

Drawing - Painting

Vocabulary List

W-SR – Mr. Adelmund

abstract: In art, the rendering of images and objects in a stylized or simplified way, so their formal or expressive aspects are emphasized.

acrylic: A plastic resin that, when mixed with water and pigment, forms an inorganic and quick-drying paint medium.

aesthetic: Pertaining to the appreciation of the beauty, as opposed to the functional or utilitarian aspects.

asymmetric balance: Balance achieved in a composition when neither side reflects or mirrors the other.

atmospheric perspective: A technique, often employed in landscape painting, designed to suggest three-dimensional space in the two-dimensional space of the picture plane, and in which forms and objects distant from the viewer become less distinct, often bluer or cooler in color, and contrast among the various distant elements is greatly reduced.

avant-garde: Those whose works can be characterized as unorthodox and experimental.

base line: An imaginary line on which a group of objects or one object sits.

blind contour: A contour drawing where the artist never looks down at the paper but keeps their eye on the subject.

chiaroscuro: In drawing and painting, the use of light and dark to create the effect of three-dimensional surfaces.

classical line: A kind of line that is mathematical, precise, and rationally organized, emphasized by the vertical and horizontal grid, as opposed to expressive line.

collage: A work made by pasting various scraps or pieces of material-cloth, paper, photographs, etc. - onto the surface of the composition.

comparative process: The basic critical tool of art history and criticism, in which works of art are compared and contrasted with one another in order to establish both differences and similarities between various works.

composition: The organization of the formal elements in a work of art.

conceptual art: An art form in which the idea behind the work and the process of its

making are more important than the final product.

content: The subject matter of a work of art.

contour: The visible border of an object in space.

cool colors: Those colors in which blue is dominant, including greens and violets.

cross-hatching: Two or more sets of roughly parallel and overlapping lines, set at an angle to one another, in order to create a sense of shadow and depth.

eye level: An imaginary horizontal line parallel to the student's eyes. Important to establish in drawing one- and two- point perspectives.

figure-ground relationship: In a two-dimensional work, the relationship between a form or figure and its background.

fixative: A thin liquid film sprayed over pastel, graphite or charcoal drawings to protect them from smudging.

foreshortening: The use of perspective to represent the apparent visual contraction of an object or figure that extends backwards from the picture plane.

gel medium: Added to acrylic paint as an extender for thick, transparent glazes; increases gloss and handling time.

gesso: A mixture of glue, whiting and water, used as an undercoating for a painting.

hue: A color, usually one of the six basic colors of the spectrum.

impasto: The thick building up of pigment (paint) to give a visible texture.

implied line: a line created by movement or direction, such as a line established by a pointed finger, the direction of a glance, etc.

intensity: The relative purity of a color's hue, its brightness or dullness; also known as *saturation*.

intermediate colors: The range of colors on the color wheel between each primary color and its neighboring secondary color; yellow-green, for example.

key: The relative lightness or darkness of a picture or the colors in it.

linear perspective: A system for depicting three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional surface that depends upon two related principles; that things perceived as far away are smaller than things nearer the viewer, and that parallel lines receding into the distance converge at a vanishing point on the horizon line.

medium: (1) Any material used to create a work of art. (2) In painting, a liquid added to the paint that makes it easier to manipulate.

negative space: Empty space, surrounding a positive shape and also the space between two positive shapes.

one-point perspective: A system for depicting three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional surface, based upon the illusion that all parallel lines, when receding into the space, will converge at a single vanishing point on the horizon line.

organic shapes: A free-form, irregular shape.

outline: A line that can define only the outside edge of an object, not its contour, but a resulting silhouette of the form.

pastel: (1) A soft crayon made of chalk and pigment. Also any work done in this medium. (2) a pale, light color.

pencil: A drawing tool made of graphite encased in a soft wood cylinder. Pencils have specific numbers that indicate hardness or softness ranging from 6B (softest), 5B, 4B, 3B, 2B, B, HB, F, H, 2H, 3H, 4H, 5H, 6H, 7H, 8H, 9H (hardest).

perspective: A formula for projecting the illusion of three-dimensional space onto a two-dimensional surface.

picture plane: The surface on which the artist works.

