

CHALLENGE: Birds Eye View

Knolling

Changing your point of view can help your photos tell a story. Oftentimes a bird's eye view gives us a feeling of power. Like we are larger than life looking down at something. Flat Lay Photography is a photograph taken from directly above looking down on usually products or food. It gives a top view of what it is you're photographing and is an extremely popular genre of photography on social media. Knolling is a similar process of arranging different objects so that they are at 90 degree angles from each other, then photographing them from above. Knolling often times a collection of similar items and is a great way to photograph something you have a lot of.

MATERIALS

A device to take pictures with (Camera, smart phone, or tablet)

A collection of objects

A flat clean neutral surface

EXAMPLES



COURTESY OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

STEPS

Vocab

- **Knolling**- arranging different objects so that they are at 90 degree angles from each other
- **Flat Lay**- a photograph taken from directly above looking down on usually products or food
- **Composition**- The way in which different elements of an artwork are combined or arranged.

- **Crop-** Remove or adjust the outside edges of an image (typically a photo) to improve framing or composition, draw a viewer's eye to the image subject

Elements of Art

- **Line-** Can be vertical, horizontal, curved or jagged. Examples: roads, sunsets, bridges
- **Color-** Using warm or cool colors to set a mood
- **Texture-** how a surface feels (rough, smooth, wet or dry, soft or hard)
- **Shape-** shapes are generally flat, two-dimensional objects that can be characterized by their recognizable shape (circle, square, star, figure). They can be geometric or organic.
- **Space-** Either negative or positive space can be used to make a statement

Shoot

- Start with a clean background and begin to align your objects.
- You want your objects to be evenly placed and parallel or at a 90 degree angle.
- The goal is to allow everything to be seen in a neat and interesting way.
- Once you have your arrangement finished you can stand up on a bench to get a higher angle.
- Point your camera straight down and take your bird's eye view photo
- You can use this technique with anything you collect, like cameras, art supplies, coins, cards, and so much more

Tips

- When you are holding your phone or camera directly over your objects sometimes you can see a shadow of your arms. Tips to help eliminate this are to go outside in a shaded area, place your light sources under your arms, or pull your camera as far away as you can from your objects
- Test out different arrangements to see what looks the best
- Make sure none of your objects are cropped out of the frame

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