

VISUAL ART VOCABULARY LIST

ABSTRACT - art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM - A New York 1940s painting movement whose subject is revealed through the use of pure design elements and analysis. A harmony of materials revealing raw visual interest.

ACADEMIC ART - Art that follows prescribed rules; not experimental.

ACANTHUS - A plant with a large leaf, frequently represented on columns, friezes and moldings.

ACROPOLIS - The highest point of any ancient Greek city and the site of the temples. The acropolis in Athens contained the Parthenon.

ACRYLIC - Pigment in a plastic binder medium; water-based paint that adheres to most surfaces.

ADDITIVE SCULPTURE - Sculpture made by adding, combining or building up materials. Modeling with clay and welding steel parts together are ways of making additive sculpture.

ADVERTISING - Printed, painted or spoken art that communicates positive aspects of a product or idea to an audience in order to persuade them to do or buy something.

AERIAL PERSPECTIVE - The effect of distance or atmosphere that creates haziness or changes in color.

AESTHETIC - The artistic qualities of art work; defined by visual, moral, social and contemporary standards

AESTHETIC QUALITIES - Cues within a work of art, such as literal, visual and expressive qualities, which are studied during the art-criticism process. See also "Literal Qualities," "Visual Qualities" and "Expressive Qualities."

AIRBRUSH - An air compressor is used to power this instrument to create color gradients, highlight and shadow effects (atomizer).

ALL-OVER PATTERN - extending or repeated over the entire surface, as a decorative pattern.

ALLA PRIMA - Paint applied to canvas in one coat instead of applied layer by layer.

ALLEGORY - a representation of an abstract or spiritual meaning through concrete or material forms; figurative treatment of one subject under the guise of another.

ALPHABET - A set of symbols or characters used to represent the sounds of a language.

ALTARPIECE - A religious work of art placed behind the altar of a church or site.

ALTERNATING PATTERN OR RHYTHM - A pattern or rhythm in which two or more shapes, designs or colors repeat in a one-after-the-other sequence.

AMERICAN SCENE PAINTING - (usually) paintings of the rural Midwest during the 1920s and 1930s.

ANALOGOUS COLORS - Colors that are closely related, such as blue, blue-violet and violet -- all of which have the color blue in common. Families of analogous colors include warm colors (red, orange and yellow) and the cool colors (blue, green and violet).

ANATOMY - The structural makeup of the human body, including the muscles, bones, and flesh.

ANIMATION - Moving art made by putting many pictures together. Each picture shows a small change in movement. When the pictures are all shown quickly one after the other, the objects in the pictures seem to move.

ANKH - Egyptian symbol for life.

APPLIED ART - Design principles applied to functional objects such as furniture and metalwork.

APPLIQUÉ - A design made by stitching pieces of colored fabric onto a larger piece of cloth. Appliqué is used for wall hangings and as decoration on clothing, quilts and pillows.

AQUATINT - an etching technique consisting of sprinkling a metal plate with powdered resin and heating it to adhere, creating a dense or lightly granulated effect.

AQUEDUCT - An ancient Roman system of using gravity to bring water from the mountains to the cities. Arched bridges were used for crossing valleys.

ARABESQUE - Decorative technique that uses curving plant forms; frequently used in Islamic art.

ARCH - A curved structure over an opening such as a door or window. An arch may either stand alone or support the walls around the opening.

ARCHAIC ART - Greek sculpture or vases from 620 to c. 500 BC; ancient art.

archimedean solids - **convex figures that can be made up of two or more types of regular polygons**

ARMATURE - A skeleton-like framework used to support figures of clay or paper-mâché. An armature keeps a sculpted figure with parts that stick out from drooping or falling apart. Armatures can be made of wire, piping, metal rods, rolled paper or similar materials.

ARMORY SHOW - An exhibit in New York in 1913 that introduced Paris-based Modernism to America.

ART - noun

1. the quality, production, expression, or realm, according to aesthetic principles, of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance.

2. the class of objects subject to aesthetic criteria; works of art collectively, as paintings, sculptures, or drawings: a museum of art;

an art collection. See fine art, commercial art.

3. a field, genre, or category of art:

Dance is an art.

4. the fine arts collectively, often excluding architecture:
art and architecture.

5. any field using the skills or techniques of art: advertising art;
industrial art.

ARTIFACT - Hand-made object that represents a particular culture or period.

ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT - A return to the hand-made decorative arts during the 1930s.

ARTWORK - A general term referring to any artistic production. Sometimes, like oeuvre, it can also signify an entire body of works. Related terms include artifact, commodity, object, piece.

ART CRITICISM -

ART DECO - Applied design from the 1920s and 1930s derived from French, African, Aztec and Chinese motifs.

ART GALLERY - A building where people can see and sometimes buy artworks.

ART HISTORY - Knowledge about the contributions artists and art make to culture and society.

ART MUSEUM - A place where artworks are shown and cared for.

ART NOUVEAU - An 1890s asymmetrical decorative style featuring sinuous forms based on objects found in nature.

ASCENDER - That part of the lowercase letter that rises above the body of the letter, as in b, d, f, h, k, l and t.

ASH CAN SCHOOL - Paintings of everyday life in the city done by a group of painters of realism.

ASSEMBLAGE - A piece of art made by combining a collection of three-dimensional objects into a whole. It can either be a free-standing sculpture or be mounted on a panel, and is usually made from scraps, junk or various man-made or natural objects.

ASYMMETRICAL - Different on either side of a central axis.

ATMOSPHERIC PERSPECTIVE - A way of showing depth and distance in a painting by using fading colors and hazy details in distant objects. (See also linear perspective).

AUTOMATISM - A process of making mechanically, randomly, or by unconscious free association (rather than under the control of a conscious artist), after establishing a set of conditions (such as types of materials, etc.) within which a work is to be carried out. Also called automatic drawing, painting, sculpture, or writing. Joan Miró (Spanish, 1893-1983), André Masson (French, 1896-1987), and "Matta" Roberto Matta Echaurren (Chilean-American, 1911-2002) employed this method.

AVANT GARDE - At the forefront of new developments in art.

BACKGROUND - Parts of an artwork that are in the distance and lie behind objects in the foreground.

BALANCE - The arrangement of the parts of an artwork, to create a sense of equilibrium. The weight or size of objects, their placement and colors are all balanced in a work of art. Balance is a principle of design.

BALLOON - Object used to contain the dialogue characters in comics speak. Also called speech balloons or bubbles.

BARBIZON SCHOOL - French landscape artists who worked near Barbizon, France, c. 1835-1870.

BAREN - Usually associated with the printmaker of Japan. A slightly convex hand tool, about 5 inches in diameter, for burnishing the back of paper when printing from an inked relief block. Many Western artists use an ordinary household tablespoon for the same purpose, though the results are not necessarily equal in quality.

BARK PAINTING - A type of art created by the Aborigines over 40,000 years ago. Paints were made from plants, then designs were painted on bark.

BAROQUE - Detailed, swirling composition, diagonal lines, unusual viewpoints; period from 16th to mid 18th centuries.

BARREL VAULT - A half-round stone ceiling made by placing a series of arches from front to back. Also known as a tunnel vault, it was developed by the Romans and adopted later by Romanesque church builders.

BAS-RELIEF - A French word meaning "low-raised work." This art is also called relief sculpture.

BASELINE - The imaginary horizontal line on which the base of letters or characters rests.

BASILICA - A long building that today is used as a Christian church; in Roman times, a public place.

BAT - A plaster slab used to absorb excess moisture from clay.

BATIK - An Indonesian method of hand-printing fabric by covering parts of the fabric with wax. When the fabric is dyed, color does not adhere to the waxed areas. The wax is then removed, leaving a design made by the undyed areas.

BATTEN - A narrow, thin strip of wood used for a variety of purposes in art, e.g., ceramics or framing.

BAUHAUS - A design school that existed in Weimar, Germany, from 1919 to 1933 until it was closed by the Nazis.

BEAD - The line formed by a continuous weld, usually along a seam.

BEAM - The horizontal supporting unit of a structure, usually made of steel or wood.

BEAUX-ARTS - A tradition of the 19th and 20th centuries following principles of the French Academy.

BENCH-HOOK - A wood or metal device to prevent linoleum from slipping while it is being cut.

BESTIARY - An illustrated book in the Middle Ages that showed various real or imaginary animals and told stories about their natures and habits. The stories often ended with a moral.

BINDER - A material which causes a state of cohesion.

BIOMORPHIC - Art based on irregular abstract forms found in nature.

BISQUE WARE - The first heating of unglazed clay which turns the ware into a hard, consolidated mass.

BLAUE REITER, DER (THE BLUE RIDER) - A group of avant-garde German Expressionists.

BLEED - Printing beyond the edge of a sheet's trim marks so that the printed image extends to the edge of the trimmed sheet. In preparing art for reproduction, the studio allows an additional 1/8" beyond the trim lines for a bleed.

BLEND - To mix colors together. Also to move smoothly from one color to another without making a line.

BLIND CONTOUR DRAWING - A kind of drawing done in one continuous line, in which the pencil is kept moving while the eyes remain on the object, never looking down at the paper.

BLOCK - In printing a piece of thick, flat material, such as cardboard, wood or a potato, with a design on its surface, used to print repeated impressions of that design. In carving, a large solid piece of a material, such as wood or stone, from which parts are cut away to form a sculpture.

BLOCKBOOK - Fifteenth-century books in which the text and illustration were cut from the same block of wood.

BLOCK RELIEF PRINTING - A means of making prints by creating a raised design on a flat surface. The design is inked or covered with color and stamped on paper or another surface.

BLUEPRINT - A copy of an architect's plan for a building.

BODY PROPORTIONS - The relationship of the sizes of one body part to another and to the rest of the body. For example, the head usually makes up about one-seventh of a person's total height.

BODY SIZE - Depth of the body of a piece of type measured in points.

BOLDFACE - Heavier version of a regular typeface, used for emphasis. Indicated BF.

BONE DRY STAGE - No visible moisture, no dampness to touch and ready to be fired.

BOOK OF HOURS - Illuminated Medieval books with prayers for specific times of the day.

BOOK OF THE DEAD - Painting and hieroglyphics on a papyrus scroll, placed in an Egyptian tomb.

BRAYER - A small, hand-held rubber roller used to spread printing ink evenly on a surface before printing.

