Naples: Using shadows

How has the artist translated three-dimensional objects to a two-dimensional painting? Starting with arranging the objects to create an interesting composition, look at how objects work in relation to each other. Look for the shadows around and underneath the objects. Sketching the shadows is another way to compose your drawing. It’s another good exercise to train your eye and build confidence.

**Challenge:**

Begin by looking for shadows made by the objects as they rest on the surface, look at the shapes made by the shadows, and the relation of the shadows to each other. This will help ‘ground’ the objects on the page.

Then begin to lightly sketch the shapes, add ‘construction’ lines to help visualise the objects in 3-D. Keep looking and re-working the sketch until you are happy with the overall sketch.

You could now begin to add more tone and texture. Remember, try to draw what you see, not what you think you see.
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Look for the shadows, begin by marking them on the paper, then gently, lightly sketching the objects.

Use lightly sketched construction lines to help visualise the object as 3D