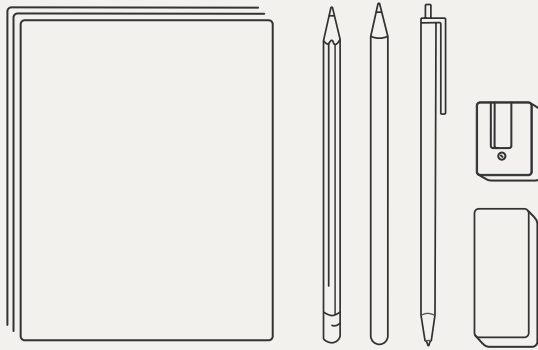


Join Sarah Ronald in exploring the relationships between ourselves and the meaningful objects in our homes. Sarah guides you through creating a portrait of yourself through poetry and the things you surround yourself with.

What you'll need...

Paper and your favourite drawing materials (pencils, pens, pencil crayons, markers, or whatever else your heart desires). You can also use wet materials like watercolor paints, if you have them.



Where do you start?

Start by taking a look around your home, and really pay attention to the things you surround yourself with. Do you have a family heirloom? A favorite plant? Maybe something handmade from someone special? Or something you look at everyday? Is there a book on your shelf that changed the way you see the world?

Okay, but now what?

Pick up a few things! Make a collection of objects that you feel especially attached to and bring them with you to the place you would like to draw. Then, gather your art making materials, place your objects around your drawing space so you can see them clearly, and get started!

Instructions

1. Brainstorm! Think about each of the objects you picked, what they're made of, why they're important to you, where you got them, and what story they tell. Try timing yourself for ten minutes and keep your pen to paper for the full ten minutes. Don't worry about making it look nice, just this as a mini-interview with yourself!

2. Take a moment to reflect on what you have written. Are there any common themes between the different objects? Is there anything that links them together? Have you learned anything from yourself?

3. Try writing a haiku inspired by your objects and brainstorming notes. Haikus are poems that are three lines long - each line has a different syllable count. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven, and the third has five again. Try writing a few haikus and remember that they don't have to rhyme!

4. Make a few thumbnail sketches! Thumbnails are very small, very messy drawings that will help you plan compositions of your image. Incorporate your haiku and the objects you have collected into your drawing! How will your objects interact with each other? Will they be resting on a surface, or will they float on your page?

5. Can you represent the themes from the brainstorm in your final composition? You can get really creative with how you represent your objects, and with how they might represent you!

6. Plan your drawing with a pencil on a fresh sheet of paper. If you plan to use wet materials like watercolour paints later, it's best to use thicker mixed media paper.

7. Place your haiku into your composition.

8. Finalize your drawing with a pen or marker, or leave it as a graphite drawing if you prefer! You can do a bit of tidying and erase unwanted pencil lines, and adding thickness and depth in areas that need it.

9. Add some colour. You can use your colours realistically or to represent how the objects make you feel.

10. Add some detail. Incorporate texture, pattern, or designs into your composition.

11. Ta-Da! You've done it and maybe you've even refreshed some nice memories in the process! Post a picture on instagram or facebook, use the hashtag #seymouronline and tag @seymourartgallery to share your creation with us!