BREAKFAST PIECE - Seventeenth-century Dutch still life that showed an interrupted meal.

BRONZE - A mixture of copper, tin and other metals. Because it is very strong and hard, bronze lasts for a long time and is commonly used in cast sculpture.

BRÜCKE, DIE (THE BRIDGE) - German Expressionist painters from Dresden working c. 1905.

BURIN - Called a graver by some authorities; a hand tool with a half-round wooden handle from which projects a steel shaft sharpened to a square or lozenge section. Cutting edges of burins vary in size and shape. Used for engraving metal or end-grain wood.

BURNISH - The process in which the unfired clay surface, usually when leather is hard, is rubbed with a hard implement imparting a satin-like sheen to the clay.

BUTTRESS - A support or brace which counteracts the outward thrust of an arch or vault. A flying buttress is an arch which reaches over a side aisle to support the heavy stone roof of a cathedral.

BYZANTINE - Stylized religious art of the Eastern Roman Empire from 330-1453 AD.

CALIPERS - A tool for measuring thicknesses or distances between surfaces.

CALLIGRAPHIC EXPRESSIONISM - Dripping or pouring paint onto a canvas.

CALLIGRAPHY - Handwriting when considered as an art or craft.

CAMEO GLASS - A type of glass made first by the Romans, in which a raised molded design is overlaid on a glass vessel and then fused to it, forming a cameo effect.

CAMEO-RELIEF - Carving in which the image stands above the background

CAMERA OBSCURA (DARK ROOM) - A darkened box used as a drawing aid in the 16th century.

CAMERA READY - Type of art that has been completely prepared with carefully marked instructions for the printer. A mechanical is camera ready.

CAMPANILE - Italian word for a bell tower; sometimes freestanding such as The Leaning Tower of Pisa.

CAPITAL - The top element of a pillar or column. There are three basic types of capitals which originated with the ancient Greeks: Doric, Ionic and Corinthian.

CAPTION - Text that speaks directly to the reader. Frequently the text appears below the comic panel, but it can be placed beside or above it as well.

CARICATURE - A picture in which a person's distinctive features, such as nose, ears or mouth are distorted or exaggerated.

CARTOON - Full-scale drawing for tapestry or wall painting; or a humorous or satirical drawing.

CARTOON ART - The kind of art used in comics or cartoons. It usually has simple lines, uses basic colors and tells a story in one picture or a series of pictures drawn in boxes called frames.

CARTOUCHE - A lozenge shape that surrounds Egyptian names; or a frame of the same shape.

CARVE - To cut away unwanted parts from a block of wood, stone or other material, using carving tools such as a chisel, knife or file. Carving is a way of making sculpture by cutting away unwanted parts.

CARVING - A subtractive method of sculpture; taking away wood or stone.

CARYATID - A carved female figure that substituted for a column to support a roof.

CASEIN - A painting medium in which the pigment is bound with milk curd.

CAST - To copy a solid object by pouring a liquid, such as melted metal, clay, wax or plaster, into a mold and letting it harden. The mold is then removed and a copy, or cast, is left in the shape of the mold.

CASTING - Reproducing -- in plaster, bronze or plastic -- an original piece of sculpture made of clay or a similar material.

CAST SHADOWS - Shadows made on the ground by objects.

CATHEDRAL - A large church structure, which houses the congregation of a Roman Catholic Bishop. It contains his throne, called a cathedral.

CAVE ART - Prehistoric art found in caves.

CELTIC ART - Art produced from c. 450 BC to c. 700 AD by the Celts; mostly portable objects.

CENTER OF INTEREST - The most important part in a work of art. All the other parts should center around, provide background for or draw attention to the center of interest.

CENTERED TYPE - Lines of type set centered on the line measure.

CENTERING - The initial step in the throwing process, the manipulation of the clay mass into a symmetrical mound in the exact center of the wheel head.

CERAMIC - Any object made of clay and fired.

CERAMICS - Objects made of clay that have been hardened by firing; also, the art of making objects out of clay.
[More ceramics vocabulary](#)

CHALICE - A cup used in religious observances that has a foot and a stem, often made of precious materials.

CHALK - Calcium carbonate, used in gesso, mixed with colored pigment to make pastels.

CHARACTERS - Individual letters, figures, punctuation marks, etc., of the alphabet.

CHARCOAL - A soft medium, made from burnt wood, used to make drawings.

CHIAROSCURO - A renaissance system for describing an emergence of form, relying on value changes from dark to light.

CHISEL - A metal tool with a cutting edge at the end of a handle. Chisels are used by sculptors for carving stone, wood and other materials. In calligraphy, a chisel is a pen nib having the square, flat shape of a sculptor's chisel.

CIRCLE - A round, two-dimensional shape in which every point on the outside line is the same distance from the center.

CITYSCAPE - A picture of a city.

CLASSICAL - Originating in Greece and Rome; represents unadorned beauty.

CLOISONNÉ - An Asian technique for fusing ground glass to a metal surface decorated with thin metal strips.

CLOSE UP - Images that are shown in a large view. Frequently, close-ups focus on a character's face, but they can be said to highlight anything.

CLAY - A powdery kind of earth that becomes pliable and can be molded when it is mixed with water or oil. Clay is used to make pottery and sculpture.

COAT OF ARMS - Text that speaks directly to the reader. Frequently the text appears below the comic panel, but it can be placed beside or above it as well.

CODEX - Cut-sheet manuscript rather than a scroll; bound into book form.

COIL METHOD - A way of making pottery by winding rows of clay "ropes," one on top of another, on a flat clay base. When the walls of the pot reach the desired height, they are shaped and smoothed by hand. Much of the pottery of early cultures was made with this simple method, which does not require complicated tools.

COLLAGE - A work of art created by gluing bits of paper, fabric, scraps, photographs or other materials to a flat surface.

COLONNADE - A series of columns at regular intervals supporting a roof or arches.

COLOR - the hue value and intensity of an object. The primary colors are red, yellow and blue; every color except white can be created by combining these three colors. Color is an important element of design.

COLOSSAL ORDER - Freestanding or attached columns or pilasters that rise through several stories.

COLOR SCHEME - The colors an artist uses and the way they are combined in an artwork.

COLOR SEPARATION - When color art is photographed at the printer, filters are used to separate out individual colors, which, when combined in printing, will give the illusion of a full-color image.

COLOR WHEEL - A circle divided into sections of different colors. It shows how colors can be mixed or used together.

COLUMN - A large round pillar or post supporting part of a building.

COMPLEMENTARY COLORS - Colors that are opposites on the color wheel and contrast with each other. For example, orange is the complement of blue, violet is the complement of yellow, etc. When two complementary colors are mixed together, they make brown or gray. When they are used side by side in a work of art, they create interesting contrasts. Adding a little of a color's complement to it makes it duller.

COMPOSITION - The arrangement of shapes and colors of a painting or sculpture in a pleasing, decorative or expressive, well-designed way. The term also refers to any work of art.

COMPREHENSIVE - More commonly referred to as a comp. An accurate layout showing type and illustrations in position and suitable as a finished presentation.

CONDENSED TYPE - Narrow version of a regular typeface.

CONE - A device used to measure the heat work of a kiln.

CONSTRUCTIVISTS - A Russian group of artists who wished to reflect modern machinery and technology; working c. 1913.

CONTÉ - A chalk stick available in black, gray, white, bistro (brown) and sanguine (red).

CONTEMPORARY ART - made in the past 10-20 years.

CONTENT - The emotional or intellectual message of an artwork. – The expression, essential meaning, significance, or aesthetic value of a work of art. – Content refers to the sensory, subjective, psychological, or emotional properties we feel in a work of art.

CONTOUR - The outline or edge of a figure or object. In contour drawing, a single, continuous line is used to draw the outline of an object.

CONTRAPPOSTO - An S-curve or twist of the human figure caused by placing the weight on one foot.

CONTRAST - A large difference between two things; for example, hot and cold, yellow and purple, and light and shadow. Contrasting patterns or colors add excitement, drama and interest to a picture.

CONVERGE - To come together at a single point. Parallel horizontal lines appear to converge on the horizon in a painting.

COOL COLORS - The family of related colors ranging from the greens through the blues and violets. (See also analogous colors.)

COPYFITTING - The process of counting characters and casting off to determine the amount of space required for any given copy.

COSTUME - Clothing characteristic of a particular time, place or people.

CRAFT - Technical skill, manual dexterity, considered apart from the fine arts, or from the cerebral, expressive, or aesthetic aspects of them. Also, any of the manual activities performed by artisans or craftpeople, as distinguished from the specific group of techniques that are practiced by artists in the making of fine art.

CRAFTSMANSHIP - The quality of what a person does. Craftsmanship is most admired when a person creates with skill or dexterity, usually with the hands, whether with or without tools.

CRAYON ETCHING - A type of picture made by coating paper with several layers of wax crayon and then scratching a design into the surface with a sharp object, revealing crayon colors in underneath layers.

CRAYON RESIST - A type of picture in which wax crayon is used to cover certain areas of a surface that the artist does not want to be affected by paint or another substance to be put over the crayon. Since wax repels water, the paint will not cover the crayoned part.

CREATIVITY - the ability to design or make something new and original, using the imagination rather than imitating something else.

CRENELLATION (BATTLEMENT) - The upper story of a castle that has openings for archers alternating with solid walls.

CRITIQUE - The description, analysis, evaluation, interpretation, and judgment of works of art. It is a common assumption that criticism is necessarily negative, when actually it can vary in degrees of positive as well as negative remarks. Critical methods vary considerably in their approaches to considering the forms, contents, and contexts of works of art.

There are several stages to critical analysis:

1. initial reaction (involving initial identification) to a work.
2. description (involving further identification) – identifying subject matter and / or elements of art in a work.
3. analysis (open to even further identification) – identifying order (organization) in a work – how principles of art have been used to arrange the elements of art in a work.
4. interpretation (identifying meaning) – the artist's expression / communication of feelings, moods, and ideas in a work.
5. evaluation (judgment) – assessing the meaning and artistic merit in a work.

CROMLECH - A circle of upright stones (dolmens) such as Stonehenge.

CROPPING - The selection and indication of an area of art to be used for reproduction.

CROSS-HATCHING - Shading done by drawing closely set parallel lines that crisscross. Cross-hatching is used to show light and shadow in drawings, paintings and engravings.

CUBISM - Natural forms changed by geometrical reduction.

