

GLOSSARY OF ART TERMS

Acrylic Paints - Acrylic paints are water soluble, but become water-resistant when dry. Depending on how much the paint is diluted with water the finished acrylic painting can resemble a watercolour or an oil painting, or have its own unique characteristics not attainable with other media

Appliqué – To sew or stick pieces of fabric on to a garment or larger piece of fabric to form pictures or patterns.

Batik – A technique where wax is used to resist paint or dye on fabric or paper, so that designs and patterns are produced on the un-waxed areas.

Brayer - A roller that is used to apply ink to printing surfaces in printmaking.

Collage - Art made by cutting up materials such as coloured paper, string, fabric, and newspaper and then gluing them together to make a picture.

Complementary Colours - These are colours that appear on the opposite sides of the colour wheel – red and green, blue and orange, yellow and purple. When placed side by side, these colours can intensify each other.

Composition – the way that a picture is organised

Cross-hatching- This is a method of shading where close parallel lines crisscross each other at angles to indicate tone and shade. The denser the lines, the darker the tone or shade.

Form - An element of art that refers to an object that has three dimensions

Hue – Hue is another word for colour

Impasto - A type of oil painting when the paint is applied in very thick brush strokes.

Impressed – A method whereby the image is pressed down into a block made of polystyrene or clay.

Kiln - A type of hot oven used to bake clay into a hard permanent finish.

Landscape - A painting of nature and the land such as the ocean, mountains, trees, and sky. Also Townscape and Seascape.

Line – Lines create form and shape. They can be thick, thin, straight, curved, long or short.

Lithography - A method for making prints using a flat stone or a metal plate.

Malleable – Capable of being shaped by pressure or rollers.

Medium/Media - The materials used in creating a piece of artwork such as paint, marble, clay, or pastels.

Observational Art – Drawing done from an object that is closely observed and replicated carefully.

Palette - A board where colours of paint are mixed so they are the right colour for the painting. Can also refer to range of colours an artist has used in an artwork.

Pastels - Colouring sticks that can be made from oil or chalk.

Perspective - A way of painting or drawing that makes some objects appear closer than others.

Pigment - The part of the paint that gives it colour.

Pointillism – Using tiny dots of colour painted very close together to create a specific effect. See the works of Seurat

Portrait - A drawing or painting of a person or people.

Primary colours - Red, yellow, and blue. All of the other colours can be made from these three.

Relief - A type of 3d art that looks like it is raised from the background.

Sculpture - A three dimensional piece of art often carved, chiselled, or cast from stone, marble, wood, or bronze.

Secondary Colours – The colours made by mixing two primary colours, red+yellow=**orange**, blue+yellow=**green**, red+blue=**purple**

Self-portrait - A painting or drawing that the artist makes of himself.

Series - A number of artworks that are meant to go together. They are often of the same subject.

Shade - The term for a colour darkened with black. The opposite of shade is tint.

Shape - Shape pertains to the use of areas in two-dimensional space that can be defined by edges. Shapes can be geometric (e.g., square, circle, hexagon, etc.) or organic (such as the shape of a puddle, blob, leaf, boomerang, etc.).

Space - Space includes the background, foreground and middle ground, and refers to the distances or area(s) around, between and within things. There are two kinds of space: negative (dark) space and positive (light) space.

Still life - A painting or drawing of inanimate objects often placed in an arrangement. Examples include flowers in a vase, fruit in a bowl, and bottles of wine.

Texture - The look and feel of the canvas in painting. This can vary on how the paint is applied. Other materials may be added to change the texture.

Tint - A colour that has been combined with white to make it light. The opposite of tint is shade.

Tone - This is a quality of colour. It has to do with whether or not a colour is warm or cold, bright or dull, light or dim etc

Vanishing Point – When drawing in perspective, lines travelling back into the distance get nearer and nearer until they reach a single point – the vanishing point.

Wash – A heavily diluted, watery background of coloured paint.

Watercolour - A water soluble paint that thins as it is mixed with water.