take a photo, transfer it to computer
and study it

What works?

What doesn't?

What needs to be changed?

For those of you not into sewing, try this!



Keep it SIMPLE

Take a minimalistic approach

Don't overwhelm your composition with too many
objects

Keep it CLEAN

Avoid dust, smudges, finger prints

If using fabric, iron it first

Be PATIENT

Search the Internet for still life
photographs to get
ideas and inspirations



Take Your Time!

Experiment!

Enjoy!