CULTURE - Broadly, culture is a set of active, productive, and creative material and immaterial practices in the regulation of social conduct and social behavior that emphasize personal self-management (i.e., the modification of habits, tastes, and style), spiritual beliefs, political affiliation, and trans/national identity. The entirety of socially transmitted behavior patterns, arts, beliefs, and all other products of human work and thought – for example: decorative artifacts, environmental pollutants, high art, political ideologies, ritual beliefs, social customs, and so on.

In cognitive terms, culture is a group of learned and shared standards for perceiving, believing, acting, and evaluating one's own and others' actions.

In anthropology, culture refers to the way of life of a human society, especially traditions transmitted from one generation to the next by learning and by experience. Cultural universals include social organization, religion, structure, economic organization, and material culture (sometimes called visual culture). The spread of culture traits (customs, ideas, attitudes) among individuals and groups by direct or indirect contact is called diffusion. The general stages in cultural evolution are nomadic food gathering, then settled food producing, and finally urban dwelling. In the arts, the term is often used to refer to the expression of a particular period, class, or community, especially intellectual and artistic activity, and the works produced by it. Also, development of the intellect through training or education. And, culture can refer to a high degree of taste and refinement formed by aesthetic and intellectual training.

CUNEIFORM - Characters written on clay tablets by the Mesopotamians; a precursor to hieroglyphics.

CUTOUTS - In art, pieces of paper or other material cut into realistic or abstract shapes and arranged on paper to form designs and pictures.

CYAN - The blue used in color separation. Also called process blue.

CYLINDER - A round shape with two flat ends. Cans and pipes are cylinders.

DADA - An early twentieth century art movement which ridiculed contemporary culture and traditional art forms. The movement was formed to prove the bankruptcy of existing style of artistic expression rather than to promote a particular style itself. It was born as a consequence of the collapse during World War I of social and moral values which had developed to that time. Dada artists produced works which were nihilistic or reflected a cynical attitude toward social values, and, at the same time, irrational – absurd and playful, emotive and intuitive, and often cryptic. Less a style than a zeitgeist, Dadaists typically produced art objects in unconventional forms produced by unconventional methods. Several artists employed the chance results of accident as a means of production, for instance. Literally, the word dada means several things in several languages: it's French for "hobbyhorse" and Slavic for "yes yes." Some authorities say that the name Dada is a nonsensical word chosen at random from a dictionary.

DECORATIVE ARTS - Such arts as furniture making, glassblowing, rug and fabric design and other handicrafts which result in functional objects that have great appeal for their beauty.

DEPTH - The third dimension of front to back or near to far, represented in an artwork by the actual or apparent distance from bottom to top or front to back. Techniques of perspective are used to create the illusion of depth in a two-dimensional painting.

DESCENDERS - That part of a lowercase letter that falls below the body of the letter, as in g, j, p, q, and y.

DESIGN - The structural elements of art (line, shape, form, color, value, texture, space and movement) and the principles by which these elements are organized (rhythm, balance, emphasis, proportion, harmony, and variety). Unity refers to design in which all parts work together to create a sense of wholeness. The formal analysis of a work of art involves a discussion of the work's design.

DETAIL - A small part of a work of art, enlarged to show a close-up of its features. Also, a distinctive feature of an object or scene which can be seen most clearly close up.

DIMENSION - A measurement of either length, width or depth. Two-dimensional art, such as a painting, has length and width. Three-dimensional art, such as sculpture, includes depth.

DIMINUTION - the act, fact, or process of diminishing; lessening; reduction.

DIORAMA - A miniature artwork that includes a realistic background and three-dimensional foreground objects. Seeing a diorama is like looking at a tiny, real scene.

DIPTYCH - Two painted panels that are usually hinged together.

DIRECTIONAL - of, pertaining to, or indicating direction in space.

DISPLAY TYPE - Type that is larger than text type, generally 14 points or larger. Also called headline type.

DISTANCE - The third dimension of front to back or near to far, shown in a two-dimensional painting by using techniques of perspective.

DISTORT - To change the way something looks by twisting it out of its proper or natural form or by exaggerating some of its features. A work of art that is made in this way is distorted.

DOME - A round roof shaped like half a sphere, supported by a circular or many-sided base.

DOCUMENTATION - Textual and/or photographic information that describes a work of art or image, recording its physical characteristics and placing it in context, as in records of works of conceptual art, earth art, or performance art.

DOMINANT - The part of a composition that is emphasized, has the greatest visual weight, the most important, powerful, or has the most influence. A certain color can be dominant, and so can an object, line, shape, or texture.

DONOR - A client or patron of an artist who donates the work to an institution; in altarpieces the donor and family were often included in the painting.

DORIC ARCHITECTURE - A style of Greek architecture characterized by large, fluted columns.

DRAWING - Usually a work in pen, pencil or charcoal on paper.

DRY BRUSH - Technique in which a brush drags or skims undiluted paint over the surface of a painting so that the paint is left only on raised points, to create a broken effect.

DRY MOUNT - The process of adhering two surfaces after the initial application of cement (generally two-coat rubber cement) has dried.

DRYPOINT - Intaglio process. A medium whose prime characteristic is a soft, warm, velvety line. The burr, which is responsible for this line, breaks down after repeating printing.

DYNASTY - A period of time in which a single family has dominance over a people, such as the Ming Dynasty in China.

EARTH COLORS - Colors found naturally in the environment.

EARTHENWARE CLAY - A low-fire clay, with maturation usually between 850 and eleven hundred degrees centigrade.

EARTHWORKS - A deliberate moving of earth and change in natural topography designed by artists.

EASEL - A stand on which the artist supports the picture when painting. Sketching easels are light and collapsible; the largest studio easels are virtually items of furniture.

ECLECTICISM - The borrowing of a variety of styles from different sources and combining them.

EDITION - Total number of copies of a printed artwork, book, newspaper, or published material, printed at one time.

ELEMENT - Artistic design considerations such as color, line, texture, shape or form and space.

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN - Basic parts which are put together to compose an artwork. These include line, shape, space, texture, color and value.

ELONGATE - Stretching an object or figure lengthwise, thus altering its proportions and making it look taller and more slender.

ELONGATED - The deliberate vertical distortion of a figure; a form of stylization.

EMANATA - Text or icons that represent what's going on in the character's head. For example: ? to indicate confusion. ZZZZZ to indicate sleeping. A light bulb to indicate an idea. @#\$%* to indicate anger. Beads of sweat to indicate nervousness. Emanata are different from motion or speed lines which indicate that a character is moving.

EMBELLISH - 1. to beautify by or as if by ornamentation; ornament; adorn.
2. to enhance (a statement or narrative) with fictitious additions.

EMBOSSING - A method of creating a raised design or relief on a flat sheet of clay or metal. With clay, clay is added to the surface. With metal, it's done by hammering a design into the back side.

EMBROIDERY - Decorative designs sewn on cloth with a needle and thread or yarn.

EMPHASIS - The use of opposing sizes or shapes, contrasting colors or other means to draw attention to certain areas or objects in a work of art. Emphasis is a principle of design.

ENAMEL - Fuse glass powder to a metal surface through heating at high temperatures.

ENCAUSTIC - Pigment mixed with melted wax and resin, then applied to a surface while hot.

ENGOBE - A kind of slip often used when pottery is to be glazed. See also "Slip."

ENGRAVING - Intaglio process: the act of driving a burin or engraver through a plate. Relief process: To incise lines in an end-grain block of wood. Also refers to the print obtained from an engraved plate or a block of wood. When loosely used, covers all prints which utilize a press.

ENTABLATURE (ARCHITRAVE, FRIEZE AND CORNICE) - The structure above columns in Classical architecture.

ETCHING - A picture made by coating a paper, metal or plastic plate with wax and cutting or scratching a design into the wax. A print of an etching can be made by covering the plate surface with ink and pressing it onto paper or another flat surface to transfer the design.

EXAGGERATION - overstating

EXHIBIT - A special show of a group of art works.

EXPERIMENTATION - the action or process of trying out new ideas, methods, or activities; to explore playfully without a preconceived plan

EXPRESSIONISM - The painting of feelings, sometimes with recognizable images, often totally abstract.

EXPRESSIVE QUALITIES - The feelings, moods and ideas communicated to the viewer through a work of art. This aesthetic quality is favored by emotionalism.

EXTENDED - Also called expanded. A wide version of a regular typeface.

EYE LEVEL - An imaginary line marking the level of a person's eyes. The horizon line always appears to be at a person's eye level.

FACADE - The front of a building. The façade accents the entrance of a building and usually prepares the visitor for the architectural style found inside.

FACE - That part of metal type that prints. Also, the style or cut of the type; typeface.

FANTASY - Something unreal that is invented by the imagination.

faux - not genuine; fake or false.

FERRULE - The metal part of a brush that connects the bristles to the handle.

FETTLING KNIFE - A special knife for working with clay.

FIBER ART - Art using thread, yarn or fabric, such as weaving.

FIBONACCI - In their simplest form, a sequence of numbers 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, 233, 377, 610, 987, 1597, 2584, 4181, 6765, etc., in which each successive number is equal to the sum of the two preceding numbers. The fractional version is $1/1, 1/2, 2/3, 3/5, 5/8, 8/13, \dots$. Named after Leonardo Fibonacci (1175 - c.1250), an Italian mathematician, they have unusual characteristics with possible applications in botany, astronomy, and psychology, as well as in the arts. (pr. FEE-bə-NAH-chee)

FIGURE - The human or animal form used in creating art; e.g., figure-drawing.

FILBERT - A brush whose bristles form a flat, tapering shape.

FINE ART - a visual art considered to have been created primarily for aesthetic purposes and judged for its beauty and meaningfulness, specifically, painting, sculpture, drawing, watercolor, graphics, and architecture

FIRE - To bake shaped clay in a hot kiln to make it into hard pottery.

FIRING - Placing ceramic ware into a special oven and heating at high temperatures until it is mature. Bisque firing is the first firing of raw, bone dry clay. Glaze firing is the second firing of bisque ware which has been glazed.

FIXATIVE - A thin liquid that is sprayed over pastels and drawings to keep them from smudging or rubbing off the paper.

FLIP BOOK - An animated sequence in book form, made by drawing a single action on each page and flipping the pages from back to front.

FLUX - (1) Any substance used to aid fusion of metals. (2) A material which combines with surface impurities on metal, in effect, cleaning the metal.

