Naples: Continuous looking and drawing

What can you see?

Before completing a finished still life like this, artists sketch, draft and practice lots of drawing exercises or activities. We are going to practice an exercise called Continuous Line drawing. Why? This helps us develop hand eye coordination, improve observation skills, encouraging you to look for longer, consider the placement of objects and the spaces between.

This exercise is not about a perfect end result, this is about the process, repeated practice, developing the skills and confidence needed to progress. You might also find it quite relaxing!

Challenge:

Arrange your still life objects in a clear space in front of you
Set your paper or sketch pad in front of you
Before you begin, spend time looking at the arrange of objects
Follow the edges of the objects with your eyes, begin to familiarise yourself with the lines, curves and contours
You could start with just one object
Use a pencil or a pen, the idea is to keep it moving on your paper without removing it at all! When you look up at the object, don’t let the pencil leave the paper! There will be sketchy lines connecting parts of your drawing

You will need:
Pencils, pens, paper, sketchpad, still life objects, a clear space

Luca Forte, Still Life © Compton Verney, photo by Ken Adlard

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