

# ELEMENTS OF ART & DESIGN

<b>Line</b>	Line defines a space, creates an outline or pattern, implies movement or texture and alludes to mass or volume. It is absolutely essential in creating art.
<b>Shape</b>	When defined within the study of art, shape is an enclosed space, that boundaries of which are defined by the other elements of art. Shape is usually used alongside line – E.G 3 lines make a triangle = a shape.
<b>Form</b>	Form consists of every visible element within a piece of work and how those elements are united. Form allows us to mentally capture the work, understand it and attempt to analyse it. E.G – tonal drawing helps create form.
<b>Space</b>	Space refers to the distance surrounding, between or within components of a piece. Space can be either positive or negative (Light or dark). Sometimes space isn't actually within a piece, but the illusion of it is.
<b>Texture</b>	Texture is used to describe how a three-dimensional work feels when touched, or the visual feel of a two-dimensional work. E.G Rocks – a 3D rock might feel rough or smooth, but an artist might create the illusion of these qualities through the use of line, shape, colour etc.
<b>Value</b>	Value refers to the lightness or darkness of a colour. Value becomes critical in a work which has no colour other than black, white and grey scale.
<b>Colour</b>	There are 3 properties of colour. 1) Hue – The name we give to a colour. 2) Intensity – refers to the strength and vividness of the colour, E.G royal blue (vivid, rich, bright). 3) Value – light or darkness of a colour. The terms, shade and tint, are in reference to value changes in colour.
<b>Composition</b>	The elements of composition in art are used to arrange or organize the components in a way that is pleasing to the artist and, hopefully the viewer. It helps give structure to the layout and the way the subject is presented, whilst also encouraging the viewers eye to wander around the whole piece of work and ultimately coming back to rest on the focal point.
<b>Balance</b>	Having a symmetrical arrangement adds a sense of calm, whereas an asymmetrical arrangement of objects, creates a sense of unease, imbalance.
<b>Movement</b>	There are many ways to create a sense of movement in an artwork, such as an arrangement of objects, the flow of a river, or the position of figures.
<b>Rhythm</b>	A piece of art can have a rhythm in the same way as music does, controlling the eye to move at a different pace. Look for large underlying shapes and repeated colour.
<b>Focus</b>	Focus, also known as emphasis, is when the viewers eye ultimately wants to rest on the “most important” thing or focal point in the painting, otherwise the eye feels lost, wandering around the space.
<b>Contrast</b>	Contrast is the strong difference between light and dark, or minimal differences.
<b>Pattern</b>	Pattern is an underlying structure. The basic lines and shapes in a composition, usually repeated., decorative design.
<b>Proportion</b>	Proportion is how things fit together, big and small, nearby and distance.

# FORM, CONTEXT, CONTENT, PROCESS, MOOD

## **Form**

This means looking at the formal elements of an artwork.

What is the medium of the work?

What colours does the artist use? Why? How is colour organised?

What kind of shapes or forms can you find?

What kind of marks or techniques does the artist use?

What is the surface like?

What kinds of textures can you see?

How big is the work?

## **Context**

This refers to how the work relates to a particular time, place, culture and society in which it was produced.

When was it made? Where was it made? Who made it?

Who was the work made for?

What do you know about the artist?

How does the work relate to other art of the time?

Does the work relate to the social or political history of the time?

Can you link it to other arts of the period, such as film, music or literature?

Does the work relate to other areas of knowledge, such as science or geography?

## **Content**

The content is the subject of a piece of work.

What is it? What is it about? What is happening?

Is it a portrait? A landscape? Abstract?

What does the work represent?

The title - what does the artist call the work?

Does the title change the way we see the work?

Is it a realistic depiction?

Have any parts been exaggerated or distorted? If so, why?

What is the theme of the work?

What message does the work communicate?

### Process

Looking at process means studying how the work was made and what techniques were used.

What materials and tools were used to make the piece?

What is the evidence for this?

Do sketchbooks provide any clues as to how the work developed?

### Mood

Mood means looking at how the artist has created a certain atmosphere or feeling.

How does the work make you feel?

Why do you think you feel like this?

Does the colour, texture, form or theme of the work affect your mood?

Does the work create an atmosphere?

