

VISUAL ARTS VOCABULARY

ARTISTIC STYLE	The characteristics of the works of an artists.
BALANCE	The way the elements of the picture are organized. asymmetry: The two sides of the picture do not have the same size. symmetry: The two sides of the picture are equally organized.
COLLAGE	The combination of different materials on a surface (e.g. pieces of paper, wood, cloth).
COLOUR	cool colours: blue, green, lilac, purple They usually mean that something is cool, calm or icy. warm colours: yellow, orange, red They usually mean that something is hot, dangerous, exciting or angry.
COMPOSITION	The organization of elements (colours, lines, objects, shapes) in a picture.
LINE	A long, narrow mark. Types of lines: horizontal, vertical, diagonal, wavy, curved, straight, interrupted, thick, thin, long, short, broken.
MEDIUM	The type of material used in a work of art. For example, paint, pencil, stone or wood.
MOTIF	A repeated pattern in the picture.
PICTURE PLANES	background: the most distant part of the picture middle ground: the part between the foreground and background foreground: the closest part of the picture
SIZE	The size of the people or the objects compared to the size of the picture. Large objects are usually important in the picture.
SHAPE	A two-dimensional area with identifiable boundaries. geometric shapes: circle, triangle, square, rectangle organic shapes: forms that can be found in nature
SPACE	An area around and within objects, defined by shapes and forms.
TEXTURE	What the surface of the object is like or what it feels like to 'touch' an object. Adjectives to describe texture: smooth, rough, bumpy, soft.
VALUE	The lightness and darkness of colours in the picture.