Adobo Drawing: Four-Step Shading Guide for a Plated Still Life

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A plate ellipse is 12 cm wide and 8 cm tall. The meat cluster occupies about one third of the plate area, the sauce about one quarter, and the rice about one sixth. Describe the four shading passes and the relative tones.

Answer: Pass 1: light tone over the plate, leaving rice nearly white. Pass 2: midtone on the meat cluster (one third of the plate). Pass 3: dark tone on the sauce (one quarter) and crevices; add a soft cast shadow under the food. Pass 4: highlights on meat tops and sauce streaks. Relative tones: sauce darkest, meat middle, rice lightest, plate lightest overall. The cast shadow falls to the lower right if light is upper left.