Still Lifes are works of art depicting mostly inanimate subject matter, typically commonplace objects. The still life pictured here is a painting called a *vanitas* (Latin for vanity). Still lifes, especially *vanitas*, provoke introspection and contemplation of how short life is and to remember not to be vain. Typically *vanitas* carried messages of transience and also the inevitability of death. Many elements in this painting have symbolic meaning. By looking at the details in the painting, what do you think some of these objects symbolize?

**Symbol** — An image that stands for another image or encapsulates an idea.

What idea does the symbol below represent?

Draw another common symbol that represents something!

**Mandala** — A geometric configuration of symbols.

Complete the mandala.

Draw below the still life pictured!

Give this sculpture two hashtags that best represent what you see or feel when looking at it. Use descriptive words.

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*Vanitas Still Life* by an unknown artist working in Belgium

*Britannia Triumphant*, model attributed to John Flaxman, Jr.