



Irving Penn studied at Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art, where he graduated in 1938. As a career his photography blossomed and he was well known for post World War I I feminine chick and glamour photography this included photographing for Vogue Magazine.

The style I am focusing on of Irving Penns photography was "Still Life" objects and found objects to be in unusual arrangements with peculiar detail and plain back grounds to enhance the deeper meaning of the photo.

Irving Penn

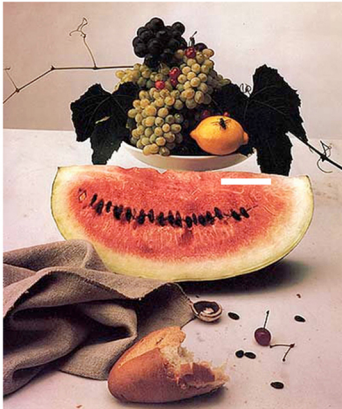


Photo Analysis

- Portrait
- Spatially appropriate
- Colour
- Variety of colours
- Remains of eaten fruit and bread relates back to decaying but instead the bread and cherries have been eaten
- The objects get taller as your eyes go from top to bottom
- Vines from the grapes are cut off in the photograph
- Fly on the fruit

This image is rather peculiar and is showing a reference to vanitas, the way the photograph is arranged in this way for a specific reason. As the image gets further through, it starts by showing you that the bread has been eaten, the cherries only have the pips left representing that food is only a one off item, so the first foods you see have been eaten then we get to the more perfect and whole food, the lemon stands out within colour and also having a fly on it represents back to vanitas and that when the fly starts to eat the lemon it will no longer be perfect,



1

These commercially based still life studio based photographs by Irvin Penn. They are all formalist compositions, they all have a neutral backgrounds that isolate or float the subject matter, which I believe enhances the colours and layout of the subject matter (make them stand out). They are all spacially appropriate to the formatt (Medim formatt, analouge). I have loosely chosen them for their relationship to vanitas. The first photo shows that the liquid in the bottle must have been poured into the spoons and once it has been gone from the spoons its gone forever, also you can see that the lettuce is slowly dying, the second image shows frozen blocks of food stacked and puposefully arranged, showing a block and grid within a single image balancing a range of tones, colours and texturea. (Frozen in time)which will eventually melt and disassemble.

2

Sam Taylor Wood



Sam Taylor Wood was born in London 1967. She graduated from Goldsmiths College in London in 1990, her first major solo exhibition at White Cube in 1995. She had numerous other solo shows including, Washington DC and Fondazione Prada. She won the Illy Cafe Prize for the most promising artist award. Sam uses lots of unusual objects in her photography e.g dead rabbits. Her photos are extremely acrobatic as well which creates the feeling that they are flying in space or participating in a circus act almost.

I related these two images as the legs are at the same angle and the body is in the same position and slightly even the arms.



Photo Analysis

- Vanitas
- Decaying fruit bowl over time
- Random pen placed with the tip of it pointing towards the fruit, I think this is to represent and show the difference between something that can die and decay being the fruit and the plastic pen which cannot.

I really love the actual video montage of this time lapses video, a series of sequenced photographs been taken over an extended period (days, possibly weeks and reduced to 3 and a half minutes). This image shows the decomposing of fruit, the classical/traditional arrangement (composition) rich beautiful warm yellow, orange and reds of the fruit (on a neutral earthy background) changing to the cooler green and blues of the mould bloom as it consumes the fragile fruit. The background colour is rather similar to the moulding fruits with its mottled texture. This image is a digital video still, the work was made 2001. These images are rather beautiful when you see the decomposing and changing of fruit over time. By the end, nothing is left but a grey and neutral amorphous mass. I love how Sam Taylor Wood, has perfectly placed the blue plastic disposable pen as a contrasting element to the traditional subject matter of the bowl of fruit and its composition. The pen showing the modern juxtaposed to the classical/old. The pen pointing and directing the viewer to the fruit bowl. While the fruit rots the pen remains undisturbed (Out of place to the past and the of tradition still life painting).

3



Still life is one of the most classical works of contemporary art, it inscribes itself in art history. All three photos in the series have fruit in them whether its subtle or the main subject matter. I love how in every image they have a darkened edge in the photograph. Most of Sam Taylor Woods of these series have nectarines in it. The nectarines represent the life and that one day they will decompose. This also relates back to Vanitas, within the decomposing of everything excepts the comparison of the pen in the right hand side photograph a cheap, contemporary object.

4

