Colour

In art colour is very important. This is what helps each piece of art stand out. The colour, no matter what type of artwork helps define the piece and the artist. A lot of artwork can be determined on who did the work just by looking at the colours, because certain artists use specific colours in every piece of their work.

**Bold** - A bold colour or pattern is very bright and noticeable, the colours within the artwork or design stand out against one another and can be described as strong, direct, daring or clashing.

**Vibrant** - Colour which is very bright, strong, showing great life, activity and energy within an artwork or design.

**Pale/Subtle** is colour which is less intense.

**Saturation** – this refers to the brightness or strength of a colour. A colour with a higher degree of saturation will be more intense for example red vs maroon.

**Balanced** - A principle of design, it refers to the way the elements of art are arranged to create a feeling of stability in a work; a pleasing or harmonious arrangement or proportion of parts or areas in a design or composition.
**Earthy colours** - These usually include neutral colours (not included in the colour wheel) such as browns, beiges, greys, ochres and the like. They are called earthy colours as they remind us of certain earthy hues found in soil or rock. Earthy colours are made by mixing complementary hues.

**Broken colour** – dabs or small amounts of colour. A technique introduced by Impressionist painters whereby colours on the canvas are made up of small flecks and dashes of paint.

**Neutral colour** - In colour theory, a colour which is neither warm nor cool. Such colours result from the combination of two complementary colours (such as, red and green, blue and orange, and yellow and purple). The term neutral colour is also sometimes applied to colours not included in the colour wheel and not associated with a hue: such as browns, blacks, greys and whites.

**Colour wheel**
A circular diagram showing the relationships between primary, secondary, tertiary and complementary colours.

**Additional Descriptive words:** interesting, lively, clashing, dull, flat mellow, muted, subdued, quiet, weak, cold, hot, light, dark, calm and harmonious.
Geometric shapes - circles, rectangles, squares, triangles and so on - have the clear edges one achieves when using tools to create them.

Form is a three-dimensional geometrical figure (i.e.: sphere, cube, cylinder, cone, etc.), as opposed to a shape, which is two-dimensional, or flat.

Angular - a shape having one or more sharp angles

Organic shapes have natural, less well-defined edges (think: an amoeba, or a cloud).

A shape is one of the seven elements of art. When defining it within the study of art, shape is an enclosed space, the boundaries of which are defined by other elements of art (i.e.: lines, colors, values, textures, etc.).

Curvaceous - A line or edge that deviates from straightness in a smooth, continuous way.

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**Tone** - This describes the lightness or darkness of a colour and is used to give shape to form and depth to a picture.

**Monochrome**
This refers to an artwork or design done in various tones of one colour only, especially black and white; hence monochromatic.

**Additional descriptive words:** Dark, light, mid (middle), flat, uniform, unvarying, smooth, plain, varied, broken, constant, changes, graduated and contrasting

**Dramatic** – attracts attention and is sudden or extreme

**Contrasting** - A large difference between two things; for example light and shadow. Contrast emphasizes differences and can excite, emphasize and direct attention to points of interest in an artwork or design.
**Imagery** - A picture, idea, or impression of a person, thing, or idea; or a mental picture of a person, thing, or idea. The word imagery refers to a group or body of related images.

**Focal point** – the point in the artwork or design which catches the viewers attention when they look at it.

**Stylize and stylization** - To stylize is to alter natural shapes, forms, colors, or textures in order to make a representation in a preset style or manner.

**Depth** – the illusion of space

**Negative space** – this is the space within, between, and around objects. For example, negative space is the area between a cup and its handle; and it is the space between the petals of a flower. It is also the space between an object and the edges of the canvas, i.e. the space around an object.
The rule of thirds - This is a compositional device that is used by photographers and artists. The Rule of Thirds means placing focal points along one of the lines or intersections of lines that would be created if there were a tic-tac-toe board placed on top of your painting.

Cropping - Cropping, a technique borrowed from photography can create an abstract feeling by removing context. Cropping and getting in close to your subject can also create a feeling of intimacy between the viewer and the painting.

Composition - Looks at how the elements in the painting are arranged, the underlying structure (shapes) and relationships between the different parts, how your eye moves around the composition.

Eye-level viewpoint - creates a sense of connection between the viewer and the image.

Below viewpoint - this tends to monumentalize your subject, giving it importance

High viewpoint - also called a birds-eye view, is often used for landscape and gives a sense of vast space.