FOCAL POINT - The portion of an artwork's composition on which interest or attention centers. The focal point may be most interesting for any of several reasons: it may be given formal emphasis; its meaning may be controversial, incongruous, or otherwise compelling.

FOLK ART - Traditional art made by people who have not had formal art training but whose art styles and craftsmanship have been handed down over the generations.

FOOT CUTTING - The process of incising and trimming the bottom of a clay object to form a projecting circular base.

FOREGROUND - The part of a work of art that appears to be in front, nearest to the viewer.

FORESHORTENING - The technique of distortion in perspective (e.g., of the human figure) in order for the subject to appear three-dimensional.

FORM - An object that has depth as well as height and width. For example, triangle, which is two-dimensional, is a shape, but a pyramid, which is three-dimensional, is a form. Also, a style of creating art according to a certain standard or technique.

FORTRESS - A place that is fortified, or strengthened and secured, by strong walls and sometimes artillery.

FOUND OBJECT - An object not originally intended to be used as art, but treated as art or included in an assembled work of art by an artist. A found object may be natural or man-made. The use of found objects is a 20th century art form.

FOUR-COLOR PROCESS - Method of reproducing by separating the color image into red (magenta), yellow, blue (cyan) and black to create four printing plates, which when combined, produce the full-color original.

FOURTH DIMENSION - Motion in time, a dimension in addition to length, width, and depth, which became a focus in twentieth-century art. A mobile uses the fourth dimension because the mobile is designed to show movement.

FREE-FORM - Having an irregular, or non-geometric shape. A free-form shape is made up of curving, irregular lines.

FREE-STANDING - Sculpture which is designed to be seen from all sides, including the top, and which usually supports itself and is not part of, or attached to, a wall or background.

FREEHAND - Drawn or sketched by hand without measuring and without using tracing paper, ruler, compass or any other drawing instruments.

FRESCO - A painting technique in which artists apply wet colored plaster to a wet plaster wall. A type of mural painting.

FRIEZE - Decorative relief of figures carved in a horizontal band around a building. Friezes were popular in Greek architecture.

FROTTAGE - Textural rubbing on paper done with crayon, oil or pencil.

FUNCTIONAL - Practical or useful.

FUTURISM - An Italian art movement that tries to show the rapid movement of machinery.

GALLERIES - Rooms where paintings or other art works are displayed and sold.

GAUGE - Wire gauge refers to the physical size of the wire, rated with a numerical designation that runs opposite to the diameter of the conductors—in other words, the smaller the wire gauge number, the larger the wire diameter. Common sizes include 16-, 14-, 12-, 10-, 8-, 6-, and 2-gauge wire.

GENRE - In its most general sense, a distinctive type of work of art. Thus landscapes and portraits are two genres of painting, just as plays and novels are genres of literature. In a more restricted sense, the term is applied to scenes of everyday life. The latter sense is the more common in discussion of painting.

GEODESIC DOME - A dome built by joining straight, lightweight bars into interlocking geometric shapes. This system for building domes was developed by R. Buckminster Fuller, an American architect and engineer.

GEOMETRIC - Any shape or form having more mathematic than organic design. Geometric designs are typically made with straight lines or shapes from geometry, including circle, ovals, triangles, rectangles, squares, and other quadrilaterals, along with such polygons as pentagons, hexagons, etc. Examples of geometric forms include spheres, cones, cylinders, tetrahedrons, pyramids, cube and other polyhedrons.

GESSO - A heavy fluid used as a base coat for paint, traditionally made of plaster of Paris and glue, but more recently of white pigment and a synthetic binder.

GESTURE - A movement of the hands, head or other part of the body that expresses a thought or feeling.

GILD - A thin coat of gold leaf applied to the surface of a painting, frame or architecture.

GLAZE - A shiny coating fired onto pottery to decorate it and make it waterproof.

GLOSSY - Photoprint made on glossy paper. As opposed to matte.

GOLDEN SECTION - A proportion (in painting) of roughly 8 to 13 that was considered by Renaissance masters to express perfect visual harmony.

GOTHIC - All medieval art produced during the period between mid-12th and early 15th centuries.

GOUACHE - An opaque paint that can be dissolved in water or a painting using this type of paint.

GOUGING - Cutting or scooping out a hole or groove in a surface such as wood or linoleum to make a design for printing.

GRADATED WASH - A wash that is light at the top, where little color has been applied, and that gradually becomes darker at the bottom, where more color has been applied.

GRADATION - A gradual, smooth change from light to dark, rough to smooth or one color to another.

GRAFITTI - A drawing or an inscription made on a wall or other surface, usually so as to be seen by the public, and also called "Spraycan art" and "Subway art" at its height in the 1980s. Although it is sometimes mistaken for (or actually is) vandalism – a defacing of public or private property – and illegal; it may also be regarded as a form of art.

Graphic novel - "*Graphic Novel*" is a format, not a genre. Graphic novels can be fiction, non-fiction, history, fantasy, or anything in-between.

Graphic novels are similar to comic books because they use sequential art to tell a story. Unlike comic books, graphic novels are generally stand-alone stories with more complex plots. Collections of short stories that have been previously published as individual comic books are also considered graphic novels. ([source](#))

gray scale: a series of regularly spaced tones ranging from black to white through intermediate shades of gray

GREENWARE - Unfired clay ready, or nearly ready for firing.

GREETING CARD - A card with a message, usually sent or given on a special occasion, such as a birthday or holiday.

GRID - Horizontal and vertical lines drawn on a piece of paper, dividing it into equal squares. An artist uses a grid to copy pictures by drawing what is in each of the squares separately.

GRISAILLE (LITERALLY GRAY) - A painting in shades of gray, sometimes on the outside of an altarpiece.

GROG - Hard-fired, crushed clay that is added to clay to add texture and to help control shrinkage.

GROUT - A substance composed of glue and cement, which is used to fill the joints in masonry or the cracks between the tesserae in a mosaic.

GUILD - An organization of people in the Middle Ages who all did the same kind of work. Merchants, painters, sculptors and other craftsmen each had their own guilds.

GUTTER - The space between the panels of the comic.

HALFDROP -

HALFTONE - A continuous tone image that in order to reproduce is photographed through a screen so that the tones are translated into a series of extremely tiny dots for printing. The screen breaks up the tones into dots, densely or sparsely placed depending on the quality desired, that when seen from a normal viewing distance, give the illusion of a continuous tone.

HANDBUILDING - a term that refers to one of several techniques used to build pottery using only the hands and simple tools, rather than using the potter's wheel.

HANDICRAFTS - Crafts such as pottery, baskets, rugs, candles and dozens of other useful or decorative items that people traditionally make by hand.

HEADING - Bold or display type used to emphasize copy.

HERALDRY - Armorial shields, bearings, ensigns or similar insignia. Especially a coat of arms (also called a "complete achievement") which is an arrangement of shapes and figures – called bearings– usually depicted on and around a shield, that indicates ancestry and distinctions.

Historically, heraldic imagery has been displayed on flags and on military arms and armor, helping to identify combatants on battlefields. In feudal societies, it marked distinguished individuals, families, and institutions. Today, heraldic imagery is placed in a family's home on its dining table – on objects made of silver, porcelain, glass, etc. – or printed on its stationery, bookplates, etc.

HIEROGLYPHICS - A system of writing using pictures rather than words and letters. Usually, the term hieroglyphics refers to the ancient writing system of the Egyptians.

HIGH RELIEF - In relief sculpture, a form that extends at least halfway out of the background. (See also middle relief, low relief).

HIGHLIGHT - To center attention on or emphasize through use of color.

HOLLOW - having a hole or empty space inside.

HOLLOWING OUT - to remove the inside of something

HONE - To sharpen a cutting edge to its finest edge.

HORIZON - A level line where water or land seems to end and the sky begins.

HORIZON LINE - An actual or imaginary line in a work of art that represents the place where the sky and earth appear to meet. Vanishing points are located on the horizon line.

HORIZONTAL - Straight, level and parallel to the horizon.

HUE - Another word for color, such as red, yellow or green.

HYBRID - the offspring of two animals or plants of different breeds, varieties, species, or genera, especially as produced through human manipulation for specific genetic characteristics.

ICON - Loosely, a picture; a sculpture, or even a building, when regarded as an object of veneration.

ICONIC EXPRESSIONISM - A style in which the painting is dominated by a form, usually centralized.

IDEOGRAM - A picture or symbol used in a writing system that represents a thing or idea instead of a letter or specific word, as in Chinese writing.

ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT - A manuscript, popular during the Medieval period, in which the pages are decorated with silver, gold and rich colors. Often these manuscripts contain small pictures known as illuminations or miniatures.

ILLUMINATION - The decoration of manuscript pages, often with gold leaf and brilliant colors.

ILLUSION - A deceptive or misleading image or idea.

ILLUSTRATION - A design or picture in a book or magazine that explains the text or shows what happens in the story.

IMAGE - A picture, idea, or impression of a person, thing, or idea; or a mental picture of a person, thing, or idea. The word imagery refers to a group or body of related images.

IMAGERY - The imaginative expression of objects, feelings, ideas and experiences in art. Imagery can depict both physical and nonphysical things.

IMPASTO - A term referring to thick layers of paint applied to the surface of a work. The thicker the layers and lumps on a canvas, the more impacted the painting is said to be.

IMPLIED - Something that is suggested or inferred, rather than directly apparent.

IMPRESSIONISM - An outdoor painting technique that shows the changing effects of light and color.

IN THE ROUND - (of sculpture) standing free with all sides shown, rather than carved in relief against a ground.

INCISE - To score.

INK - A kind of medium used to make drawings. An artwork made with ink.

INTAGLIO - An incised or engraved design in a plate in one or more mediums.

INTAGLIO RELIEF - Sculpture in which the surface of the image is below the surface of the background.

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE - Revival of classical art, literature and learning based on humanism.

Integrate- to unite or combine parts to produce a whole or larger unit.

INTERMEDIATE COLORS (TERTIARY COLORS) - Colors which are a mixture of a primary color and it's neighboring secondary color such as blue-green, red-yellow, red-orange.

INTENSITY - The brightness or dullness of a hue or color. For example, the intensity of the pure color blue is very bright; if a lighter or a darker color is added to blue, the intensity is less bright.

ITALIC - Letterform that slants to the right.