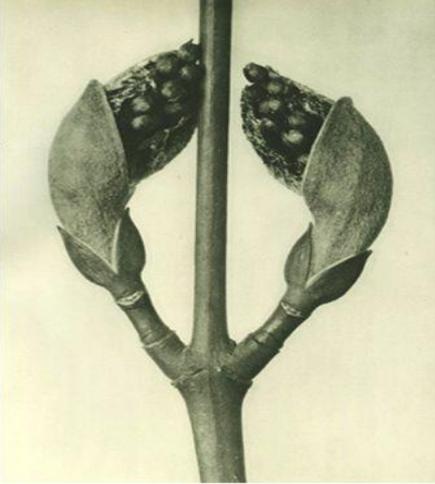
**CRITICAL STUDIES**

**CONTENT**

Introducing the artwork.

**MOOD**

How does the artwork make you feel?



**FORM**

Describing the artwork.

**PROCESS**

How was the artwork made?

- Materials
- techniques

**Title: Plate 22: Acer rufinerve.**  
(magnified 10 times)

# Looking at Art

## DESCRIBE

What is the title of the work? Why do you think the artist has called it that?  
How would you describe the formal elements? The line, colour, tone, shape and form in the piece of art work.  
What images/textures/techniques and colours does the artist use in their work?  
What kind of things do you see in the work? What is happening?  
What words would you use to describe the images?  
Look at the image for a moment and consider the process you think how it was made or put together? How did the artist begin?  
How would you describe the picture to someone who could not see it?  
How would you describe the place depicted in the painting?

## RELATE IT

What does the picture remind you of?  
What do you recognise and see in the image?  
Is the work different from real life, how?  
How does the piece of work make you feel?

## ANALYSE

What objects seem closer to you?  
What is in the middle ground/background? How has the artist achieved this?  
What can you tell me about the colours used in the photograph?  
What makes this work look interesting/unusual/crowded/busy?  
From your research, what can you tell me about the person in the picture?  
What do you think is the most important part of the image?  
If you were to interview the artist about their work, what would you ask?

## INTERPRET

What title would you give this work? What made you decide on this?  
How do you think the artist went about producing this work?  
What is happening in the work, and what could happen next?  
How do you think the artist came up with the idea behind the work? What influenced them?  
What materials did the artist use?

## EVALUATE

What do you think is good/bad about the work?  
Why do you think other people should see this piece of art?  
What do you think other people would say about this work, how could you influence them?  
What do you think is worth remembering about this image?  
Do you think the work is successful?  
If you could suggest one improvement to the artist, what would it be?

## Describing your thoughts & feelings

*Words instead of...*

<b>LIKE</b> <i>Admire, Appreciate, Adore, Love, Enjoy, Keen on, Regard, Enjoy</i>	<b>DISLIKE</b> <i>Awful, Horrid, Grotesque, Nasty, Unsightly, Foul, Revolting, Loathsome</i>
<b>NICE</b> <i>Attractive, Appealing, Beautiful, Exquisite, Elegant, Pleasant, Gorgeous, Stunning</i>	<b>BORING</b> <i>Dreary, Dull, Drab, Lacklustre, Monotonous, Uninspiring, Tedious</i>
<b>GOOD</b> <i>Excellent, Amazing, Wonderful, Exceptional, Fantastic, Outstanding</i>	<b>BAD</b> <i>Awful, Terrible, Dreadful, Ghastly, Dire, Horrific, Unpleasant, Ugly, Oppressive</i>

## Describing an image

<b>Colours</b>	<b>Bright</b>	<b>Dark</b>	<b>Dull</b>
	<i>Vivid Intense Vibrant Pure</i>	<i>Gloomy Heavy Ochre Dark</i>	<i>Grey Pastel Washed Bleached</i>
<b>Lines and shapes</b>	<b>Round</b>	<b>Straight</b>	<b>No definite shapes</b>
	<i>Organic Flowing Rhythmic</i>	<i>Geometric Angular Even</i>	<i>Irregular Chaotic Random</i>
<b>Tones</b>	<b>Dark</b>	<b>Light</b>	<b>Grey</b>
	<i>Stark oppressive</i>	<i>Airy Spacious</i>	<i>Mute Bleached</i>
<b>Textures</b>	<b>Rough</b>	<b>Smooth</b>	<b>Mix of both</b>
	<i>Grainy Course</i>	<i>Silky Soft</i>	<i>Uneven</i>
<b>Patterns</b>	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Random</b>	
	<i>Geometric Organised Systematic</i>	<i>Chaotic Loose</i>	
<b>Composition</b>	<b>Balanced</b>	<b>Unbalanced</b>	
	<i>Even Weighted</i>	<i>Lopsided Heavy</i>	

