

Art Terms (source MOMA.org)

Acid Free: The print contains no harmful acid or alkaline that may affect the life of the paper or quality of the image printed.

Brushwork: The manner in which a painter applies paint with a brush.

Canvas: Cotton or linen woven cloth used as a surface for painting.

Collage: The technique and resulting work of art in which fragments of paper and other materials are arranged and glued to a supporting surface.

Color: The perceived hue of an object, produced by the manner in which it reflects or emits light into the eye. Also, a substance, such as a dye, pigment, or paint that imparts a hue.

Commission: To request, or the request for, the production of a work of art

Composition: The arrangement of the individual elements within a work of art so as to form a unified whole; also used to refer to a work of art, music, or literature, or its structure or organization.

Genre: A category of artistic practice having a particular form, content, or technique.

Giclee: The term "giclee print" connotes an elevation in printmaking technology. Images are generated from high resolution digital scans and printed with archival quality inks onto various substrates including canvas, fine art, and photo-base paper. The giclee printing process provides better color accuracy than other means of reproduction.

Gouache: An opaque watercolor paint; a painting produced with such paint.

Hardboard: Stiff board made of compressed and treated wood pulp.

Hue: A particular gradation of color; a shade or tint.

Juxtaposition: An act of placing things close together or side by side for comparison or contrast.

Landscape: The natural landforms of a region; also, an image that has natural scenery as its primary focus

Medium: the material or technical means of artistic expression. Examples include oils, watercolors, acrylics, ink, pencil and charcoal. Technical examples include lithography, serigraphy and giclee. Mixed media is the use of two or more materials and/or technical means.

Monochrome: Having a single color. A work of art rendered in only one color.

Motif: A distinctive and often recurring feature in a composition.

Mural: A large painting applied to a wall or ceiling, especially in a public space.

Oil Paint: A paint in which pigment is suspended in oil, which dries on exposure to air.

Original: The first of a work, typically the painting from which prints are made. It may also be used to describe the landmark work of an artist.

Paint: A combination of pigment, binder, and solvent (noun); the act of producing a picture using paint.

Painter: One who applies paint to canvas, wood, paper, or another support to produce a picture.

Painting: A work of art made from paint applied to canvas, wood, paper, or another support.

Palette: 1) The range of colors used by an artist in making a work of art; 2) A thin wooden or plastic board on which an artist holds and mixes paint.

Palette knife: A flexible, thin blade with a handle, typically used for mixing paint colors or applying them to a canvas.

Panel: A flat board sometimes made of wood.

Pastel: A soft and delicate shade of a color; a drawing medium of dried paste manufactured in crayon form made of ground pigments and a water-based binder; a picture or sketch drawn with this type of crayon.

Pattern: A series of events, objects, or compositional elements that repeat in a predictable manner.

Perspective: In art, a technique used to depict volumes and spatial relationships on a flat surface, as in a painted scene that appears to extend into the distance.

Pigment: A substance, usually finely powdered, that produces the color of any medium. When mixed with oil, water, or another fluid, it becomes paint.

Portrait: A representation of a particular individual.

Primary color: One of three base colors (blue, red, or yellow) that can be combined to make a range of colors.

Prime: To prepare a surface for painting by covering it with primer, or an undercoat.

Rendering: A representation, executed in perspective, of a proposed structure.

Replica: A copy or reproduction.

Representation: The visual portrayal of someone or something.

Secondary color: A color made by mixing at least two primary colors.

Self-portrait: A representation of oneself made by oneself.

Shade: In painting, a color plus black.

Silverpoint: The use of a silver wire held in a stylus to draw on specially prepared paper. Da Vinci, Rafael, Durer, Holbein, Rembrandt and Rubens all used metal point as a drawing tool. Silver was the preferred metal, but gold was also used. Today, there has been a renewed interest in using metalpoint as the Renaissance artists used it. Modern artists are beginning to experiment with adding watercolor, gold leaf, pastel and colored pencil to their silverpoint drawings.

Sketch: A rough or unfinished version of any creative work, often made to assist in the completion of a more finished work (noun); to make a rough drawing or painting (verb).

Still life: A representation of inanimate objects, as a painting of a bowl of fruit.

Style: A distinctive or characteristic manner of expression.

Subject matter: The visual or narrative focus of a work of art.

Technique: The method with which an artist, writer, performer, athlete, or other producer employs technical skills or materials to achieve a finished product or endeavor.

Tempera: A type of paint in which pigment is mixed with a water-soluble binder, such as egg yolk.

Tint: In painting, a color plus white.

Tone: The lightness or darkness of a color. In painting, a color plus gray.

Triptych: A work of art consisting of three parts, usually hinged together.

Viscosity: The thickness of a liquid. In painting, the viscosity of oil paints is altered by adding a binder (such as linseed oil) or a solvent (such as turpentine).

Watercolor: A paint composed of pigment mixed into water; a work of art made with this paint.