Hollow- deeply indented or concave surface or arc; a void or an emptiness

JUSTIFY - Act of justifying lines of type to a specified measure, right and left, by putting the proper amount of interword space between words in the line to make it even.

KEY - The prevailing tone of a painting. A predominantly light painting is said to have a high key, a predominantly dark one a low key.

KEYLINE - A mechanical in which all elements are prepared on a single paste-up board with no copy overlays. All instructions are marked on and the printer performs all shooting and stripping operations from the single board.

KILN - A special furnace that reaches very high temperatures and is used to bake or fire clay to produce pottery.

KINETIC SCULPTURE - A kind of art introduced in the 1930s that expresses motion in time by including elements that are moved either by natural forces, such as wind (as in a mobile), or by devices, such as motors and cranks.

KITSCH - Artwork, often mass-produced, that goes beyond good taste.

KORE - Stiffly standing archaic Greek female sculpture, clothed.

KOUROS - Archaic Greek male figure, unclothed.

LABYRINTH - A complicated network of passages of paths created by a variety of world cultures throughout time.

LANDSCAPE - A view of natural outdoor scenery, such as mountains, rivers, fields or forests.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER - One who designs outdoor spaces.

LATEX - Formerly raw rubber; now any rubber-like plastic mass.

LAYOUT - Preliminary drawings made by the designer to indicate the proposed plan for the final design. Layouts may range from small quick thumbnails, to roughs, to comprehensives, each made with increasing attention to detail and accuracy of presentation as a guide for the studio, client and/or printer.

LEAD - A kind of soft metal. Lead is often used in stained glass. It holds together the pieces of colored glass.

LEADING - Space inserted between lines of typeset material.

LEATHER-HARD CLAY - In the semi-dry state, similar in consistency to leather. The clay is no longer malleable, yet is still soft enough for carving and joining, with slip applied to the seam.

LETTERSPACING - Space inserted between characters.

LINE - A continuous mark with length and direction, created by a point that moves across a surface. A line can vary in length, width, direction, curvature and even color. Line can be two-dimensional (created by moving a pencil on paper), three-dimensional (created with string or wire) or even implied (not represented by an actual line but suggested by the boundaries of a shape or form). Line can also refer to the outline or shape of an object.

LINEAR - Involving or consisting of lines; looking like a line, narrow or elongated.

LINEAR PERSPECTIVE - Showing depth and distance in a picture with converging lines. In linear perspective, lines that are parallel in nature get closer together and objects get smaller in the distance (see also atmospheric perspective).

LINOLEUM CUT - Relief process. A block of battleship linoleum cut into with engraving tools, gouges, knives, etc., wherein the image to be printed is raised above the surface. Also a print from such a block.

LINTEL - A horizontal beam over an opening, such as a window or door, that supports the structure above it.

LITHOGRAPHIC CRAYON - A special crayon made of wax, grease or a similar material, used to draw a design that is made into a lithograph.

LITHOGRAPHIC STONES - Imported limestone or other calcareous stone in slabs of varying dimensions, about three to four inches thick. The stones are hard but brittle, compact yet porous and vary in color from a grayed yellow through gray to blue and blue-gray (the darker the color, the harder and more dense is the stone).

LITHOGRAPHY - Planographic process. Prints are obtained from a stone on which an image has been drawn with grease-like substances. This surface phenomenon, after chemical treatment, operates on the antipathy.

LOCAL COLOR - The objective color of an object or surface, independent of any modifications caused by, for example, reflections or atmospheric conditions. Thus, the local color of a distant hillside may be green, even though to the eye, it looks blue. See aerial perspective. Can also mean the dominant color in a painting.

LOGO - A symbol that identifies a business, club or other group. Logos are often made of a few artistically drawn letters or shapes (see also trademark).

LOGOTYPE - Commonly referred to as a logo. Two or more type characters which are joined as a trademark or a company signature. Not to be confused with a ligature, which consists of two or more normally connected characters.

LONG SHOT - Images that show objects fully, from top to bottom. When a longshot focuses on characters, the panel shows the characters from head to toe. Readers can see the character's full body.

LOOM - Any type of framework used for weaving fibers at right angles to make cloth.

LOST PATTERN PROCESS - A casting process in which the pattern is enclosed in the mold, then removed by some destructive process such as melting or dissolving.

LOST-WAX (CIRE PERDUE) - A method of creating a wax mold of a sculpture, then heating the mold to melt out the wax and replacing it with molten metal.

LOW RELIEF - In relief sculpture, a very slight extension of a form out of the background (see also relief and middle relief).

LOWERCASE - The small letters, as opposed to capitals, in an alphabet.

MACRAMÉ - The art of knotting coarse twine or cord in a geometric pattern. Macramé is used to make such things as plant hangers, wall hangings, jewelry and handbags.

MAGENTA - The red used in color separation. Also called process red.

MALLET - A type of hammer with a large blunt, barrel-shaped head, often made of wood. Sculptors use a mallet to hit against a chisel when cutting wood, stone or another solid material.

MANDALA - a geometric figure representing the universe in Hindu and Buddhist symbolism.

MANDORLA - An almond-shaped background, enclosing the figure of a sacred figure in a glory of light.

MAQUETTE - A small three-dimensional model for a larger piece of sculpture.

MARBLE - A kind of stone from which sculpture can be carved. An artwork made of marble.

MARIONETTE - A small, complete figure, usually of a person or animal and made of wood, that is moved from above by strings that are attached to its jointed arms, legs and body.

MASKING - Blocking out a portion of an illustration to prevent it from being reproduced.

MASS - The area inside a shape.

MAT - A cut-out cardboard border placed around a picture to frame and display it.

MECHANICAL - The type and art prepared as camera-ready copy for the printer. All elements are cemented in accurate position on a board and any overlays so that the printer can photograph and strip the elements precisely as specified.

MEDALLION - A large medal usually worn around the neck on a heavy chain, ribbon or rope.

MEDIA-The physical materials, such as clay, paint and plastics, used to give a work of art its material form. Media also refers to the processes, such as glazing, stenciling and chiseling, by expression characterizes an artist's struggle. Materials per se are merely physical substances, but when the artist exploits their qualities to express an idea, them or feeling, they become a medium, a means through which artists' ideas are realized. Plural of medium.

MEDIEVAL - The period in European history between the collapse of Rome and the Renaissance, from 476 CE to about 1450. Also known as the medieval period, and as the Dark Ages.

MEDIUM - The material an artist uses - oil, watercolor, pen and ink, chalk and so on (see also media).

MEGALITH - A block of stone basically unchanged, but sometimes arranged in lines or circles of standing stones.

METAPHOR -something used, or regarded as being used, to represent something else; emblem; symbol.

MIDDLE GROUND - The part of a work of art that lies between the foreground and the background.

MIDDLE RELIEF - In relief sculpture, a form that extends about one-quarter of the way out of the background (See also high relief, low relief).

MIHRAB - A small niche in a mosque wall (qibla) that shows the direction of Mecca.

MIRROR IMAGE - The "flipped-over" picture that occurs when prints are made from linoleum, wood or metal plates. Words are printed in reverse, for example.

MIXED MEDIA - A technique involving the use of two or more artistic media, such as ink and pastel or painting and collage, that are combined in a single composition. The term intermedia is used synonymously.

MOAT - A deep, wide trench around a fortress or castle, often filled with water.

MODERN - Generally refers to recent times or the present, or the sense of something being contemporary or up-to-date, recently developed or advanced in style, technique, or technology. Sometimes this refers to something being innovative or experimental.

MOBILE/STABILE - Terms coined to describe work created by Alexander Calder: the mobile is a hanging, movable sculpture; the stabile rests on the ground, but may also have moving parts.

MOBILE - A type of sculpture in which objects are suspended and balanced so that they are moved by currents of air. The mobile as an art form was introduced by Alexander Calder in the 1930s.

MODEL - A person who poses for an artist. Also, a small-sized copy of something. For example, architects make small models of buildings with furnishings.

MODELING - (in sculpture) transforming clay or wax into a form; (in painting) varying the colors to suggest a three-dimensional quality.

MODIFIED CONTOUR DRAWING - A line drawing made by looking at an object and drawing it with one continuous line, occasionally glancing down at the drawing to check the lines and proportions (See also blind contour drawing).

MOLA - An appliqué design made by the Cuna Indians in which several layers of cloth are sewn together and the top layers are cut and turned to show the colors underneath.

MOLD - (1) A shell containing a reverse image of a model or master which serves as a shaping container when filled with a temporarily liquid material and which becomes the casting when it has hardened. (2) To shape by pressure.

MONOCHROMATIC - A color scheme that involves different values of a single color.

MONOCHROME - A painting done in variations of a single color, made by adding black or white to the basic hue to create its shades and tints.

MONOGRAM - A design made from the initials of a name. Monograms are often printed on caps, ties, shirts, towels, handkerchiefs and linens.

MONOTYPE/MONOPRINT - A kind of printmaking in which a picture or design is painted on a nonabsorbent surface, such as metal or glass. The design is then pressed onto a piece of paper. Usually, only one transfer can be made this way.

MONUMENT - A building, statue or other structure especially built to remember and honor a person or event.

MOOD - a distinctive emotional quality or character

MOSAIC - A picture or design made by fitting into plaster or cement tiny pieces of colored paper, glass, tile, stone or other similar materials.

MOTIF - A consistent or recurrent conceptual element, usually a figure or design. In an architectural or decorative pattern, a motif is employed as the central element in a work, or it is repeated either consistently or as a theme with variations.

MOUNT - To attach a picture to a larger piece of paper or cardboard, leaving a wide border around it.

MOVEMENT - The arrangement of the parts of a design to create a sense of motion by using lines that cause the eye to move over the work. Also, a tendency or trend by artists during a period to use certain techniques or methods.

MURAL - A large painting that covers a wall. It can be painted directly on the wall or on wood, paper or canvas to be attached to the wall.

MYTHICAL - Made-up, invented, or imaginary. Mythical animals, people and objects usually originated in ancient legends or myths.

MYTHOLOGY -

NARRATIVE - Narrative art is art that tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. Some of the earliest evidence of human art suggests that people told stories with pictures. [Wikipedia](#)

NARRATORY BLOCK - Rectangles or square in which a narrator or a character from the story shares special information with readers. Also known as narrative box of voiceover. The box usually narrates something that is happening or that happened before the scene in the panel. In this example the narratory block describes what is happening in the scene.

