

Keywords

- **Composition/ arrangement** - arrangement; pose (in figure and portrait work); setting; viewpoint; focal point; choice of subject matter; perspective; proportion; scale and use of space
- **Subject matter/ imagery** - choice of subject matter; sources of inspiration and influences; effect on the work
- **Visual elements** - line; tone; colour; shape; form; texture; pattern; how they have been combined/ applied; their effect on the work
- **Media handling and techniques** - choice of media and processes; application of media; effect on style; treatment of subject matter; level of detail; expressive qualities; skills demonstrated; 2D or 3D; scale of the work; influences on technique
- **Style** - aims and influence of specific art movements; what makes the work distinctive; sources of inspiration; the artists' 'trademarks'; artists' response to the subject
- **Scale** - the dimensions of the work; large or small; effect of scale on the work; effect of scale on detail/ realism/ visual impact etc.
- **Mood and atmosphere** - the mood and atmosphere created and how this has been achieved (e.g. colour, use of media, subject matter, composition, style etc.); what the work communicates to you and why

Words about line

Thick	Angular	Outline	Flowing	Zigzag	Continuous
Thin	Rectilinear	Horizontal	Graceful	Jagged	Broken
Broad	Rough	Vertical	Elegant	Twisting	Ragged
Straight	Textural	Diagonal	Precise	Cross-hatched	Scratchy
Curved	Expressive	Wavy	Accurate	Stripe	Inconsistent
Long	Bold	Curvilinear	Sensitive	Neat	Freehand
Short	Confident	Fluid	Delicate	Sketchy	Gestural
Hard	Hesitant	Smooth	Controlled	Faint	Spontaneous
Light	Fine	Squiggly	Definite	Subtle	

Words about tone

Light	Highlight	Limited tonal range	Dramatic	Hard light	Drab
Dark	Half-tone	Wide tonal range	Contrasting	Diffused light	Faded
Soft	Mid-tone	Tonal value	Exaggerated	High key	Sombre
Subtle	Monotone	Tonal scale	Hard	Low key	Gloomy
Muted	Graduated	Light source	Glowing	Reflected light	Murky
Gradation	Graded	Direction of light	Luminous	Reflection	Dim
Blended	Shaded	Shadow	Illuminated	Bright	Flat

Words about colour

Primary	Transparent	Bright	Monochromatic
Secondary	Opaque	Strong	Neutral
Tertiary	Hue	Harsh	Subtle
Complementary	Pigment	Vibrant	Restrained
Opposite	Tone	Intense	Limited palette
Contrasting	Tint	Saturated	Restricted palette
Harmonious	Balanced	Bold	Pale
Related	Varied	Deep	Muted
Hot/ warm	Deep	Vivid	Faded
Cold/ cool	Fluorescent	Rich	Realistic
Symbolic	Luminescent	Expressive	Naturalistic
Decorative	Pearlescent	Exaggerated	Life-like
Advancing	Iridescent	Clashing	Earthy
Receding	Lurid	Gaudy	Delicate
Balanced	Loud	Garish	Weak
Blended	Brilliant	Polychromatic	Washed out
Reflected colour	Kaleidoscopic	Multi-coloured	Pure

Words about texture

Tactile	Furry	Even	Brushstroke
Touch	Scaly	Uneven	Impasto
Textural	Silky	Grainy	Bas relief
Soft	Hairy	Indented	Low relief
Hard	Rippled	Pitted	Linear
Rough	Wrinkled	Dusty	Swirling
Smooth	Crinkled	Waxy	Dashed
Coarse	Ribbed	Greasy	Directional
Fine	Grooved	Velvety	Random
Flat	Spiky	Fleecy	Bumpy
Shiny	Scratched	Woolly	Woven
Glossy	Abrasive	Matt	

Words about shape and form

Shape and form		Shape	Form	
Regular	Simple	Circular	Sphere	Sculptural
Irregular	Complex	Rectangular	Cube	Architectural
Geometric	Fragmented	Oblong	Cylinder	Profile
Organic	Jagged	Square	Pyramid	Relief
Man-made	Pointed	Triangular	Cone	Moulded
Natural	Distorted	Oval	Conical	Sculpted
Angular	Freeform	Pentagon	Helix	Modelled
Rounded	Bold	Hexagon	Spherical	Carved
Symmetrical	Distinct	Octagon	Cuboid	Built
Asymmetrical	Indistinct	Outlined	Triangular	Constructed
Flat	Spiral	Positive	Tactile	Assembled
Repeating	Twisted	Negative	Textural	Tool marks
Elongated	Large-scale	Overlapping	Massive	Solid
Simplified	Small-scale	Silhouette	Monumental	Hard
Stylised	Short	Negative space	Hollow	
Spiky	Tall	Amorphous	Light	
Hard-edged	Wide	Nebulous	Heavy	
Soft	Narrow	Fluid	Mass	

Words about pattern

Applied	Random	Dots	Decorative
Repeating	Varied	Polka dot	Ornate
Simple	Regular	Dashes	Ornamental
Complex	Linear	Lines	Embellished
Man-made	Rectilinear	Stripes	Bold
Natural	Curvilinear	Chequered	Subtle
Geometric	Rhythmic	Tartan	Clashing
Organic	Symmetrical	Plaid	Kinetic
Mechanical	Asymmetrical	Floral	Optical
Motifs	Symbols	Speckled	Digital
Squiggles	Mirror image	Marbled	Abstract
Large-scale	Multi-directional	Cross-hatched	Psychedelic
Small-scale	Half-drop	Stippled	Tessellated

Words about composition

Arrangement	Viewpoint	Focal point	Subject	Sitter (in portraiture)
Foreground	Framed	Centre of interest	Object	Subject matter
Middleground	Cropped	Point(s) of interest	Distorted	Frame within frame
Background	Close-up	Elevated viewpoint	Fragmented	In proportion
Horizontal	Wide angle	Camera angle	Symmetrical	Out of proportion
Vertical	Circular	Eye-level	Asymmetrical	Portrait orientation
Diagonal	Triangular	Bird's eye view	Balanced	Landscape orientation
Linear	Staged	Low viewpoint	Busy	One-point perspective
Horizon line	Set up	Picture plane	Cluttered	Two-point perspective
Perspective	Dynamic	Negative space	Crowded	Flattered perspective
Leading line	Small-scale	Rule of thirds	Minimalist	Aerial perspective
S-curve	Large-scale	Depth of field	Sparse	Vanishing point

Words about mood and atmosphere

Tranquil	Exciting	Atmospheric	Violent	Sad
Peaceful	Busy	Overcast	Disordered	Pessimistic
Quiet	Fun	Gloomy	Aggressive	Melancholy
Serene	Happy	Sunlit	Hostile	Depressing
Calm	Joyful	Sun-drenched	Moody	Dismal
Informal	Passionate	Shadowy	Intense	Desolate
Relaxed	Flamboyant	Warm	Threatening	Lonely
Still	Lively	Cold	Disturbing	Sensitive
Undisturbed	Optimistic	Leaden	Powerful	Thought provoking
Controlled	Emotional	Dreary	Inspiring	Moving
Dispassionate	Expressive	Lack-lustre	Poignant	Breathtaking