



Term	Definition
Abstract art	A piece of artwork that does not depict a recognisable picture, place, person or object in the real world. An abstract artist works with non-figurative symbols and marks.
Acrylic paint	Acrylic paint is fast-drying. Acrylic paints can be diluted with water, but become water-resistant when dry. An acrylic painting can resemble a watercolour or an oil painting, or have its own unique characteristics not attainable with other media.
Aesthetics	A term used to explore and explain the look and sensual appeal of a work of art, craft or design. The term embraces aspects of beauty across all the senses; touch, taste, smell, sight and sound.
Animation	Animation is the simulation of movement by the rapid display of a series of pictures or frames. Unlike video, which takes continuous movement and breaks it up into frames, animation starts with independent pictures and puts them together to create movement.
Architect	The profession of planning, designing and constructing buildings.
Artist	People who are engaged in a broad spectrum of visually led ideas and activities aligned to the expressive arts.
Art	Art refers to a diverse range of human intellectual and expressive activities and the outcomes of those activities. Visual art includes painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography and work made using digital media.
Assembling	To gather items together in one place. Assemblage is an artistic process that usually refers to artists who make two or three dimensional art works out of found objects.
Blend	To combine or mix materials so they become indistinguishable from each other.
Casting	A process by which a liquid is poured into a mould and allowed to solidify. The mould is then removed to reveal the cast object.
Calligraphy	The profession of handwriting on diverse surfaces and in a variety of different styles.
Ceramics	The discipline of working with and producing artworks and functional items with fired clay.
Charcoal	Wood that has been heated without oxygen and turned into a mixture of carbon and ash. It can be bought in chunks, sticks or powder, is used as a drawing tool, and requires fixative after use or it will smudge.
Chalk pastels	Chalk pastels can come in a variety of soft or hard forms, and are dry and dusty to use. You will need to use fixative to preserve any images as they will continue to smudge.
Clay	Clay characteristics include malleability and the ability to harden when subjected to intense heat, in an oven or kiln. Clay comes in different types, which when fired produce earthen ware, stone ware or porcelain. Clay products can be coloured with slips and glazes.
Composition	The combination of a selection of distinct elements to work towards creating a whole image or form. The arrangement of shapes, colours, textures, marks and lines in a painting.
Conceptual Art	Conceptual art describes an art form where the ideas take a precedent over material and/or aesthetic concerns.
Collagraph	A printmaking process involving a variety of materials, such as twigs, fabrics or leaves that are glued onto a flat board. The board and collage are then covered with a thin layer of ink. A sheet of paper is placed over the inked collage, and then lifted off to reveal a print on the face down side.
Colour mixing	The procedure for mixing colours together to effect changes of colour. Colour mixing can happen with pigment (paint, crayons pastels) or light. Colours can be initially categorised as primary: red, yellow and blue. Secondary: green, orange and purple. Mixing primary colours together will create secondary colours.
Curator	The profession of managing and making meaningful exhibitions, installations and interventions from a museum or gallery collections of paintings, sculptures, drawings, installations, objects or artefacts.
Collage	A technique of producing artwork by gluing or fixing different, often found or discarded materials onto a 2 dimensional or 3 dimensional surface. The materials can include wrappers, cardboard, packaging, different papers and scraps of fabric, leaves, twigs and ribbons. The term collage comes from the French word 'coller' meaning to glue.
Construction	How art work is practically put together. A life size clay sculpture may require an underlying armature of chicken wire and wood. A fabric hanging may require tailoring or padding to make it work.
Craft	Craft is the designing and hand making of individual objects and artefacts, encouraging the development of intellectual, creative and practical skills, visual sensitivity and a working knowledge of tools, materials and systems.

Craftspeople	People who create one off or batches of handmade artefacts and objects, to include weavers, ceramicists, toy and automata makers, basket makers, furniture makers, knitters and blacksmiths. Craftspeople are often defined as sole traders, working as a 'creative industry of one.'
Critical thinking	The ability to reason, ask questions, debate and challenge what is presented to you.
Creativity	Creativity is a tendency to generate, make or recognise ideas, propositions and possibilities that bring into existence something new, innovative or different.
Culture	The behaviours, beliefs and activities of a social, geographical, age defined or ethnic group of people, to include their artistic and creative pursuits.
Design	Design shapes ideas to become practical solutions and propositions for customers and users. A majority of designers work in teams, following a design brief and a process towards realising a commercially driven product, building, system or service.
Designers	People who are engaged in the production of functional products, services and systems.
Decorate	A product, painting or artefact that is ornamental rather than functional. Applying colour or additions to a product or art work that enhances the look rather than the function.
