



Art and Design Appendix – Glossary of Terms



Term	Explanation
Anatomical	Relating to the structure of human or animal bodies or the structure of plants
Blending	To blur the joining of colours, tones or shades
Collage	A picture made by sticking pieces of coloured paper, cloth or photographs onto a surface, or by putting images together on a computer
Charcoal	A black substance made by burning wood slowly in an oven with little air. Charcoal is used as a fuel or for drawing.
Colour theory	The collection of rules and guidelines which designers use to communicate with users through appealing colour schemes in visual interfaces
Composition	The way in which the different parts are organised
Creative	Involving the use of skill and the imagination to produce something new or a work of art
Design (as used in art)	The art or process of deciding how something will look, work, etc. by drawing plans, making computer models, etc.
Detail	A small individual fact or item
Elements of art	The elements that may be considered when making a piece of art: line, shape, colour, value, form, texture, space
Form (as used in the elements of art)	Form relates to shape –now add depth to it to create a three dimensional form.
Gallery	A room or building for showing works of art, especially to the public
Hapa-Zome	An ancient Japanese art form, based on leaf printing
Hatching/cross hatching	A series of thin, parallel lines that give the impression of shading/texture (cross hatching adds lines going in another direction)
Idea	A plan, thought or suggestion
Illustrator	A person who draws or paints pictures for books
Intensify	To increase in degree or strength; to make something increase in degree or strength
Installation	Artist's work, usually sculpture, arranged in a space
Mixed media	Use of various materials to make a piece of art
Mosaic	A picture or pattern made by placing together small pieces of glass, stone, etc. of different colours
Observation (al)	The act of watching somebody/something carefully for a period of time, especially to learn something
Oil pastels	Sticks of pigment that are bound with a mixture of wax and a non-drying oil such as linseed oil
Orientation	Whether the paper is presented vertical or horizontal
Pattern	A regular arrangement of lines, shapes, colours, etc. for example as a design on material, carpets, etc

Palette	A surface to hold paint/a particular set of colours used by an artist
Papier mache	Papier-mâché is a composite material consisting of paper pieces or pulp, sometimes reinforced with textiles, bound with an adhesive, such as glue, starch, or wallpaper paste.
Perspective	The art of creating an effect of depth and distance in a picture by representing people and things that are far away as being smaller than those that are nearer the front
Pigment	A substance that exists naturally in people, animals and plants and gives their skin, leaves, etc. a particular colour/ a coloured powder that is mixed with a liquid to produce paint, etc
Pinch pot	A simple way of hand building pottery by pinching clay coils together to create a vessel
Precision	The quality of being exact, accurate and careful
Pressure	The force or weight with which something presses against something else
Proportions	The relationship of one thing to another in size, amount, etc.
Primary colours	Primary colours. The primary colours are red yellow and blue. They cannot be made by mixing other colours together.
Print/ print making	The act of producing letters, pictures, patterns, etc. on something by pressing a surface covered with ink/paint (= coloured liquid for printing,
Replicate	To copy something exactly
Rubbings	A copy of writing, texture or a design on a piece of stone or metal that is made by placing a piece of paper over it and rubbing with chalk, a pencil, etc.
Sculpture	A work of art that is a solid figure or object made by carving or shaping wood, stone, clay, metal, etc
Sealant	A substance that is put onto a surface to stop air, water, etc. from entering or escaping from it
Secondary colours	Blue and red mixed together make purple. Yellow and red mixed together make orange. Blue and yellow mixed together make green.
Shade(s)	A particular form of a colour, that is, how dark or light it is
Shading	The use of colour, pencil lines, etc. to give an impression of light and shade in a picture or to emphasize areas of a map, diagram, etc.
Sketch	A simple picture that is drawn quickly
Still life	The subject matter of a still life painting or sculpture is anything that does not move or is dead.
Technique	Particular way of doing something, especially one in which you have to learn special skills
Tertiary colours	A tertiary colour is made by mixing equal amounts of a primary colour and a secondary colour together. There are six tertiary colours.
Texture	The way a surface, substance or piece of cloth feels when you touch it, for example how rough, smooth, hard or soft it is
Three dimensional	Having form beyond the flat surface
Tint	A shade or small amount of a particular colour; a small amount of colour covering a surface
Tones	A grade of a colour
Viewfinder	A small frame the artist looks through to help focus on a certain part of the composition/area
Volume	Showing the amount of space that an object or a substance fills

Wet-on-wet	Applying water colour paint to wet paper
Wash	Applying a layer of colour
Water colour	Water based paints or pigment the is activated by adding water

- Most definitions taken from the online Oxford English Learner's Dictionary as of June 2023