primary colors: The hues that in theory cannot be created from mixture of other hues and from which all other hues are created. (R,Y,B)

print: Any one of multiple impressions made from a master image.

proportion: The relationship between the parts and of the parts to the whole.

scale: The comparative size of a thing in relation to another like thing, or its "normal" or "expected" size.

scumbling: Adding a thin layer of color (paint) over a dry underlayer, allowing the underlayer to show through.

secondary colors: a hue created by combining two primary colors. (O,G,V)

shade: A color or hue modified by the addition of another color, black.

simulated texture: The imitation of the tactile quality of a surface, a suggested imitation of the subject's texture.

spectrum: The colored bands of visible light created when sunlight passes through a prism.

still life: A work of art that consists of an arrangement of inanimate objects.

stipple: To make individual small dots with a stiff brush in a slightly darker color(s)

subjective: As opposed to objective, full of personal emotions and feelings.

symbol: An image, sign, or element, such as color, that is understood, by content, to suggest some meaning.

symmetry: When two halves of a composition correspond to one another in terms of size, shape, and placement of forms.

texture: The actual tactile characteristics of a thing, or the visual simulation of such characteristics.

three-dimensional space: Any space that possesses height, width, and depth.

tint: A color or hue modified by the addition of another color, white.

two-point perspective: A version of linear perspective in which there are two (or more) vanishing points in the composition.

value: The range from light to dark or from white, through gray to black.

vanishing point: the point on the horizon line where parallel lines appear to converge.

watercolor: A paint medium consisting of pigments suspended in a solution of water and gum arabic.

Periods in Art History

Abstract Expressionism: A painting style of the late 1940s and early 1950s, predominantly American, characterized by its rendering of expressive content by abstract or nonobjective means.

Art Deco: A popular art and design style of the 1920s and 1930s associated with the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts in Paris and characterized by its integration of organic and geometric forms.

Art Nouveau: The art and design style characterized by curvilinear and organic forms that dominated popular culture at the turn of the century, and that achieved particular success at the 1900 International Exposition in Paris.

Baroque: A dominant style of art in Europe in the seventeenth century characterized by its theatrical, or dramatic, use of light and color, by its ornate

forms, and by its disregard for classical principles of composition.

Bauhaus: A German school of design, founded by Walter Gropius in 1919 and closed by Hitler in 1933.

Cubism: A style of art pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque in the first decade of the twentieth century, noted for the geometry of its forms, its fragmentation of the object, and its increasing abstraction.

Dada: An art movement that originated during World War I in a number of world capitals, including Paris, Berlin, Zurich and New York, and that was so different from traditional styles and materials of art that it was considered by many to be “anti-art.”

Expressionism : An art that stresses the psychological and emotional content of the work, associated particularly with German art in the early twentieth century.

Futurism: An early twentieth century art movement, characterized by its desire to celebrate the movement and speed of modern, industrial life.

Impressionism: A late nineteenth century art movement, created in France, and characterized by its use of discontinuous strokes of color meant to reproduce the effects of light.

Minimalism: A style of art, predominantly American, that dates from the mid-twentieth century, characterized by its rejection of expressive content and its use of “minimal” formal means.

Neoclassicism: A style of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries that was influenced by the Greek Classical style.

Optical Painting (Op Art): An art style particularly popular in the 1960's in which line and color are manipulated in ways that stimulate the eye into believing it perceives movement.

Pop Art: A style arising in the early 1960s characterized by its emphasis on the forms and imagery of mass culture.

Post-Impressionism: A name that describes the painting of a number of artists, working in widely different styles, in the last decades of the nineteenth century in France.

Rococo: A style popular in the first three-quarters of the eighteenth century, particularly in France, characterized by curvilinear forms, pastel colors, and its light, often frivolous subject matter.

Romanesque Art: The dominant style of art and architecture in Europe from the eighth to the twelfth centuries, characterized, in architecture by the round arch and the barrel vault.

Romanticism: A dramatic, emotional, and subjective art rising in the early nineteenth century in opposition to discipline of Neoclassicism.

Surrealism: A style of art of the early twentieth century that emphasized dream imagery, chance operations, and rapid, thoughtless form; the unconscious mind.