



FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

WITH MR. GEORGE

Garth's Auctioneers & Appraisers Presents The Art of the Still Life

The long tradition of the artistic still life dates to ancient times in Egypt and the classical worlds of Greece and Rome, as depictions of tabletop arrangements of food and other objects have been found in Egyptian tombs, on Greek vases, and in mosaics and wall paintings unearthed in Pompeii. The genre began to thrive during the Renaissance, especially in northern Europe where Dutch and Flemish painters excelled in producing ultra-realistic depictions of inanimate objects such as flowers, dead game, food and wine, kitchen utensils and glassware. Though relegated to the lowest levels of importance by the European academic hierarchies who valued more lofty and esoteric subject matter, still life paintings were popular with art buyers and sold well.



John Frederick Peto (American, 1854-1907), *Still Life with Ginger Jar and Pound Cake*, ca. 1890, 8 x 10 inches. Funds provided by the Sarah Wheeler Charitable Trust in memory of Harold R. (Steve) Wheeler and Sarah Slack Wheeler, 1999.15.

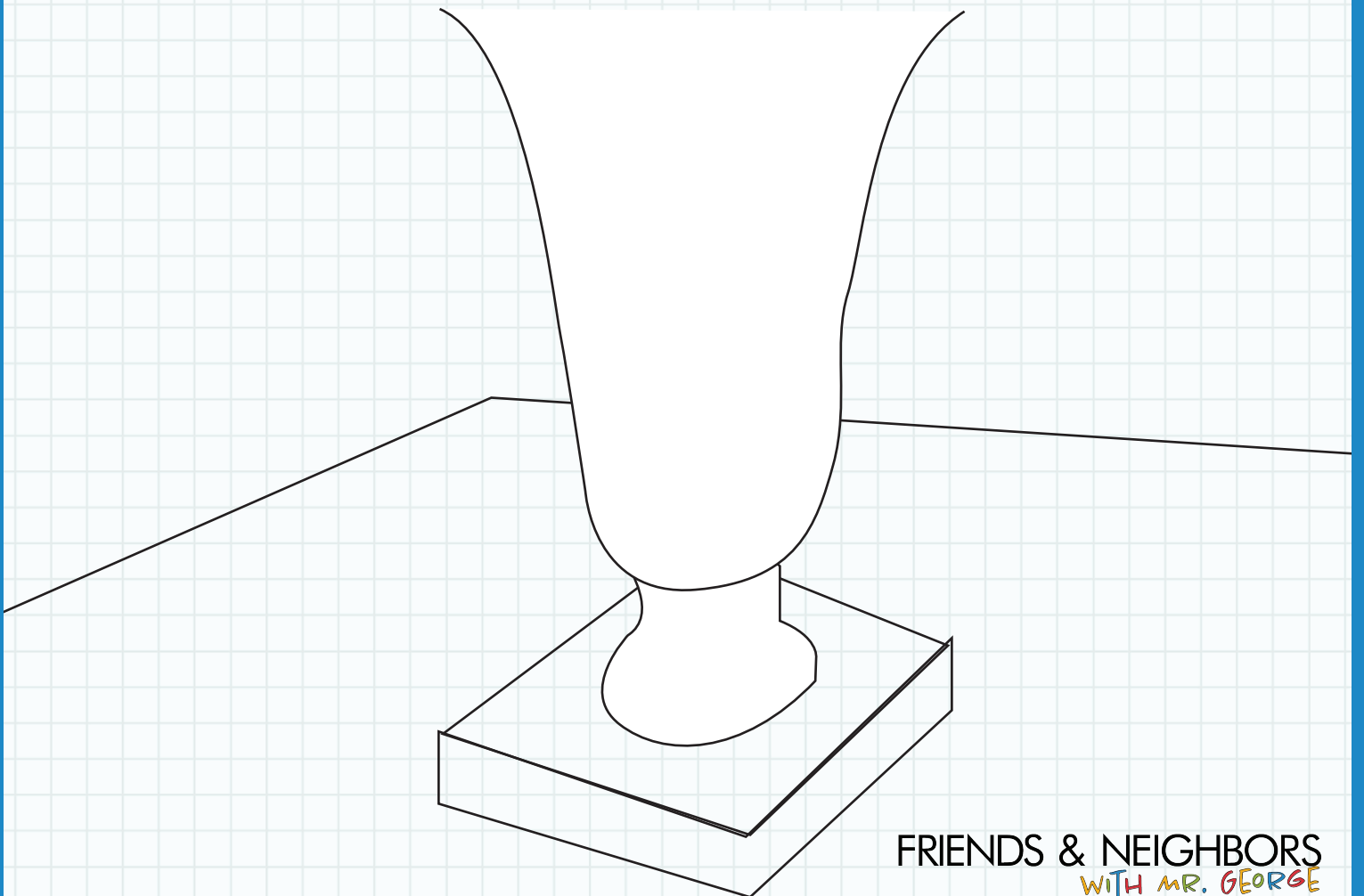
ACTIVITY

Still Life MATERIALS

Pencil
Drawing Medium
Dark Paper
Inanimate Object(s)

- Gather your materials and set up your inanimate object or objects.
- Start simple— focus on the object and worry about the background later.
- Use your pencil to draw the basic guidelines to help determine your composition.
- Find the basic shapes within your object(s), such as a square, circle, or triangle.
- Through the use of color and change of value, begin to develop your form. This process may take some time, so be patient with yourself. Look at your object and determine what is in highlight and shadow.
- Have fun, don't be hard on yourself, and always sign your name when you are finished.

Design your own flower bouquet still life:



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