

SM&AG SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

MINDFUL MUSEUMS

MALLARDS AND PIGEONS

Written by Lindsey Kennedy

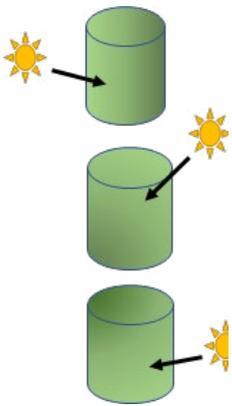


MALLARDS AND PIGEONS

Art Activity – how do you respond to this object from the collection of Shropshire Museums? Start by watching the Mindful Museum video of [Mallards and Pigeons](#), by Randolph Caldecott, dated 1876.

Think of some words that are prompted by looking at the Mallards and Pigeons painting. Here are some to start with – **birds, basket, vegetables, shed, shadows**

Shine a light



The direction of the light source in the oil painting Mallards and pigeons was important in conjuring up a certain feel to the painting. There are, of course, many sources of light both natural and artificial. Think of the different qualities of bright sunlight, moonlight, candlelight or a table lamp.

To explore this a bit further you will need to find a small object that you can use for some sketches. Divide a sheet of paper into 6 or 9 squares and select a light source and time of day to create your sketches. Place your chosen object on a flat surface and place the light source close by. For each sketch move the light source to a different place, observing where the highlights and shadows fall. If you are using natural light than you will need to move the object.



'Mallards and pigeons' by Randolph Caldecott, dated 1867

We'd love to see your work.

Post your response to our social media channels
#museumsathome
#smagathome

Standing still

The artist has arranged his composition in the painting similar to a still-life, even though the birds are in motion!

First, locate an interesting place to set up your own still-life. Think about where the light source is and how much shadow there may be. Consider the textures of different objects and how they might work together. In the painting there are leafy vegetables, brittle straw baskets and soft feathers.

The arrangement is also important. A pyramid often works well with larger objects at the back and graduating in size towards the front with the most detailed object in the foreground.

How you record your still-life is your choice. If you are aiming for the realism inspired by Edward Waite then try some photographs to start with and use those as a basis for your drawing or painting. You may want to create a more impressionistic response to the arrangement.

