

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS TO USE IN A FORMAL CRITIQUE OF ART

ELEMENTS OF ART	Colors	Shape/Form	Principles of Art	STYLE OR PERIOD	MEDIA (MATERIALS)	TECHNIQUE
Line	brash	amorphous	balance	abstract	Two-Dimensional	architecture
blurred	bright	biomorphic	contrast	classical	chalk	batik
broken	calm	closed	emphasis	genre	colored pencil	carving
controlled	clear	distorted	harmony	historical	conte	ceramics
curved	cool	flat	pattern	literary	egg tempera	collage
diagonal	dull	free-form	repetition	naïve	found materials	crafts
freehand	exciting	full of spaces	rhythm	narrative	gouache	glassblowing
horizontal	garish	geometric	unity	nonobjective	ink	jewelry making
interrupted	dull	heavy	variety	primitive	oil	metalwork
geometric	multicolored	light	Themes in Art	realistic	pastel	modeling
meandering	muted	linear	adoration	romantic	pencil	mosaics
ruled	pale	massive	children	Renaissance	photograph	painting
short	polychromed	nebulous	circus	Pop	print	photography
straight	primary	open	cityscape	Op	tempera	printmaking
thick	saccharine	organic	earth, air, fire, water	Modern	vine charcoal	repousse
thin	secondary	Value	water	Abstract Expression	watercolor	sculpture
vertical	subdued	dark	farming festivals		Three-Dimensional	weaving
wide	sweet	light	gardens		bronze	
reversed	warm	medium	grief		clay	
Texture		Space	history		fibers	
actual		ambiguous	hunting		found materials	
bumpy		deep	landscape		marble	
corrugated		flat	love		metal	
flat		negative/positive	music		mixed media	
furry		open	mythology		papier-mâché	
goosey		shallow	of historic occasions		plaster	
leathery			portraiture		stone	
prickly			processions		wood	
rough			religion			
sandy			seascape			
shiny			storytelling			
simulated			theater			
smooth			war			
soft						
sticky						
tacky						
velvet						
wet						