2. FOCUSED COLOR PROJECT
Create a painting of a simple still-life using a focused palette of color, for example, a green focus palette would be all possible greens and green family with some accent colors. The illusion of light should be well-developed so that forms are very volumetric and so that there is a sense of deep space within the painting.

WHAT-
Subject matter:
Still-life of flowerpots, balls, etc. Simple shapes of various size and value. These are simple shapes that capture light, shadow and have volume.

Content: No content in terms of meaning, neither intellectual, psychological, political, emotional, nor spiritual. However, the visual message conveyed is one of very deep, illusory space. Essentially, the viewer should feel that they could climb in or reach into your painting. The focused color should create a unified painting.

HOW-
Scale: Objects should be painted approximately life-size and should fill the picture plane to the edges. No isolated still-life floating in the center of the canvas. One should have negative spaces between some of the objects. These negative spaces should be a strategic part of the composition.

Space: Strong spatial illusion is key to this project. The furthest items should look way far away; the closest items should look like they float off the picture plane

Light: The illusion of light in the painting should be very strong. You may need to exaggerate the natural lighting. This will create a convincing illusion of form, volume and space.

Color: Color is going to be focused. With focused color, you will have a unified painting which makes a strong visual statement. This is not a value painting with just one color and white. Instead, you will choose one color family (primary or secondary) and establish a full range of that color family and then mix them into every other color you have. Then, the addition of different degrees of white will change the values of all these colors that have a related color/bloodline.

Style/Paint Quality: Aim for loose painting style that has a degree of control so that illusions are convincing. Do not be too “tight”, you will “kill” the life in the painting. Work with thickness and texture to help create movement and volume.
PAINTING 2

1. FOCUSED COLOR PROJECT, contd.

ROLE/INTENT-
Painting as an illusion.
A formal exercise.

WHY- To help you gain mastery over form, light, space & color in oil paint.

WHERE-
Exhibit in the classroom, and later, after you are famous, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art!