

## Still Life Floral Drawings Inspired by Shelley Jordon

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY  
DESIGNED BY MONA  
EDUCATORS

### Description

Students will discuss Shelley Jordon's artwork with a focus on her still life flora and create a drawing of a simple vase with flowers. Students will learn five simple tricks, which will help create a sense of perspective and dimension for the art piece

### Resources

Shelly Jordon- Still Life Collection

Video: Value (Elements of art for kids 6th grade)



*Example of completed still life  
Source: Museum of Northwest Art*

### Materials

- Pencils
- Erasers
- Drawing paper or sketchbook
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Small glass vase or jar
- Fresh or artificial flowers
- Optional: rulers, markers, or paint/brushes

## Instructions

**1) Discuss:** Share images of Shelley Jordon's still life floral paintings with the students (images are included at the end of this lesson). Ask the students to observe and discuss the following questions:

- What types of flowers and plants are shown in the paintings?
- What colors and textures do you see?
- How do you think the artist creates depth and dimension in the painting?

**2) Five Tricks:** Show the students how to draw a simple vase using a jar or vase, which can serve as a model for their own artwork. They can also use Shelley Jordon's artwork for inspiration. Explain the five simple tricks to create depth and dimension:

**TRICK #1: Vase/Jar:** When you're drawing a vase, it's important to make sure the sides are symmetrical. However, this can be difficult to do perfectly, so it's a good idea to draw lightly and erase any lines that you don't like as you go. To start, draw the top edge of the vase. Then, draw two lines that curve down from the top edge to create the sides of the vase. Make sure these lines are symmetrical. The bottom of the vase should be a curved line that is parallel to the top edge. As long as you keep the top and bottom edges parallel, your vase will look great!

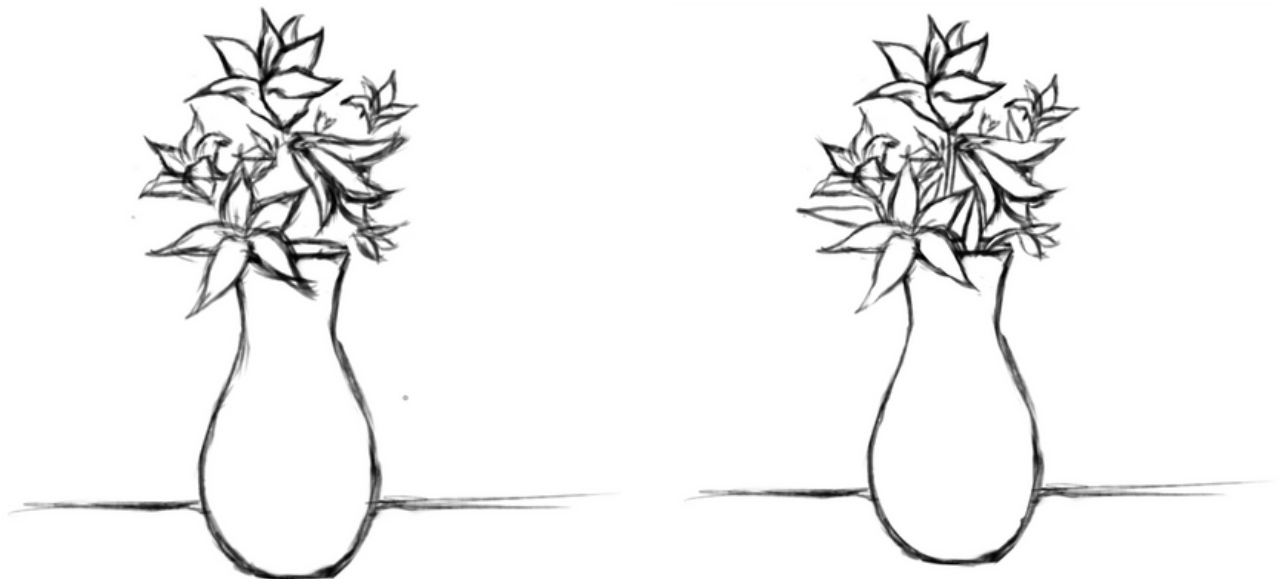


**TRICK #2 Placement:** Consider the placement of the vase, flowers, and leaves within the drawing. This will help to create balance and composition. A good trick is to lightly sketch where you want the flowers first and refine later with a pencil and eraser.



**TRICK #3 Overlapping:** Place some of the flowers, stems, or leaves in front of others to create a sense of depth.

**TRICK #4 Size variation:** Draw some flowers larger than others to create a sense of proximity. Bigger flowers will look like they are in front while smaller flowers will look like they are further back.



**TRICK #5 Shading:** Use light and dark values or shades of color to create highlights and shadows that give the flowers volume and form.



**3) Sketch:** Using the 5 tricks, encourage them to experiment with different flower types, colors, and arrangements to create a unique and interesting composition. Provide feedback and guidance as needed.

**4) Final Artwork:** Once the students are happy with their sketches, they can start coloring their final artwork using color pencils, crayons, or paint.

**5) Conclusion:** Display the students' artwork and ask them to sign it in the lower right corner. Have a class discussion about the different approaches and techniques used.

### Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **VA:Cn10.1.I** (Document the process of developing ideas from early stages to fully elaborated ideas)
- **VA:Cr1.2.3** (Apply knowledge of available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the artmaking process.)
- **VA:Cr2.1.II** (Through experimentation, practice, and persistence, demonstrate acquisition of skills and knowledge in a chosen art form)

# SHELLEY JORDON

Shelley Jordon, born in 1954, is an artist and teacher based in Portland, Oregon. She creates a diverse range of artwork including still life paintings, landscape paintings, and narrative paintings, as well as animations and video installations. However, her still life paintings stand out for their beauty and thought-provoking nature. Through her still life paintings, Jordon explores the intersection between interior and exterior worlds. Her paintings offer a unique perspective on the relationships between objects and the spaces they occupy, encouraging us to examine the beauty and significance of everyday objects and the stories they tell.

*Image Source: PLAYA Summer Lake*



*Crystal Water, 1996*

Shelley Jordon

Image Source : ArtsWA

**“My paintings celebrate the power and beauty of domestic spaces and objects. I paint directly from life, in natural light, still life objects which communicate through a window with a landscape, urban or natural. The objects, culled from daily life and painted larger than life, take on a monumental quality as viewed against the landscape, challenging established hierarchies between traditionally male and female spaces.”**



*Comice Pears & Mt St Helens, 1996*

Shelley Jordan

Image Source: ArtsWA