Discipline	A specific way, a set of procedures and techniques for a specific activity (e.g. the discipline of drawing embraces perspective, figure and conceptual ways of working, each with their own specific attributes).
Dimensions	Two dimensional space is on the same plane, and is essentially flat, having two characteristics, length and width. Three dimensional space is in the 'round', and has a combination of three characteristics from the following five terms; length, width, height, depth and breadth.
Drawing	The art of representing object and forms on a surface chiefly with the use of line and with pencils, crayons, pens and a variety of mark making instruments.
Drip	To allow paint or ink to fall in drops.
Earthworks	Art work, frequently sculptural, that is linked to or made from elements of the landscape. Materials can include water, stone, wood and soil. Earthworks are most likely to be seen and experienced in the place where they were made.
Eraser	A tool to remove marks made by pencils or crayons. Erasers, or rubbers, come in different sizes and materials, often plastic or rubber based. A traditional eraser was made from stale bread.
Expressive	Conveying thought and feeling.
Fabric	Cloth typically produced by knitting, weaving or felting fibres together.
Fashion designers	Designers who work in the clothing and accessory industries with a specific focus on new and seasonal trends and styles.
Found materials	Materials include: fabric, wood, metal, paper and card; leaves, twigs and stones; broken, recycled or discarded parts or scraps of objects. Materials that have not been bought or created for the purpose of making art, but have been collected from more random sources.
Form	The shape or visual appearance, structure or constitution of an object.
Frottage	The technique of placing a sheet of paper over an object, and rubbing the paper with crayon or pencil to create a textured surface from that object.
Genre	A category of artistic composition that shares similarities in form, subject matter or style. Paintings that include views of the sea could be considered in the genre of seascapes.
Glaze	A glaze in ceramics means a coating of a substance applied to a ceramic piece before firing in a kiln. When fired, the glaze will provide a decorative, colourful and protective surface to the ceramic piece. In painting, a glaze means a thin transparent layer of colour spread over an opaque layer of colour to give the effect of glowing e.g. looking at a white wall through a sheet of coloured cellophane.
Graphic design	The art or skill of combining text and pictures in advertisements, magazines, or books.
Graffiti	Writing or images that have been sprayed, stencilled, painted, scratched or drawn illicitly onto or within a public place or space. Graffiti can be perceived as a form of street art, or as vandalism.
Interior Designer	The profession that designs the spaces inside a building.
Illustration	A discipline that seeks to explain a place, idea, product or object, or help to tell a story through figurative imagery.
Installation	Installation art describes an artistic genre of site-specific, three-dimensional works designed to transform the perception or shape of a space.
Ink	A coloured fluid used for writing, drawing, printing, or duplicating.
Jewellery	Decorative items used to adorn parts of the body. Jewellers work with many different metals, stones and fabrics.
Land art	A work of art that combines itself or is at one with the landscape, because it is made from the soil, rocks, wood and stone of the landscape in which it is viewed or experienced.
Landscape artist	An artist who is inspired by the natural world and the countryside and makes works that express interest, interrogation, despair or enjoyment of these elements
Layers	Single thicknesses or sheets of material placed on top of each other. Washes of paint placed over each other to makes changes in colour.
Leather	The durable and flexible material created by the tanning and curing of animal skin.

Linocut	Printmaking lino comes in soft sheets and can be cut into with a variety of special lino cutters. Once the image has been created, using the cutters as a pencil, the lino is inked up using a roller. After printing onto a sheet of paper, the uncarved areas hold the printing ink and the carved areas remain white.
Mark making	Making as wide a variety of dots and lines of differing size, shape and density as you can invent.
Motif	A recurrent theme or shape or image or symbol in an art work.
Malleable	The ability of a material to be hammered bent or reshaped to the needs or wishes of the artist, craftsman or designer.
Materials	The resources that artists, craftspeople and designers use to create work, to include thread, plastic, stone, wood, clay, paint and paper.
Media	Different materials used by artists, such as paint, charcoal, clay and thread.
Metal	A solid material, an element, alloy or compound that is typically hard and shiny, and features good electrical and thermal conductivity. Creative practitioners use metals because they are generally malleable: they can be hammered or pressed permanently out of shape without breaking or cracking.
Movement	A group of artists who have agreed to work together to a set of principles or who are perceived to be working collectively by curators, art historians and commentators. For example, Abstract Expressionism, Mannerism and Cubism.
Monoprint	A method of creating a one off print by rolling ink onto a flat or textured surface and placing a sheet of paper over the surface. A drawing created on the paper will reveal a fuzzy impression on the reverse side when the paper is lifted away from the inked surface.
Montage	The technique of selecting, editing, and piecing together separate sections of film to form a continuous whole.
