

What benefits did the painting genre of still life offer to Cézanne, and what formal innovations were involved in the artist's still lifes painted around 1877?

Still life offered Cézanne a based in a style of art, and make it into his own. He wanted "to create something solid and permanent from the flood of visual sensations to which he subjected daily" (430). This idea benefitted Cézanne to explore a whole new style of art in his paintings, which brought much criticism upon him, but he just thought "emphasis on direct observation that simply recorded scenes was not enough" (430). Formal innovations that were involved in Cézanne paintings include "distorted perspectives" (426), "flickering reflections of light" (428), and the extension of "the representation of space itself" (428).