## **When analysing an artwork...**

- **Briefly describe the artwork; Who is it by? What is it? What is the title and when was it made? What is happening in the work?**
- **What techniques has the artist used? How is the artwork made?**
- **Does the title change how you view the artwork?**
- **What subjects/themes/moods/issues and messages are being explored? Why are these relevant to you and your project?**
- **How does the work relate to the social or political history of the time?**
- **What appeals to you visually about the artwork? What appeals to you about the theme or idea? (If you dislike something, why? Has the artist intended this?)**
- **How does composition or the way the work is installed communicate ideas or a message? Why was this composition chosen?**
- **How do the visual elements interact?**
- **Things to think about; Emphasis, Balance, Links, Size, Scale, Form, Colour, Surface, Line, Texture, Speed, Medium, Location, Depth, Movement, Sound, How long do I need to properly see it?**
- **What draws your attention? What directs the viewer to certain areas?**
- **What have you learnt from the artwork? Take what is useful to you, link with your own viewpoints, observations and thoughts. Make your own work in their style, experiment with the techniques to see.**
- **Make associations with other art works, styles, places, films music & literature.**
- **How does the artwork make you feel? How does it affect your mood and why? What atmosphere does the work create?**

## **KEY WORDS & TERMS TO INCORPORATE IN YOUR TEXT**

### **SURFACES**

Texture- smooth, rough, cold, harsh, furry, hard, soft, marked, abrasive, spiky, earthy, dry, wet, metallic, woven, organic, tactile, Absorbent, transparent, printed, etched, engraved, relief, blotted, synthetic, glazed, manufactured, stenciled, scratched...

### **STYLES**

Traditional, analytical, primitive, realistic, abstract, atmospheric, conceptual, observational, sketched, figurative, photographic, printed, computerised, digital, motif, patterned, decorative, symbolic, surreal, expressionism...

### **CHARACTERISTICS**

Ephemeral, temporary, longevity, detailed, colourful, monochromatic, experimental, contrasting, 2D/3D, multilayered, reflective, moody, atmospheric...

### **TECHNICAL**

Composition, compositional, perspective, proportion, proportional, scale, measured, structured, space, shade, tone, tint, hue, form, layout, layers, symmetry, subject, process, viewer, movement

### **CONTENT**

Personal, issues based, social, gender, moral, ethnicity, narrative, environmental, built environment, sense of place, nature, public, commissioned, autobiographical, recording, historical...

## Annotation writing frame to describe the use of art materials

Use adjectives to describe the properties of the materials	Use NOUNS to name the materials and processes used	Connectives	Use ADVERBS to describe how the materials were used	Use ACTION VERBS to describe WHAT has been done	Connectives	Use VERBS to show the feelings you get from the art effect	Use more NOUNS to identify the type of art it is
Runny Wet Loose  Oily Waxy  Smooth Soft Silky  Dry Bumpy Chalky Grainy  Drab Dull Dreary  Hard Neat Even Tight  Delicate Light  Thick Thin	Watercolour Paint Acrylic Gouache  Pencil Crayon Conte Charcoal Graphite Chalk Pastel  Ink Dyes  Wire Card Clay Mesh	Have been  Were  Are	Slowly Quickly Patiently Delicately Beautifully Lightly Sloppily Expertly Firmly Haphazardly Precisely	Applied Created Drawn Stippled Washed Dripped Dabbed Stroked Thrown Marked Constructed Joined Built Made Designed Cut Shaped	To create a  That has produced a	Beautiful Happy Joyful Energetic Wonderful Spirited Free Attractive Exciting Dynamic Confident Precise Controlled Exact	Painting Print Photograph Model Sculpture Batik Textiles Drawing Pot Ceramic piece

# Annotation word bank

Describing an image			
	Bright	Dark	Dull
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Punctuation: Start sentences with a capital letter. End sentences with a full stop. Use commas or semi-colons to separate large pieces of text in a sentence.  
Sources: make sure you label what your sources are and where you got them from or you will lose marks.

Type & print annotation if your handwriting is weak.