Mosaic	A picture or pattern produced by arranging small pieces of coloured hard metal, stone, clay or glass and fixing them onto a surface.
Oil paint	A paste made with ground pigment and a drying oil such as linseed oil. A versatile paint that requires turpentine as a thinner and is non water soluble.
Oil pastel	Sticks of coloured pigment bound by oil. Oil pastels can be greasy and sticky to use and need fixing or they will smear.
Paint	A coloured substance that can be thickened or thinned and spread over surfaces. Paint can be water soluble, oil or plastic based, and have opaque or transparent qualities.
Period	A specific historic time and context of an art, craft or design form.
Proportion	The relative sizes and shapes in an image or art work.
Pattern	The repetition of elements, shapes, images or symbols that will evolve into a regular, overall surface image.
Perspective	The art of drawing solid objects on a two-dimensional surface so as to give the right impression of their height, width and depth. A picture drawn in such a way, appearing to enlarge or extend the actual space, or to give the effect of distance.
Printmaking	The process of making a work of art by making or taking the impression of one surface onto another.
Potter	A craftsman who focuses on making functional clay products, often throwing them on a purpose made wheel.
Prototype	The final, often handmade model of a product ready for consumer testing before going into mass production.
Process	A series of actions, changes or operations performed in the making or creating of a product or outcomes.
Product designer	A broad term used to describe someone who designs for batch or mass production, usually following a design brief and process and working as part of a team within a company.
Reduction	Removing or lessening something.
Relief printing	A printmaking technique where the surface of the block are incised or cut away to hold ink and make an image.
Sculpture	The process of creating a work of art that can be seen in the round or as a relief.
Stencil	A thin sheet of a material with a design cut out from it. A stencil is placed on a sheet of paper or fabric. Paint is rolled or sprayed or dabbed over the stencil. When the stencil is lifted the paint will have marked the paper or fabric through the cut out areas. A stencil can be used over and over again to make a repeat pattern.
Sketch	A rough, first, or quick drawing to assist in exploring and planning a more finished art work.
Sketchbook	A vehicle for exploring and containing visual or written prompts, ideas and sketches as a means of information gathering. Sketchbooks can be virtual, they can be handmade, and creative works of art in their own right.
Scale	The relative size of an object or art work in relation to its surroundings and to itself.
Sculptural	The process of creating an object or work of art that can be seen in the round, or as a relief; often created by modelling, carving, chiselling or building up form by using a variety of materials, to include wood, clay, metal and stone.

Screen print	A printing technique that uses woven mesh in a frame to support an ink blocking stencil to create an image. A squeegee moves ink over the surface of the screen to press unblocked ink onto the paper or fabric on the other side.
Splatter	To cover with spots or droplets, often by shaking or flicking a brush loaded with paint.
Spray	Using a nozzle or spray bottle, scatter an even shower of droplets over a surface.
Stone masons	Sculptors who create art works, or functional items such as gravestones and fireplaces out of blocks of stone.
Style	The visual outcome of an artistic movement, or an artist. For example, the style of Abstract Expressionism is manifested as large canvases with non -figurative and often chaotic imagery and application. The mature style of Piet Mondrian is geometric, with a white background, a black grid formation and primary colours.
Stylist	A stylist is concerned with the visual and ergonomic impact of a product, artefact or system.
Textiles	Practical or decorative items made out of cloth.
Techniques	A procedure, formula or routine by which an outcome or art work is achieved, to include weaving thread into cloth with a darning needle, carving wood with a chisel and throwing clay on a wheel to make a pot.
Typographer	A typographer is concerned with the selection and application of typefaces and their arrangement on the page.
Wash	A painting technique in which a paintbrush is loaded with watery paint and passed loosely over a surface to make a continuous transparent area with little evidence of brushwork.
Wax	A compound derived from plants, animals, petroleum or synthetically made, with special characteristics that make it ideal for fine and detailed modelling, it becomes very malleable at body temperature.
Weaver	A craftsman who has chosen to work in the medium of weave, using yarn, willow, string, paper and plastic, and with a variety of hand, table and freestanding looms.
Weaving	A process of fabric production whereby two distinct sets of yarns are interlocked at right angles to each other. The longitudinal yarn is known as warp and the lateral yarn is known as weft. The main tool for weaving is a loom.
Wire	Wires made especially for craft work and sculpture can be obtained in strips or coils, in different colours, plastic coated, mesh, copper or silver and in a variety of gauges.
Wood carving	As a subset of work, wood carving is reductive; carving removes, rather than adds form to a sculpture or relief. Carving has its own tools and techniques, to include chisels, awls and knives.
Yarn	A long and continuous length of interlocking fibres, often wool or cotton, suitable for the creation of textiles to include knitting, weaving, crocheting and embroidery.