



Title: Apples and Oranges

Date: 1895 - 1890

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Size: 29 1/8" x 36 5/8" (74 x 93 cm)

Location: Musee d' Orsay, Paris

Style: Still Life

Artist: Paul Cezanne

Lifespan: 1839 - 1906

Art Notes:

- **Principles of Design & Composition:** Focal point is the solitary apple in front; is at the geometrical centre of the picture plane. Main objects are arranged roughly in a triangle or pyramid with its base resting on a horizontal line just below the midpoint. Diagonal of table edge leads eye into painting. Repetition of fruits' shape and color create a rhythm that unifies the painting. Objects and drapery treated like landscapes and geographic formations.
- **Technique:** Visible brushstrokes with color patches, some defining lines
- **Elements:** Shape and form are created with color instead rather than shadows & highlights. Positive and negative spaces have same level of detail. Underlying geometry in the drapery and objects on the table is the sphere, cone, and cylinder.
- **Multiple Viewpoints and distortion:** Color creates a "flat depth" with little sense of depth; yet white cloth comes forward while darker drapery recedes backward. Tilting objects create distortion and shifting viewpoints. Fruit looks like ready to roll off the table and pitcher is tilted. Multiple perspective viewpoints from several angles: stem from the front, the bowl from the bottom and its fruit from the top.

Presentation Ideas/Discussion Questions

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escribe what you see/hear/smell/taste? Focal point – what do you see first? Describe colors in fruit, cloth. What colors/shapes are repeated? How does your eye move through the painting?
- Discuss **still lifes**; that an artist creates a never changing scene of his/her design. How do you think Cezanne created this layout? Have the children arrange a still life.
- **Geometry:** What shapes do you see? Find the spheres, cylinders, cones.
- Is it realistic? Are there any parts that are unusual? Find **distortions** and **multiple viewpoints**.
- What feeling (**mood**) do you get from this painting?

Compare and Contrast:

- Stewart's "Persian Pottery" (peaceful still life, with perspective, and fine brushstrokes)
- Vermeer's "Girl Asleep" (realistic still life within a narrative)
- Escher's "Relativity" (multiple perspectives)