

General Art Vocabulary

- 1. Analysis** An image analysis is a scheme you can use to think about art. It helps you to focus on various aspects, such as the presentation and content, picture elements (colour, form, composition etc.) materials, and technique.
- 2. Applied art (design)** As the term suggests, applied art is all about the application of art (what you do with it, how you use it, what practical purpose it has). Applied art or design is the name given to beautiful objects we use, such as jewellery, tableware, posters, fashion and objects that feature in interior design.
- 3. Appreciation** Art appreciation means looking and thinking about art with great attention. As a viewer you try to be aware of the effects of the work of art. You try to give it your own interpretations.
- 4. Artist** The profession of artist has changed over centuries. Formerly an artist was first and foremost a craftsman. Today, technical skill is less important. It is more about the artist's creative imagination and ability to come up with remarkable ideas, and how he or she can give form to them in music, dance, poetry, or the visual arts.
- 5. Autonomous (free art)** Autonomous or free artists decide for themselves what they will make and what their work will look like. In olden times artists worked under the patronage of wealthy clients. They couldn't just make what they wanted. They had to supply work that met the demands of their patrons.
- 6. Communication** Artists try to tell a story with their art. They communicate through paintings. They use them to express a message, feeling or a certain mood.
- 7. Context** The context is the connection or background which gives a story, a photo or a work of art additional meaning.
- 8. Contrast** In art we usually only speak of big contrast in colour, form, shape etc.
- 9. Design** Without form there is only an idea. With art you can give shape to an idea, your imagination or something you see. It can also be a thought, a feeling or a memory. In art, design is very important.
- 10. Effect** Images or pictures have an effect on us, they make us feel something or makes us think about something.
- 11. Element** An element is a part, a kind of building block. In art we talk about recognizable features and visual elements.
- 12. Expression** Artists express their feelings or thoughts in their works of art.

Expression is also what you can read in faces and body posture.

13. Expressiveness
Expressiveness is the emotional impression that a work of art makes on us, such as happy or sad. Expressiveness does not only have to do with content, but also with shape and colour.
14. Fine Arts
The 'old' word which meant Visual arts.
15. Frame
The frame is the outer edge of the work of art. A frame sets off the edges of paintings, drawings and photos and focusses the attention on the work itself.
16. Location
Location usually refers to where the work of art is situated, inside a museum, out in a park etc.
17. Material (Technique)
Materials are substances (ink, paint, clay, wood etc.) the artist uses tools (brushes, pens, spatulas, knives, saws etc.) to create a work of art. Technique is the particular way the artist processes the material or uses a tool on a work of art.
18. Meaning
The artist decides on the initial meaning of his work, but viewers also give their own meaning to it, based on their experience. What the artist intends his work to say, and what the viewer thinks it says can be quite different.
19. Performing Arts
Music, Opera, Theatre and dance
20. Recognizable features
are the things that you can recognize in a work of art, such as people, animals, landscape or all sorts of things
21. Suggestion
Suggestion calls up an idea, mood or feeling.
22. Topic (theme)
A work of art almost always has a topic or theme. The main topics that keep people occupied are human relationships, love, religion and death.
23. Universal
Art is universal, universal means "generally applicable" or 'comprehensive'. Religion and art are both universal as they appear in all human cultures.
24. Visual Arts
Paintings, drawings, sculptures, animations, photos, videos and movies are all sorts of visual arts. In other words: they are works of art in the form of a visible image.
25. Visual elements
Include colour, shape, line, light, space and composition