

# → ART TERMS →

**Abstract** - Art that is based in the real world (person, place or thing) and simplified

**Academic art** - Art of the formally trained

**Aesthetics** - Beauty according to a culture

**Arbitrary value** - value that does not reflect a light source but placed where the artist chooses

**Asymmetrical/symmetrical balance** - Balanced but different on both sides of an axis; the same on both sides of an axis

**Balance** - Equality of visual weight

**Bleed** - Image goes to the very edge of the paper

**Calligraphic line** - a thick and thin line that looks like it could be writing

**Cast shadow** - The shadow resulting from an object blocking the light source

**Chiaroscuro** - Light and dark to create a sense of dimension

**Closed composition** - the positive shapes are all enclosed within the picture plane

**Composition** - the arrangement of the elements of art within a defined area

**Construction lines** - lines that act as reference points that are used to make a proportioned drawing

**Content** - the meaning contained in a work of art

**Contour line** - a line that defines an edge, usually flowing rather than sketchy

**Contrapposto** - weight shift in a figure that results in one hip higher than the other

**Contrast** - differences: high contrast is big differences, low contrast is small difference

**Cool/warm color relationship** - blues, greens, purples recede --- oranges, reds, yellows advance --- yellow-green and red-violet are swing colors that advance or recede depending on what they are next to

**Core of shadow** - the darkest part of the shadow on the object (often the farthest part away from the light source)

**Craftsmanship** - the quality with which you use your materials

**Crop** - to cut down the picture plane thus changing the composition

**Cubism** - a period: 1905 by Picasso and Braque that simplifies the real world into geometric planes that allows us to see more than one perspective of an object at the same time; also a style used by many artists in the 20th century

**Elements of art** - The building blocks of art: color, line, shape, value, texture and pattern, space

**Expressionism** - exaggeration of the elements and principles that creates a strong reaction

**Focal point** - the place ones eye goes first caused by contrast

**Foreshortening** - the shortening of a plane to show that is receding into space

**Geometric shapes** - mathematical shapes that feel solid and strong

**Gesture drawing** - quick drawings that essence of a shape or movement

**Graphic** - something that is simple, easily read or printed

**Harmony** - elements that work together well, no discord

**Highlight** - direct reflected light from a light source

**Horizon line** - eye level, the place where parallel lines meet in linear perspective

**Illustration** - a type of drawing that is mainly concerned with depicting a story

**Implied line** - line that is not actually there but is completed by the mind because there is enough other information

**Intensity** - Brilliance or purity of color ---- more intense color advances, less intense

recedes --- intensity can be lowered by mixing complements or adding gray

**Intuitive** - An instinctive response, knowing

**Juxtaposition** - objects set side by side implying comparison

**Line** - the path of a moving point -- creates movement, direction, and sometimes value if massed

**Linear perspective** - the mathematical system that creates the illusion of depth on a two dimensional surface based on the premise that parallel lines will meet at the horizon --- 1 point, 2 point, 3 point

**Local value** - value on an object that has nothing to do with a light source

**Mass** - volume, on a 2-D surface the illusion of which can be created with linear perspective, chiaroscuro (shading), overlapping, size differences, position on the page (higher is farther away)

**Media** - the materials used

**Modeling** - making something look dimensional

**Negative shapes/positive shapes** - the shapes the artist originally intends and the resulting shapes surrounding them

**Non-objective art** - art which has the elements and principles as its subject rather than a person, place, or thing

**Open composition** - the positive shapes are cut off by the picture plane

**Picture plane** - the 2 dimensional surface on which the artist works

**Primary colors** - the 3 colors from which all other colors are made (in artist's terms: red, blue, yellow)

**Primitive, naive, outsider art** - art of the untrained, often made by people living outside the mainstream; charming and childlike art

**Principles of art** - how the elements are used, with: balance, rhythm, emphasis, unity, variety, proportion

**Proportion** - relationships in size or quantity

**Radial balance** - composition that starts in the middle and goes out like the spokes of a wheel

**Reflected light** - light that bounces off one object and onto another --- in a still life it can usually be seen on the undersides of objects

**Rhythm** - repetition that creates movement

**Shape** - a defined area --- can be defined by line, color, value, texture

**Simultaneous contrast** - the effect one color or value has on another when seen side by side at the same time

**Space** - either 2 dimensional (flat) or 3 dimensional (height,width,depth)

**Surrealism** - a period starting in 1925 by artists and writers in Europe that uses the subconscious and dreams to create bizarre situations

**Technique** - the manner with which a medium is used

**Texture** - a surface quality (how the surface reflects value determines the texture)

**Trompe l'oeil** - a painting or drawing technique that looks so much like the real thing that it is mistaken for the real thing

**Unity/variety** - likenesses and differences

**Value** - light and dark

**Vanishing point** - place on the horizon line where parallel lines meet