Artists have been creating still lifes for many years across different cultures and artistic movements. A still life is an image of objects that don’t move, such as the fruit in the still life paintings above. Look closely at the paintings. What different types of fruit do you see? Can you find the orange in *Still Life with Orange* or the apple in *Still Life with Apple and Pomegranate*? How many pears are in the painting *Grapes and Pears*?

Let’s look at *Chinese Fruit Basket* by Mose Tolliver. Tolliver was an artist from Alabama who often painted what he saw in real life, such as the fruit in *Chinese Fruit Basket*. The basket of fruit could have been sitting on his kitchen counter, or he could have seen it at a friend’s house. Tolliver included many different kinds of fruit in his painting. Can you find green grapes, purple grapes, bananas, and apples? What other fruit would you add to the painting?

If you have fruit or vegetables in your home, take them out and look at their shapes. Are strawberries more like a triangle or a circle? What shape is an apple?

On a piece of paper, use crayons or markers to draw different shapes, such as a circle or a square. What fruit can you turn your circle into—is it an orange or a peach? Try drawing different shapes and turning them into different fruits. Your fruit can be real, like a pear or grapes, or made up! If you were to draw a made-up fruit, what would you call it? What would it taste like?


