

Photography group Still Life Report (2026/02/03)

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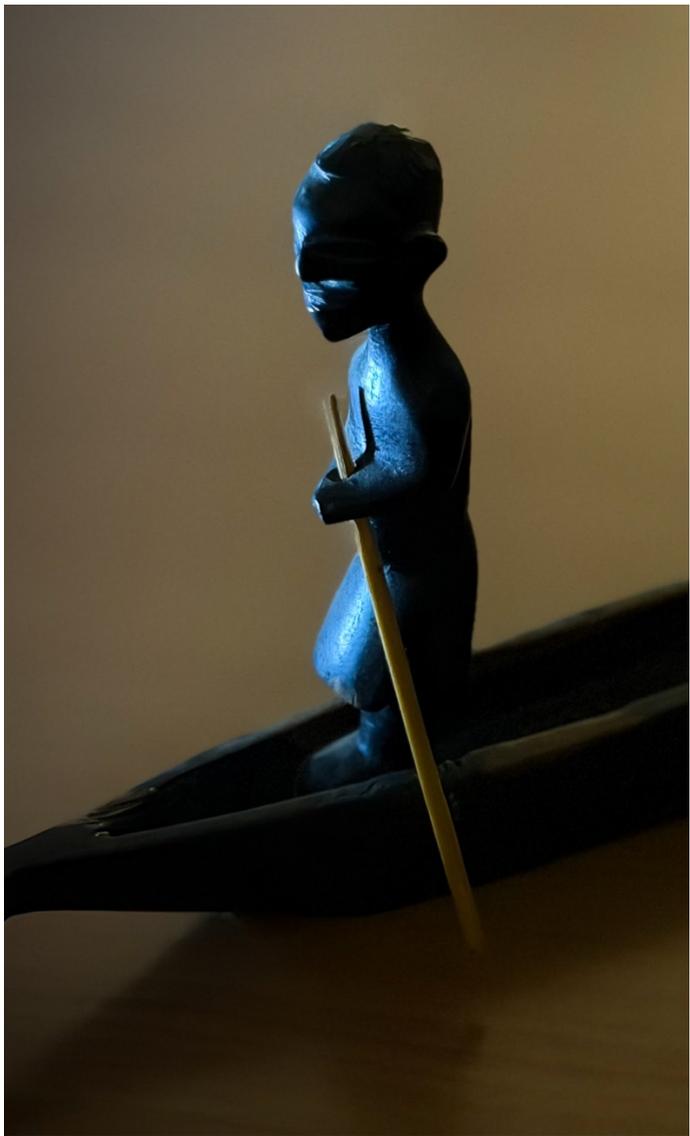
Given the grizzly weather of late, the Photography group wisely chose to meet in the clement indoor atmosphere of Enterprise House. Members were requested to bring a range of les objet d'art to serve as subjects, and sources of light (angle-poise, torches etc) with which to illuminate them.



Before getting down to business of taking photographs I gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on “The principles of lighting used in still-life photography”; ably assisted by Large Language Model AI. Three basic principles identified were: 1) The fundamental quality of light – hard light coming from a direct source producing sharp high contrast vs. diffuse soft light giving low contrast, and a calm mood. 2) The direction of light – from the front flattens subjects; from the side enhances textures and shadows; and from the back can create a rim of light, a silhouette or a translucent subject. 3) Lighting the scene not just the subject – using light or shadow to separate the subject from the background, creating atmosphere, and directing gaze.

In the rest of the session, we attempted to realise some of these principles...with some success. Here are a few examples, but more can be found on the following website :

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipP7auOragf-MrWhfcSRj8RI8vaN8MktJddFVp22wQw7I-OntUhrDnBhUspWi3OePw?key=ZjgwdVFmcUF2THc0SE9BM1BGd2w1eUFuLVIRZTJ3>





The next photography group session will be a trip to the historical Cumbrian village of Wreay (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wreay>) on March 7th.