NATURALISM - Imagery that appears natural.

NEARIKA - A kind of art that originated in early Mexico in which colored yarn or string is glued on a background to form a solid design.

NEEDLE WORK - the art, process, or product of working with a needle, especially in embroidery, needlepoint, tapestry, quilting, and appliqué.

NEEDLEPOINT - A kind of stitchery made of very small stitches on a fabric screen.

NEGATIVE SPACE - The space not occupied by an object itself but circulating in and around it, contributing to the total effect of the design.

NEUTRAL - A color not associated with a hue. Neutral colors include black, white, gray and brown. A hue can be neutralized by adding some of its complement to it.

NIB - A point that fits on the end of a calligraphy pen and regulates the flow of ink. Nibs come in many sizes from very thin or fine to broad and flat.

NONOBJECTIVE - Without a recognizable object.

NONFUNCTIONAL - Created mainly for decoration rather than practical use.

ODALISQUE - Term used to refer to a painted reclining woman, from the word for a Turkish harem slave.

OIL PAINT - A kind of opaque paint made by mixing colored pigment with a special kind of oil.

ONE-POINT PERSPECTIVE - A form of linear perspective in which all lines appear to meet at a single point on the horizon.

ONION DOME - A bulbous, pointed dome frequently seen in Byzantine architecture.

OP ART

OPAQUE - Something that cannot be seen through; the opposite of transparent.

OPENING - The second step in the throwing process, establishing an opening in the middle of the centered clay mound.

OPTICAL MIXING - The blending by the eyes of pure colors placed next to each other in a work of art. For example, if dots of yellow are placed next to dots of blue, the colors will appear to merge into a bright green color when viewed from a distance. Optical mixing is important in Impressionistic painting.

ORGANIC - Free form, or a quality that resembles living things. The opposite of mechanical or geometric.

ORIGINAL - Unusual, different or creative, such as original art or ideas. Original can also mean the actual or initial work of art, rather than a copy.

OUTLINE - A line that shows the edge of an object. Outlines show two-dimensional shapes.

OVERALL PATTERN - A layout in which motifs are fairly close and evenly distributed as opposed to stripes, borders, plaids, and engineered designs.

OVERLAPPING - One shape or part covering up some part or all of another. Overlapping objects appear closer, and this is a perspective technique used to show distance in pictures.

OVERLAY - A transparent or translucent sheet placed over art or mechanical. A tissue overlay is used for simple instructions to the printer while a copy overlay, generally on an acetate sheet, carries camera-ready copy to be photographed by the printer.

PAINTERLY QUALITY - That quality of a work of art that allows brush strokes to show and lets us see that it is a painting.

PALETTE - The tray or board on which colors are mixed.

PAPER-MACHE - An art material made of paper torn into strips or made into pulp and mixed with paste or glue. It can be molded into various shapes when wet and produces a solid material that is quite strong when it dries. It is used to make molds of decorative and functional objects.

PAPYRUS - Marsh plant from which paper was first made in Egypt; a scroll painted on this material.

PARCHMENT - Thin tanned animal hide (often kid or lamb), used for illuminated manuscripts.

PARTHENON - A marble building constructed about 440 B.C. in Athens, Greece, as a temple to the Greek goddess Athena. It is perhaps the greatest masterpiece of Greek architectural style.

PASTEL - A kind of crayon. Pastels can be made of oil or of charcoal. Oil pastels are like crayons; charcoal pastels are like chalk.

PASTEUP - Camera-ready copy with all elements in position on a board. Often used as a synonym for "mechanical," although the paste-up may actually be only one portion of the entire mechanical.

PATINA - Originally, the natural color of oxidized metal surfaces; more recently, the surface coloring given to various materials such as metal, wood and plaster when used in relation to sculpture.

PATTERN - The repetition of shapes, lines or colors in a design. The pattern can also be a model or mold designed to be copied.

PEDIMENT - A triangular shape at the end of a building formed between the peak of the sloping roof and the top edge of the wall. In Greek architecture, pediments were often decorated with carved relief figures.

PERFORMANCE - the execution or accomplishment of work, acts, feats, etc.

PERSPECTIVE - The representation of three-dimensional objects on a flat, two-dimensional surface. Perspective is achieved by creating a sense of depth and distance. There are two types of perspective: linear and atmospheric.

PHOTOGRAPH - A picture taken with a camera.

PICA - Typographic unit of measurement; 12 points equal 1 pica and 6 picas equal 1 inch. Also a typewriter with 10 characters per inch.

PICTOGRAPH - Drawn or painted symbols representing things, ideas or stories. Before alphabets were developed, people communicated using such picture symbols.

PICTURE PLANE - In painting, photography, graphical perspective and descriptive geometry, a **picture plane** is an imaginary plane which is located between the "eye point" or *oculus* and the object being viewed and is usually coextensive to the material surface of the work. It is ordinarily a vertical plane perpendicular to the sightline to the object of interest.

PIGMENT - Fine colored powder that, when combined with various liquid mixtures (water and a binding agent, for example), makes paint.

PINCH METHOD - A method of hand-building pottery by pressing, pulling and pinching a ball of clay into the desired shape.

PLANE - A curved or flat continuous surface defined by edges.

PLANOGRAPHY - An area of printmaking which includes lithography and serigraphy.

PLATE - A matrix. The surface on which an image is created, to be transferred to paper via printing.

PLASTIC - (1) A material malleable enough to be manipulated by hand. (2) A synthetic coherent material.

PLASTICINE - An oil based clay, used for modeling. It usually stays workable and does not dry out.

platonic solids - **convex figures made up of one type of regular polygon**

PLEIN AIR - Loose, fluid painting done outdoors, capturing effects of light and air.

POINT - Smallest typographical unit of measurement; 12 points equal 1 pica and 1 point equals approximately 1/72 of an inch.

POINT OF VIEW - A point of view in **art** is simply what position an observer is in relation to the objects in a picture. The point of view is determined by where a viewer is stationed in relation to everything else he sees. For example, if one has a birds-eye view, one will see objects beneath him. If one has a normal view, objects will appear how he normally sees them. If one has a worms-eye view, objects will appear much larger than normal.

POINTILLISM (DIVISIONISM) - A method of painting developed in France in the 1880s in which tiny dots of color are applied to a canvas. When viewed from a distance, the points of color appear to blend together to make other colors and to form shapes and outlines. Pointillism was part of the Postimpressionist movement.

POLYCHROME - Many colored.

polyhedron - a solid figure with many plane faces, typically more than six

POLYPTYCH - A painting that consists of more than three panels hinged together.

POP ART - Objects from commercial art and the popular culture transformed into artworks.

PORCELAIN CLAY - A vitreous, high fire clay body, usually white.

PORTICO - A covered walkway or entrance to a building, often having a row of columns supporting the roof.

PORTRAIT - A painting, sculpture, drawing, photo or other work of art showing a person, several people or an animal. Portraits usually show just the face, but can include part or all of the body, as well.

POSITIVE SPACE - The space occupied by an object as distinguished from negative space, which circulates in and around it.

POST - A pillar, column or similar structure that supports a roof or beam. Posts were commonly used in Greek-style architecture.

POST MODERNISM - noting or pertaining to architecture of the late 20th century, appearing in the 1960s, that consciously uses complex forms, fantasy, and allusions to historic styles, in contrast to the austere forms and emphasis on utility of standard modern architecture.

POSTER PAINT - A fairly inexpensive form of opaque watercolor used mainly for design work rather than paintings.

POTTER'S WHEEL - A flat, spinning disc on which soft clay is placed and shaped by hand.

PRELIMINARY SKETCH - A sketch made to plan or determine the basic arrangement of a design or a more complete artwork. A preliminary sketch is simpler and often smaller than the final piece of art, but contains the same outlines and proportions.

PRESSED GLASS - Glass made by pouring into molds and pressing the inside by means of a plunger.

PRIMARY COLORS - The hues red, yellow and blue, which in different combinations produce all other colors except white. The primary colors cannot be produced by mixing any other colors together.

PRIMING - A layer or layers of material applied to a canvas, panel or other painting support to make it more suitable to receive paint by, for example, rendering it smoother or less absorbent. Gesso is historically the best-known priming material.

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN - Guidelines that aid in effectively arranging and composing designs. These include balance, contrast, variety, pattern, rhythm, emphasis and unity.

PRINT - A shape or mark made from a printing block or other object that is covered with wet color and then pressed on a flat surface, such as paper or cloth. Most prints can be repeated by re-inking the printing block. Prints can be made in many ways, including using an engraved block or stone, transfer paper or a film negative. Printing is the art of making many copies of one image.

PRINTING PRESS - A machine that can make printed copies by pressing an inked or colored metal plate containing lines of type or an image onto sheets of paper that are threaded through the machine. Printing presses are used to make books and newspapers, as well as copies of original art.

PRINTMAKING - The art of making one or more copies of a design or picture such as an etching or woodcut block.

PROFILE - An outline of an object, usually a drawing or painting of the side view of a person's face.

PROGRESSION - a passing successively from one member of a series to the next; succession; sequence.

PROGRESSIVE PATTERN OR RHYTHM - A pattern or rhythm that develops step-by-step, as from larger to smaller or smaller to larger.

PROOFS - Typeset copy sent by the compositor to the client for checking and making corrections.

PROPORTION - The relationship of the size of one part to another or to the whole. In painting and sculpture, for example, an artist tries to achieve the right size or proportion of a nose to a head and a head to a body.

PROPORTIONAL SCALE - A device used to determine the size of the art when it is enlarged or reduced for reproduction.

PSALTER - A collection of psalms for devotional use.

PUPPET - A kind of doll that can be moved and made to look as if it were talking (see shadow puppet).

PUTTI - Nude male infants, often with wings, used in Classical and Renaissance painting; cherubs.

PYRAMID - An ancient building design found in Egypt and Central America, usually having a square base and four triangular sides that meet in a point at the top. Pyramids were used as tombs and for religious worship and ceremonies.

QUILL - In drawing and calligraphy, a pen made from a goose's feather. The sharply spikey defenses of porcupines are also called quills, and they have been used by many peoples in several ways.

QUILT - A bedcover made by stitching two layers of fabric together, usually in an ornamental design, and stuffing the layers with padding. Quilts are usually made out of odds and ends of material.

