

Glossary

abstract Not the way something really looks. An abstract work of art is based on a real object, but the artist leaves out details or changes the object in the picture to look different than the real object.

asymmetrical balance A kind of balance in which the two sides of a design are very different.

background shape The shapes in a picture. The background shapes are made by the edges of the fore-ground shapes.

balance An arrangement of parts so that they have equal force. Major types of balance are symmetrical, asymmetrical, and radial.

color The hue of an object. An element of art.

color wheel Shows relationships among colors. The color wheel shows the primary, secondary, and intermediate colors. The color wheel is sometimes divided into warm and cool colors.

contrast Differences or opposites placed next to or near each other in a picture.

cool color A color that gives the feeling of coolness. Green, blue-green, blue, blue-violet, and violet are cool colors.

decoupage A method of creating pictures by cutting and-pasting pieces of painted paper.

elements The building blocks of art. Line, shape and form, texture, space, value, and color are elements of art.

emphasis When an artist makes one part of a picture more important than another.

foreground shapes The first or frontal shapes or figures in a picture.

form The three-dimensional shape of an object. Forms have many sides and viewpoints.

genre An artwork that depicts scenes or events from everyday life.

geometric Shapes such as circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, ovals, and ellipses and forms such as cones, cubes, cylinders, rectangular forms, pyramids, and spheres.

horizontal A direction that a line can have. Horizontal lines are at rest. They are quiet and calm.

hue The name of a color.

implied lines The lines you cannot see. Implied lines are hidden or not immediately obvious.

Intensity The brightness or pureness of a color. A bright color is at its highest intensity. A dull color is at its lowest intensity.

intermediate color A color made by mixing a secondary color with a primary color. Blue-green, yellow-green, yellow-orange, red-orange, red-violet, and blue-violet are the intermediate colors.

line A path that a point has followed through space. Line is an element of art.

medium The kind of material from which an artwork is made. (Plural: **media**)

nonobjective Having no subject matter nor definable objects.

organic shapes Any shape that is not geometric. Most shapes in nature are organic, or irregular.

outline A line that shows the edge of an object. An outline is a closed line. Outlines show two-dimensional shapes.

overlap When parts of a picture lie on top of other parts. Overlapping makes the parts on top look closer than the parts underneath.

Perspective Systems used to convey the impression of depth on a two dimensional surface.

primary colors The colors from which all other colors are made. Red, yellow, and blue are the primary colors. The primary colors cannot be made by mixing other colors.

principles Organize a work of art. The principles of art are the plans that make the elements come together. Balance, unity, emphasis, and rhythm are the principles of art.

pure colors A color from the color wheel that has not been mixed with another color.

radial balance A kind of balance in which the design has a round center with parts that move away from it.

realistic The exact way that an object really looks. A photograph usually looks realistic. Some paintings and drawings look realistic.

repetition Repeating a part of or a pattern in a work of art. Repetition makes the parts of a picture come together. Repetition can also show movement.

representational Very close to the way an object really looks. Many paintings and drawings are representational. They look similar to the way things really appear.

rhythm A repeated part or pattern in a picture. Rhythm brings unity in a work of art, and shows movement.

secondary color A color made by mixing two primary colors. Green, orange, and violet are the secondary colors.

shade The color made by mixing a pure color with black. Shades are darker than pure colors. Shades have darker values.

shape The two-dimensional space between or around objects. Shapes are flat.

symbol Something that stands for or represents another thing.

symmetrical balance A kind of balance in which both sides of a design are exactly alike.

texture The way an object feels when you touch it. Texture can be seen as well as felt. Rough and smooth are kinds of textures.

three-dimensional Having many sides. A shoe is three-dimensional; it has a top, a bottom, a front, a back, a left side, and a right side. Three-dimensional objects have length, width, and height.

tint The color made by mixing a pure color with white. Tints are lighter than pure colors. Tints have light values.

two-dimensional Flat. A painting is two-dimensional. It has two sides: a front and a back. Two-dimensional objects have length and width.

unity When the parts of a picture come together. Each part fits with the others.

value Refers to the lightness and darkness of what is seen. The amount of light reflected from a surface gives it its value. White is the lightest value; black is the darkest. Colors have value. Tints are lighter values of pure colors. Shades are darker values of pure colors.

vanishing point the imaginary point in which lines or objects seem to disappear in the distance on a two-dimensional surface.

viewpoints Sides from which an object can be seen. A shoe has many viewpoints; if you put a shoe on a table you can move around it to see different views of the shoe.

warm color A color that gives the feeling of warmth. Yellow, orange, and red are warm colors.

wash A very thin coat of paint. Washes are often made with water and a small amount of watercolor.