



MENU Still Life

Launching 04.01.21

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Cover Image: Colin King
featuring the Medium Echasse Vase, Amber

Left: Sharon Radisch
featuring the Reverse Table Lamp



MENU reflects the blurring of the lines between home, work and hospitality. As we continue to push our homes to serve diverse needs, creating a calming and inspiring interior to live in is more important than ever.

Our team became fascinated by the hashtag #stayhomestilllife created in the early stages of Covid lockdown by well-known, New York City based interior stylist, Colin King. We loved his use of personal items to create still life arrangements at home and how meditative it was to watch him rearrange objects on his Instagram platform.

We began to see this still life movement grow as other artists were also showcasing beautiful and highly creative compositions made out of inanimate objects. The practice of creating still life art evokes an emotional connection of comfort while possibly displaying one's most treasured possessions.

MENU reached out to 16 artists to collaborate on creating and photographing a still life arrangement while featuring their favorite MENU piece. Our goal was to create change through art and create a project that continues to improve the community of which we belong to.

A mix of interior stylists, interior designers, ceramists and photographers donated their time and their talents to support this project initiative. The collaboration resulted in a beautiful collection of still life prints that will be on display in the MENU Space NYC showroom. The printing photographic services were donated by @Dave_Herr studio.

These prints will be available for purchase, and the proceeds from the project will go to a charity supporting the arts and creating equal opportunity.

MENU's founding philosophy of coming together with kindred spirits continues as we partner with interior stylist and author of Monochrome Home, [Hilary Robertson](#), to unveil the exhibition. She will style objects in the MENU Space NYC showroom and document her approach to arranging and photographing still life moments at home.

We look forward to welcoming you to view the collection in our MENU Space NYC Showroom.

Below: Sebit Min
featuring the Bottle Grinders, Hunting Green/Beige



HISTORY OF STILL LIFE ART

Below: Eve Singer
featuring the Gridy Fungi Wall Shelf, Light Oak

From Left to Right
Maude Paquette-Boulva
featuring the Aer Vase High, Smoke

Mariana Marcki-Matos
featuring the Duca Candle Holder, Brass



The word "still life" is derived from the Dutch word *stilleven*. The painting generally considered to be the first still life is a work by the Italian painter Jacopo de'Barbari painted 1504.

During the 19th century, still life photographs tended to resemble still life paintings, with similar subjects and arrangements. Beginning in the 20th century, still life photographs started to become more diverse as they reflected the artist's choice of subject matter while expressing the current times they were living in.

Manmade objects like ceramics, glass, metal and books and/or natural objects like plants, food, rocks, shells can be combined as subjects for still life art. In a traditional still life, an artist carefully selects objects and composes them to create visually pleasing and/or a meaningful image. Other photographers look to create striking arrangements to provoke thought; the images can be cluttered but "there is an implied order among the chaos. There can be an extraordinary pattern and meaning in everyday things".



Some renowned still life photographers are:

Paul Outerbridge, Paul Strand,
André Kertész, Albert Renger-Patzsch, Josef
Sudek, Jan Groover, Sharon Core,
and Martin Parr.

Left: Charlie Schuck
featuring the Large Cyclades Vase, Black

Right: Jessie Cundiff
featuring the Carrie Lamp, Brass



MEET THE COLLABORATORS

Logan Reulet
featuring the Umanoff Candle Holder

Andrew Bui @andrew.Bui

Annie Hall @anniem.hall

Charlie Schuck @charlieschuck

Colin King @colinking

Erin Kelly @erinashkelly

Eve Singer @Broyt_

Hilary Robertson @hilaryrobertson

Jessie Cundiff @Jessiecbell

Logan Reulet @logi.berra

Mariana Marcki-Matos @marianamarcki

Maude Pacquette-Boulva @maudep

Natalie Weinberger @natalie.weinberger

Nicholas Obeid @nicholas_obeid

Sarah E. Owen @saraheowen

Sebit Min @sebitmin

Sharon Radisch @sharonradisch



Left: Andrew Bui
featuring the Kettle Teapot, Small

Right: Erin Kelly
featuring the Stone Lamp, Sand



CREATING A STILL LIFE COMPOSITION

Consider a color scheme or mood

Get inspired by the masters

Keep it simple so a main subject is identified

Create movement, rhythm and a focal point

Use natural light, preferably position your set adjacent to a window

Vary the composition through the shoot to lead your eye to the subject matter differently

Utilize your negative space, think about shadows, reflection and texture

Have patience and allow yourself to discover the elements in your set



Bottom Left: Sarah Owen
featuring the Large Echasse Vase, Smoke

Bottom Right: Nicholas Obeid
featuring the Aer Vase Low, Smoke

Right: Annie Hall
featuring the Column Portable Lamp



Left: Natalie Weinberger
featuring the Hashira Lamp



[Request an appointment](#) to view the Still Life exhibition
on display at our MENU Showroom in SoHo, New York City.

Please [e-mail us](#) to inquire about purchasing one of our Still Life Prints.
All proceeds of will be donated to [Dreaming Zebra.Org](#)
All prints are framed.

**A special thanks to those that have contributed to this project
& for graciously donating your creative talent and time:**

All Collaborators
[Dave Herr](#) and Kyo Hecht