RADIAL BALANCE - A design based on a circle with the features radiating from a central point.

RASP - A kind of file that has sharp, rough teeth that can cut into a surface. It is used in sculpture and ceramics to shape materials such as wood, clay and plaster.

REALISM - A style of art in which artists try to show objects, scenes and people as they actually appear.

REALISTIC - Looking like real people, objects or places as we actually see them. Realistic art portrays lifelike colors, textures, shadows, proportions and arrangements.

RECTANGLE - A two dimensional shape with four sides and four right angles. The top and bottom may be longer or shorter than the sides.

REFLECTION - An image given back by a reflecting surface, such as a mirror or a still lake.

REGISTER - The adjustment and readjustment of the separate plates, blocks, stones or screens in color printing to assure proper alignment.

RELIEF - A type of sculpture that is halfway between solid free-standing sculpture and flat painting. In a relief, figures rise up from a background that is flat or has hollowed-out parts.

RELIEF PRINT - A print obtained from a relief block. Certain collages on cardboard may be inked and printed to produce relief prints. Also, metal plates may be printed as relief prints, in addition to their being printed in the intaglio manner.

RENDER - To reproduce or represent by artistic means, such as drawing, painting or sculpture.

REPEAT - The horizontal or vertical distance between identical elements of a repeat pattern.

REPETITION - Repeating a part of or a pattern in a work of art. Repetition makes the parts of a picture come together.

REPLICA - An exact copy or reproduction of an artwork, sometimes made on a smaller scale than the original.

REPOUSSÉ - A relief in which the image is produced primarily by impact on the back of the medium, usually soft sheet metal.

REPRESENTATIONAL - Very close to the way an object really looks. Many paintings and drawings are representational. They look similar to the way things really look.

REPRODUCTION - An exact copy of an artwork sometimes made on a smaller scale than the original.

RESIST - A type of art in which oil or wax, which will not mix with water, is used to block out certain areas of a surface that the artist does not want to be affected by paint, varnish, acid or another substance.

RETOUCHING - A process of correcting or improving art, especially photographs, before negatives are made. Retouching is done with paints or dyes applied with brush or airbrush or via various computer software packages.

REVERSE - To change black and white relationships, negative to positive, and vice versa. Generally refers to line art.

RHYTHM - Regular repetition of lines, shapes, colors or patterns in a work of art.

ROMAN - Letterform that is upright, like the type you are now reading.

ROMANTICISM - A type of painting that idealizes images; often with surrealistic or imaginative compositions.

ROSE WINDOW - Large circular windows of stained glass found in Gothic cathedrals. A fine example is observed on the façade of the Cathedral of Burgos in Spain.

ROUGH - A casual layout used to indicate the overall plan for a design.

ROUGHING OUT - If you rough out a drawing, idea, or plan, you draw or write the main parts of it without giving its details. The process of carving out the basic shapes of a work before any detail is created.

RUBBING - A design made by rubbing a crayon or soft pencil over a paper covering a textured object.

RULE OF THIRDS - a guideline for artists. It says that if you divide a composition into thirds, either vertically or horizontally, and then place focal areas of your scene at the meeting points of them, you will get a more pleasing arrangement and layout for your compositions.

RUNNING STITCH - An embroidery stitch that is used to outline shapes.

SAMPLER - A piece of cloth embroidered with a variety of designs or mottoes, which demonstrates skillful use of various stitches. Such compositions of varied needlework were popular accomplishments among American girls in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

SAND CASTING - A method of creating sculpture from molten material by pouring the material into a cavity formed in a mold of wet sand.

SATIN STITCH - An embroidery stitch that is used to fill in shapes.

SATURATED COLOR - Hues undiluted with white, consequently deep and intense.

SCALE - The relationship between the sizes of parts in an artwork to their size in reality. If a picture is drawn to scale, all of its parts are equally smaller or larger than the parts in the original.

SCALE DRAWING - A reproduction of a drawing in which the dimensions and sizes are in the same ratio as in the original. Scale drawings are usually made by using a grid and can be smaller, larger or the same size as the original.

SCALING - Calculating the proportions of art for enlargement or reduction to fit a particular area.


SCHEMA - an underlying organizational pattern or structure; conceptual framework

SCORE - To cut into, but not all the way through, paper or thin cardboard in order to make a line where it will bend easily. Scoring is often done with an X-acto knife. Also, in clay work, to make small grooves or scratches in pieces of clay to be joined together. Scoring and applying slip to the roughened surfaces creates a firm bond that holds pieces together.

SCRIBE - (metal) - A hard, pointed metal tool (sometimes tipped with a diamond) used to draw on metal.

SCRIMSHAW - A folk art in which line drawings are carved or engraved into bone or ivory.

SCRIPT - Typeface based on handwritten letterforms.

SCULPTURE - Three-dimensional art made by one of four basic processes: carving, modelling, casting, constructing. ( [sculpture vocabulary.pdf](#))

SEASCAPE - A picture of a scene at sea or a scene including a portion of the sea.

SECONDARY COLORS - Colors created by combining two of the three primary colors, red, yellow and blue. The secondary colors are orange, green and purple: orange is a mixture of red and yellow, green a mixture of blue and yellow and purple a mixture of red and blue.

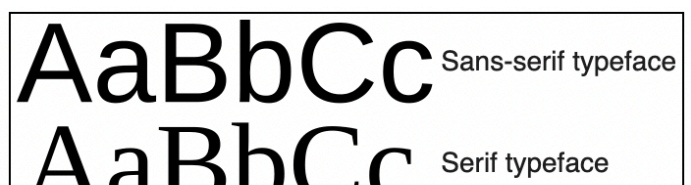
SELF-PORTRAIT - A picture an artist makes of himself, herself, themselves.

sel·fie

1. a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media.

SEPARATOR - A surfacing material used to prevent sticking or bonding and often used in casting to prevent the casting material from sticking to the mold.

SEQUENCE - An order in which one thing follows another; a linear arrangement; a successive arrangement. And, in cinema, a series of single film shots so edited as to constitute an aesthetic or dramatic unit, an episode. Also, to organize or arrange in a sequence.



SERIFS - Short cross-strokes in the letterforms of some typefaces. (Example: Time New Roman font has serifs - The opposite is SAN SERIF, meaning, without a serif. A San Serif font example is Arial.)

SERIGRAPHY - Stencil process. A method of producing original multicolored prints having a real paint quality. Paint, ink or other color is forced through a stencil of silk each time for each color required in the print.

SFUMATO - A subtle blending of colors in order to create a misty effect.

SGRAFITTO - A method of decorating or designing a surface, as of paint, plaster, slip (engobe), or glaze, by scratching through a layer of one color to expose a different color underneath.

SHADE - A color to which black or another dark hue has been added to make it darker. For example, black added to red produces a darker shade of red (See also tint).

SHADING - Showing gradations of lightness and darkness in a picture by darkening areas that would be shadowed and leaving other areas light.

SHADOW PUPPET - A type of puppet that is moved behind a lighted screen so that only the shape or silhouette is visible. These puppets are popular in Japan, China and Russia.

SHAPE - A definite form outlined by lines or a change in color or shading. Shape is an element of design.

SILHOUETTE - An outline of a solid shape without any details inside, like a shadow. Most silhouettes are of a person's profile, done in black or another dark solid color and attached to a light background.

SILKSCREEN - A printing method in which a stencil is placed on a screen and ink is squeegeed through.

SIMPLIFY - To make simpler or more basic by removing details, ornamentation or complex lines or parts. Realistic shapes may be simplified into geometric ones to make abstract art.

SKETCH - A simple, quick, rough drawing done without a lot of detail but catching the chief features and a general impression of an object or scene. Sketches are usually made in preparation for a later, more detailed work.

SKYSCRAPER - A very tall building with many floors supported by a steel framework. The first modern skyscraper was the Home Insurance Building in Chicago, designed in 1883 by William LeBaron Jenney.

SLAB METHOD - A method of making pottery in which a thick, flat plate or slice of clay is cut into shapes which are joined to form an object.

SLIP - A creamy mixture of clay and water or vinegar used to cement two pieces of clay, such as a handle and cup, together or for dripping on pottery as decoration.

SOCIAL REALISM - A type of realism which is more overtly political in content, critical of society, marked by its realistic depiction of social problems.

SOLDER - To bond metals using heat to melt in the joint between them; low temperature alloys of lead which adhere to the two adjoining metal surfaces.

SPACE - The open parts between or inside shapes. Spaces have their own shapes and also serve to make objects in artwork stand out. Space is an element of design.

SPEC BOOK - A catalog containing specimens of all the typefaces, in all sizes and variations, available from a specific typesetter.

SPLASH PANEL - A panel that takes up the space of several panels in the comic in order to introduce or highlight an action or character. Splash panels are similar to splash pages, which take up the whole page of a comic to help introduce or give special attention to battles or particular events.

SPLIT COMPLEMENTS - One color plus the two colors that are on either side of its complement on the color wheel. For example, the complement of blue is orange, and the two colors on either side of orange are yellow-orange and red-orange. Therefore, the split complements of blue are yellow-orange and red-orange.

SQUEEGEE - A flat, wood bar with a rubber blade. The tool used in pulling the printing ink across the silkscreen to produce a print.

STABLE - An abstract sculpture that has movable parts similar to a mobile, but that is attached to a solid, unmovable base rather than suspended.

STAINED GLASS - Pieces of brightly colored glass held together by strips of lead to form a picture or design. Stained glass was first used in churches during the Middle Ages.

STATUE - A carved, modeled or sculpted three-dimensional figure, especially of a person or animal, that stands up by itself.

STENCIL - A pattern consisting of a cut-out design used for printing. Paint, crayon or another medium is pressed or applied over the stencil, filling in the cut-out spaces so that a design comes through onto the paper underneath.

STENCILING - A method of printmaking using stencils and a coloring medium to create a design or pattern on paper or another surface.

STILL-LIFE (NATURE MORTE) - A drawing, painting, collage or other artwork that shows an arrangement of nonmoving, nonliving objects, such as fruit, flowers, bottles, books and other objects of daily life. Usually, a still life is set indoors and contains at least one man-made object, such as a vase or bowl.

STIPPLE - Stipple is a drawing, painting, or engraving method employing dots rather than lines.

STITCHERY - A kind of artwork in which designs or pictures are made by stitching yarn, thread, string or other materials to a fabric backing.

