

Vocabulary Words

7th Grade

Abstract Art- An art style that shows objects, people, and/or places in simplified arrangements of shape, line, texture and color, often geometrical.

Abstract Expressionism- a twentieth century painting style that tries to express feelings and emotions through slashing, and active brush strokes. Action Painting.

Aerial Perspective- A way of drawing that shows depth in space. (from the air)

Anatomy- The structure of the human body (or plants and animals). Anatomical drawings often show such details as muscles and bones.

Architect- A person who develops plans for buildings, communities, etc.

Architecture- The design of buildings, such as homes, offices, industrial structures.

Asymmetrical Balance- A type of visual balance in which one side of the composition appears different than the other side while remaining balanced.

Balance- A principle of design. There are three kinds of balance: symmetrical, asymmetrical, and radial.

Calligraphy- Handwriting that uses brush lines similar to Oriental writing.

Caricature- A drawing which exaggerates selected characteristics of a subject. Often humorous

Cartoon- A drawing that symbolizes or caricaturizes a person or event.

Chamois- A soft leather that is used in charcoal drawings to smooth shaded areas.

Cityscape- A painting or drawing that uses elements of a city as its subject matter.

Collage- A technique in which the artist glues materials such as paper, cloth or found materials to some type of background.

Color- An element of art that identifies natural and manufactured things as being red, blue, orange, or any other name that identifies their hue.

Composition- The arrangement of the part in a work of art, usually according to the principles of design.

Contrast- A principle of design that refers to differences in values, colors, textures, and other elements in an artwork to achieve emphasis and interest.

Contemporary Art- Refers to the art of today; the methods, styles and techniques of artists living now.

Contour drawing- A single line drawing which defines the outer and inner forms of people and/or objects.

Cross Hatching- A method of shading with fine lines.

Cubism- A style of art in which the subject is broken a part and reassembled in a abstract form, emphasizing geometric shapes.

Culture- Refers to those elements, which add to the aesthetic aspects of our lives, enriching them with beauty and enjoyment.

Distortion- To deform or stretch something out of its normal shape.

Doodling- An absentminded type of drawing in which the person is often preoccupied with other thoughts.

Drawing style- A particular way of drawing that would define the artist or certain period of time.

Emphasis- A principle of design by which the artist or designer may use opposing sizes or shapes, contrasting colors, or other means to place greater attention on certain areas or objects in a work of art.

Expressionism- Any style of art in which the artist tries to communicate strong personal and emotional feelings to the viewer.

Fashion Illustrator- A person who draws fashion designs for advertisements in magazines, newspapers, etc.

Figure Drawing- Drawings which use the human figure as its chief subject matter.

Form- An element of art, similar to shape which encloses and area making it three-dimensional. (Cone, Cube, Cylinder, etc.)

Fresco- A painting technique in which the artist applies wet colored plaster to a wet plaster wall. A type of mural painting.

Gallery- A commercial enterprise that exhibits and sells art.

Gesso- A plaster-like, white material that can be brushed on a ground as an undercoating for drawings or paintings.

Gesture line- A scribbly type of line drawing that catches the movements and gestures of an active figure.

Graphic Artist- A person who designs packages, advertisements for newspapers and magazines; illustrates for advertisements, books; draws cartoons; designs displays and signs; produces and kind of art for reproduction.

Graphite- A greasy, natural carbon material that is used in making lead pencils. (6H,4H,2H,H,HB,B,2B,4B,6B)

Horizontal- A line or shape that lies down and is parallel to the top and bottom edges of the paper.

Hue- The name of a color, such as yellow, yellow-orange, blue-violet, green, etc.

Impressionism- A style of drawing and painting (1875 and following) begun in France, which stresses the effects of light and color as well as the use of brush strokes.

Landscape- A work of art that shows the features of the natural environment (trees, lakes, mountains, flowers, etc.)

Line- A path made by a moving point (Element of Design).

Logo- A visual design which symbolizes and stands for a company, industry, or individual.

Mixed Media- A two-dimensional art technique that uses more than one medium (material) to create an artwork; for example a crayon and watercolor drawing.

Monochromatic- Values or intensities of one color.

Movement- A principle of design that refers to the arrangements of the parts in a drawing to create a slow to fast flow of your eye through the artwork.

Museum- A place in the community where art is collected and placed on view. Works belonging to the museum are not for sale, but are for study and enjoyment.

Negative Space- The area around the objects in a drawing or painting, often called the background.

Non-Objective- Works of art without recognizable subject matter. Lines, colors, shapes, and textures make up the subject.

OP Art (Optical)- A style of art (middle of 20th century) that uses optical (visual) illusions of many types. These works of art are composed to confuse, heighten and expand visual sensations.

Opaque- The quality of a material that will not allow light to pass through. The opposite of transparent.

Organic- Free-form or quality that resembles living things. The opposite of mechanical or geometric.

Pattern- A principle of design in which combinations of lines, shape, and colors are repeated.

Perspective drawing- A method of drawing on a flat surface (which is two-dimensional) to give the illusion of depth, or the third dimension.

Pigment- The coloring material used in painting and drawing media. Pigments may be natural (from earth, plantdyes, etc.) or from chemicals prepared in laboratories.

Pop Art- A style of art that features everyday, popular things around us. A drawing of a large coke bottle might be considered Pop Art.

Positive Space- The objects in a work of art, as opposed to the background or area around the objects.

Portrait- A piece of art work featuring a person, several people or and animal.

Realism- A style of art that attempts to realistically show places, people, or objects. It stresses actual colors, textures, shadows and arrangements.

Relief- The raised parts of a surface which are often noticeable by the feeling of texture.

Renaissance- A period of time (1400-1600) following the Middle Ages that featured an emphasis on human beings and their environments and on science and philosophy.

Rhythm- A principle of design that indicated a type of movement in an artwork or design, often by repeated shapes or colors.

Shape- A element of design described as two-dimensional and enclosing area. Shape can be divided into two basic classes: geometric and organic.

Space- An elements of design that indicates areas in a drawing (positive and negative) and / or the feeling of depth in a two-dimensional work of art.

Surrealism- A style of twentieth-Century painting in which the artist relates normally unrelated objects and situations. Often the scenes are dream-like or set in unnatural surroundings.

Symmetrical Balance- A design in which both sides are identical.

Texture- An element of design that refers to the surface quality as being rough, smooth, soft, etc. It can be actual or implied.

Unity- A principle of design that relates to the sense of oneness or wholeness in a work of art.

Value- An element of design that relates to the lightness and darkness of a color or shade.

Variety- A principle of design concerned with difference or contrast.

Vertical- Upright or parallel to the sides of the paper.