



Common Art Terms

For the Classroom Art Studio

Elements

The ingredients of art: form, shape, line, color, texture, value, and space

1

2

Principles

Rules for organizing compositions: pattern, variety, rhythm, movement, balance, emphasis, proportion, and unity

Process

How the art is made: painting, drawing, sculpting, throwing, hand building, printmaking, photography, weaving, etc.

3

4

Medium

Materials the art is made of: graphite, marker, ink, charcoal, pastel, acrylic paint, oil paint, watercolor paint, clay, yarn, etc.

Techniques

A practical method for making art: drawing-hatching, stippling, scribbling ceramics-pinch, coil, slabbing, throwing

5

6

Tools

What the art is made with: paint brush, palette knife, gouge, brayer, gelli plate, wheel, needle or ribbon tool, torch, etc.

Subject Matter

What the topic, focus, or image of the art is about: portrait, still life, landscape, interior, or non-objective

7

8

Art Style

Typical appearance of art that relates to other art of the same period: pop art, impressionism, expressionism, realism, fauvism, renaissance, cubism, etc.

Aesthetics

Philosophy or theories concerned with the perception of or for judging "beauty" in art: formalist, expressionist, mimetic, etc.

9