STONEWARE CLAY - A high-fire, vitreous clay, with maturation usually above 1,200 degrees centigrade.

STUDIO - The place where an artist or designer works.

STUDIO HABITS OF MIND - The eight "studio habits of mind" (**Develop Craft, Engage & Persist, Envision, Express, Observe, Reflect, Stretch & Explore, Understand Art Worlds**) describe the thinking that teachers intend for their students to learn during the process of creating.

Studio Thinking is a framework designed by practitioners at **Project Zero** (the research arm of Harvard's School of Education). Out of the Studio Thinking framework comes the Studio Habits of Mind, a set of **eight dispositions** that an artist uses. The wonderful thing about these dispositions is that they offer a language for critical thinking that spans across every discipline.

STYLE - The name given to a group of works seen as belonging together because they resemble each other in some particular way. Works in the same style share a common formal design, subject matter, theme or function. Style names are sometimes identical with the culture that produced the works, such as Egyptian, Roman or Aztec. Other style names are derived from the name of a given historical period, such as Gothic or Renaissance, while at other times a style name refers to a characteristic visual quality that pervades a group or school of artists, such as Cubist or hard Edge. Style also refers to the personal mannerisms or characteristics that distinguish an artist's work from his or her contemporaries.

STYLIZED - Stylized art is **a form that has moved away from natural forms and shapes**. It takes natural forms and alters the color, shapes, lines, and features. Therefore, the art appears similar to the natural state while also looking more dramatic or abstract.

SUBJECT MATTER - That which is represented in an artwork.

SUBTRACTIVE SCULPTURE - Making sculpture by removing material from a large block or form. Marble, wood and soap carving are some types of subtractive sculpture.

SUMI-E - A kind of Japanese brush drawing done with simple, flowing, curving lines that are created with careful brushstrokes.

SURREAL / SURREALISM - a 20th-century avant-garde movement in art and literature that sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind, for example by the irrational juxtaposition of images.

SYMBOL - Something that stands for something else, especially a letter, figure or sign that represents a real object or idea.

SYMBOLIC ORNAMENTATION - Decoration that uses symbolic figures to represent a story or idea, often found in buildings, stained glass windows and other art forms of the Middle Ages.

SYMBOLISM - The use of a figure or design to stand for something else. Something concrete, such as a lion, is usually used to represent an abstract quality, such as courage.

SYMMETRICAL - Having a kind of balance in which things on each side of a center line are identical. For example, the halves of a person's face are symmetrical. The principle of symmetry is important in drawing portraits.

SYMMETRY - A form of balance in which parts on both sides of a center line are the same.

TAPESTRY A picture or design woven or stitched in cloth and hung on a wall.

TAXIDERMY - The art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals with lifelike effect.

TECHNIQUE - The way an artist uses his or her tools. No two artists have exactly the same technique.

TEMPERA - An opaque, water-soluble paint available in liquid or powder form. It is called showcard or poster paint.

TENEBRISM - An effect such as chiaroscuro, with most figures in shadow, yet others in a shaft of light.

TERRA COTTA - Unglazed, fired clay, usually of pinkish color.

TESSERAE - The individual pieces used in making a mosaic.

TERTIARY COLORS - See intermediate colors.

TEXT - the actual wording of anything written or printed

TEXT TYPE - Main body type, usually 12 point and smaller.

TEXTILE - A piece of woven cloth; fabric. Cotton, velour, silk, polyester and burlap are examples of textiles.

TEXTILE DESIGN - The art and science of designing for fabrics.

TEXTURE - The way a surface looks and feels - rough, smooth, silky and so on.

THOUGHT BALLOON - Objects used to contain a character's thoughts. These text containers are sometimes called thought bubbles because of the trail of little bubbles that connect the thought balloon to the character in the comic. The thought balloons reveal what the characters are thinking as they complete the actions in the panel

THREE-DIMENSIONAL - Having length, width and depth. A sculpture is three-dimensional, but a drawing is only two-dimensional since it is flat and has only length and width not depth.

THROW - The term used to denote the forming process on the potter's wheel, probably derived from the initial act of propelling a ball of clay onto the wheelhead.

THUMBNAILED - Small, casual sketches used as a rough indication of a design plan.

TIE-DYE - Colorful cloth with designs of lines and circles. The designs are made because objects are tied into the cloth with string. The wrapped areas resist the colored dye into which the cloth is dipped.

TIFFANY GLASS - A style of glass designed in the early 20th century by Louis Comfort Tiffany, using rich colors and the botanical forms and patterns characteristic of Art Nouveau.

TINT - A color to which white has been added. For example, white added to blue makes a lighter blue tint (See also shade).

TITLE - The name given to a picture, sculpture or other piece of artwork, reflecting the main idea of the work.

TONE - The tint, shade, brightness or value of color.

TORSO - The trunk, or main part of the human body, not including the head, arms and legs.

TOTEM - An object or image that serves as a symbol or emblem of a family, person, idea or experience.

TOTEM POLE - A pole or pillar of wood carved and painted with totem images showing the history, traditions and legends of the Northwest Indians.

Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes. These people are called visitors (which

may be either tourists or excursionists; residents or non-residents) and tourism has to do with their activities, some of which imply tourism expenditure.

TOWER - A tall, vertical structure that either stands free or is part of a building.

TRACERY - Decorative ornamental stone or wood patterns used between pieces of glass or on walls.

TRADEMARK - A special design, name or symbol that represents a company or business. Most trademarks are registered with the government and cannot be used by anyone else (See also log).

TRANSFER - To print or copy a drawing or design from one surface to another by bringing the two surfaces into contact.

TRANSLUCENT - The ability to permit the passage of light but not image.

TRANSPARENT - Allowing light to pass through so that objects can be clearly seen underneath; the opposite of opaque. Window glass, cellophane and watercolors are transparent.

TRIAD - Three colors equally spaced on the color wheel. For example, yellow, blue and red form a triad as do green, purple and orange and so on.

TRIPTYCH - A painting done in three sections, possibly hinged together.

TROMPE L'OEIL (FOOL THE EYE) - A painting so real that you want to touch the objects.

TROPHY - anything taken in war, hunting, competition, etc., especially when preserved as a memento; spoil, prize, or award.

TURRET - A small tower, usually containing stairs, that is located on the top of a building.

TUSCHE - Grease in liquid form used in making lithographs and serigraphs.

TWO-DIMENSIONAL - Having height and width, but not depth; flat. Paintings, drawings and stitchery are examples of two-dimensional art forms.

TYPOGRAPHY - The art and process of working with and printing from type. Today's technology, by mechanizing much of the art, is rapidly making typography a science.

UNDERGLAZE - Liquid clay slip that contains coloring oxides and chemicals used to apply color and designs to an **unfired** ceramic piece.

UNIFIED - Having all parts look as if they belong together in a complete whole.

UNITY - The appearance of oneness or wholeness achieved when all parts of a work of art look as though they belong together, are interrelated and balanced and produce a total desired effect. Unity is a principle of design.

UNJUSTIFIED TYPE - Lines of type set at different lengths which align on one side (left to right) and are ragged on the other.

UPPERCASE - Capital letters in an alphabet.

UTILITARIAN - having regard to utility or usefulness rather than beauty, ornamentation, etc.

VALUE - The lightness or darkness of tones or colors. For example, white and yellow have a light value and black and purple have a dark value. Value is an element of design.

VANDALISM - deliberately mischievous or malicious destruction or damage of property

VANISHING POINT - In linear perspective, the place on the horizon where parallel lines seem to meet or converge.

VARIETY - An assortment of lines, shapes or textures in a work of art. Variety is a principle of good design.

VAULT - An arched ceiling or roof made of stone, cement or brick.

VELLUM - Thinned calf-hide, prepared for writing.

VESSEL - a hollow or concave utensil, as a cup, bowl, pitcher, or vase, used for holding liquids or other contents.

VERTICAL - Straight up and down; perpendicular to the horizon.

VIEWFINDER - A rectangular opening, usually in cardboard, through which the artists looks at the subject of the painting.

VIEWPOINTS - Sides from which an object can be seen. A shoe has many viewpoints; if you put a shoe on a table, you can move around the table to see different views of the shoe.

VISUAL HIERARCHY - The expression of visual and conceptual order that communicates degrees of importance of the various parts of the composition. This can be achieved through proximity, contrast, color, size, etc.

Visual literacy is the ability to interpret, negotiate, and make **meaning** from information presented in the form of an image, extending the **meaning** of **literacy**, which commonly signifies interpretation of a written or printed text.

VITRIFY - A glassy, non-porous state caused by heat or fusion. Become glass-like.

VOID - An opening, gap, hole or empty space, often used in modern sculpture. Voids are an important feature in the sculpture of Henry Moore.

WARM COLOR - A color that gives the feeling of warmth. Yellow-green, yellow, yellow-orange, orange, red-orange, red and red-violet are warm colors.

WARP - The vertical threads that are attached to the top and bottom of a loom, through which the weft is woven (See also weft).

WASH - The background of a watercolor picture prepared using thin, watery paint applied quickly with large, sweeping brushstrokes.

WATERCOLOR - A transparent paint made by mixing powdered colors with a binding agent and water. The term also refers to a painting done with watercolors.

WATERSCAPE - A painting of or including a body of water.

WEAVING - The interlacing of threads and other materials to create a textile design as an integral part of cloth.

WEDGING - Cutting, pounding and kneading clay to mix it and get rid of air bubbles until it has a smooth and even texture and is ready to use.

WEFT - The threads or strands of yarn that are woven back and forth across the warp threads to make solid textile (See also warp).

WOOD ENGRAVING - Relief process. A block of end-grain wood cut into with burins, gravers, tint tools, etc. A print from an end grain block.

WOODCUT - Relief process. A block of plank grain wood cut into with a knife and various gouges, chisels, etc., wherein the image to be printed stands in relief above the rest of the block. A print from such a block.

WORDSPACING - In composition, adding space between words to fill out line of type to a given measure.

World Heritage Site - a natural or man-made site, area, or structure recognized as being of outstanding international importance and therefore as deserving special protection. Sites are nominated to and designated by the World Heritage Convention (an organization of UNESCO).

X-HEIGHT - The height of the main portion of a lowercase letter, not including ascender or descender.

YARN - A strand-like fiber made of cotton, wool, or a man-made material and used for stitchery, weaving, knitting, and appliqué.