

# Still Life with Pomegranate and Pears by Paul Cézanne

## Print Facts

- Medium: Oil on Canvas
- Date: 1893
- Size: 46.5 x 55.5 cm
- Location: The Phillip's Memorial Gallery
- Period: Final Period
- Style: Post-Impressionism
- Genre: Still life

## Artist Facts

- Born January 1839 in France
- Died October 1906 (67 years)
- Cézanne's father was a co-founder of a banking firm, giving Paul a financially stable life that most of his fellow painters did not enjoy. He was left with a large inheritance.
- At the age of 10, Paul entered Saint Joseph school and learned about art from a Spanish monk.
- Paul went to law school to appease his father, but eventually left to study art in Paris.
- Cézanne tried to paint forms in their most geometrical shapes. He was interested in the simplification of naturally occurring forms to their geometric essentials; he wanted to "treat nature by the cylinder, the sphere, the cone" (a tree trunk may be conceived of as a cylinder, an apple or orange a sphere, for example). - Wikipedia
- One day, Cézanne was caught in a storm while working in the field. Only after working for two hours on his painting under a downpour did he decide to go home; but on the way he collapsed. He was taken home by a passing driver. His old housekeeper rubbed his arms and legs to restore the circulation; as a result, he regained consciousness. On the following day, he intended to continue working, but later on he fainted; the model with whom he was working called for help; he was put to bed, and he never left it again. He died a few days later, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1906. He died of pneumonia and was buried at the old cemetery in his beloved hometown of Aix-en-Provence.
- Cézanne was quite solitary and lived and painted away from civilization.
- Cézanne's style led to the development of cubism.
- "When I judge art, I take my painting and put it next to a God-made object like a tree or flower. If it clashes, it is not art." –Paul Cézanne

## Key Element of Design to Teach

- **Color** is a reflection of light. Color may be described in many ways. Primary colors are red, yellow and blue. Secondary colors are orange, green and violet. Tertiary colors are red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green, yellow-green, yellow-orange, and red-orange. Color can be described as being warm (in the red-yellow range) or cool (in the blue-green range). There are also various color schemes that the artist may use to emphasize certain parts of their work.

### **Possible Questions and Suggestions to Teach Color**

- What colors do you see in this painting?
- Are they warm or cool or both?
- Would you say they are bright or dull?
- What are the primary colors? (Use the color wheel to help teach students.)
- Can you see primary colors in this painting? Where?
- What are the secondary colors?
- Can you see any secondary colors in this painting? Where?
- Orange and red move forward, making the fruit the focal point of the painting. The blue color recedes into the background. (Have students close eyes and then open to find out what they see first – the fruit.)
- Blue and orange make up the majority of the colors in this painting. They are complementary colors because they are opposite each other on the color wheel.

### **Keywords**

- Primary colors, secondary colors, complementary colors, color wheel, balance, space

### **Keywords**

- Color, still-life, balance, value, line

### **Other Possible Questions and Suggestions**

- Would you say this painting is balanced? Talk about balance. Explain that with a boat or a teeter-totter you have to have equal weight on both sides or it is not balanced. Painting is the same. The visual weight has to be equal for it to be balanced. Have a couple of students set up their own version of this painting using a tablecloth, fruit, bowls and books on a table in front of the class.
- What do you see in this painting? What kinds of fruit?
- What do you see in this painting besides fruit?
- Is the tablecloth straight or wrinkly? How can you tell?
- Do you think this artwork is interesting or boring?
- Why do you think Cézanne chose to paint fruit?
- What is a still life painting. (nothing is alive)
- What is the purpose of painting a still life?
- Do you see light in this painting? Where?
- What kinds of lines do you see in this painting? Straight or curvy?