



ELEMENTS OF PORTRAYAL

Definitions

Facial Expression: The look or perceived movement of muscles on someone's face. The facial expression can help identify the sitter's emotion(s) and provide us with clues about their thoughts and feelings.

Pose: The way a body is positioned. In a portrait, the pose can help us understand what the artist is trying to say about the sitter, or how the sitter wants to be viewed or perceived.

Clothing: The items a sitter wears on their body. In a portrait, the clothing might tell us about the sitter, their occupation, personality, economic or social status, or the era in which they lived.

Hairstyle: The way a person wears their hair, including the color and style. The hairstyle can offer hints about the sitter's age and when they might have lived.

Setting: The surroundings or the place in which a portrait is located. Real or imagined, the setting can help provide context (or additional clues) about the sitter's story.

Objects: Objects often function as symbols that

provide information about the sitter. They can help us understand the sitter's profession, their accomplishments, or highlight other aspects of the sitter's story.

Color: The various hues that often set the tone, mood, or overall feeling. Color can help the artist convey their message about the sitter.

Medium: The material used to create a piece of art. Some popular media for portraiture include painting, charcoal, clay, wood, marble, photography, and video.

Scale: The relative size or extent of something. The size of the portrait or the size of the sitter within the portrait (how much space they take up) can often influence the way in which we perceive the sitter.

Artistic Style: The personal technique(s) and medium (or media) that an artist uses to create a portrait. Often, the artist's style can give us clues about who the sitter is or when the portrait was created.



Key Terms

- **Portrait:** A likeness or image of a person that is created by an artist
- **Image:** A picture of something or someone
- **Sitter/Subject:** The person or people in a portrait
- **Symbol:** Something representing something else by association; objects, characters, or other concrete representations of abstract ideas, concepts, or events
- **Museum label:** A written explanation of an artwork (installed next to the artwork)
- **Commission:** To request and fund the creation of a portrait
- **Drawing:** A type of artwork made with dry materials, such as pencil, pen, charcoal, or oil pastels (a type of crayon)
- **Painting:** A type of artwork made with wet materials, such as paint or watercolors
- **Print:** A type of artwork in which ink is placed on a stamp or a plate and is then transferred to paper or another material
- **Photograph:** An image, especially a positive print, recorded by a camera and reproduced on a photosensitive surface
- **Sculpture:** The art of carving, modeling, welding, or otherwise producing figurative or abstract works of art in three dimensions

Art Vocabulary

Elements of Art

- **Color: Hue**
 - Primary Colors: red, yellow, blue
 - Secondary Colors: orange, green, purple
 - Intermediate Colors: red orange, yellow orange, yellow green, blue green, blue purple, red purple
 - Warm Colors: red purple, red, red orange, orange, yellow orange, yellow, yellow green
 - Cool Colors: yellow green, green, blue green, blue, blue purple, purple, red purple
 - Analogous Colors: color families
 - Complementary Colors: colors across the color wheel; ex: red and green, blue and orange, yellow and purple
 - Monochromatic/Intensity of Colors: a value of 1 (one) color
- **Value:** An element of art that refers to the darkness or lightness of a surface. Value depends on how much light a surface reflects.
- **Tints:** Light values of pure color
- **Shades:** Dark values of pure color
- **Line:** “A Line is a dot that went for a walk.”—Paul Klee. A line is a mark with length and direction created by a point that moves across a surface. A line can vary in length, width, direction, curve, and color.
- **Shape:** A shape is a flat figure created when actual or implied lines meet to surround a space. Shapes are 2D.
 - Geometric Shapes: math shapes
 - Organic Shapes: free formed
- **Form:** Any 3D object that can be measured from top to bottom (height), side to side (width), and front to back (depth)
- **Texture:** The way a surface feels (Actual Texture) or how a surface may look (Simulated/Visual Texture)
- **Space:** The empty or open area between, around, above, below, or within objects. Positive space is filled in. Negative space is empty. Space can also be defined by different grounds: foreground (front), middle ground (middle), background (behind/back).

Art Vocabulary

Principles of Design

- **Balance:** Describes the arrangement of parts of an artwork. Artwork that is balanced has equal visual weight or interest in all areas and is subtle.
- **Symmetrical Balance:** Both sides are exactly the same
- **Asymmetrical Balance:** Both sides are equal without being the same
- **Radial Balance:** Where lines or shapes spread out from the center point
- **Contrast:** A large difference between two things. Contrast adds excitement, drama and interest to the artwork. Ex. Rough and smooth, yellow and purple, light and dark
- **Emphasis:** Area in a work of art that catches and holds the viewer's attention. Examples are contrasting sizes, shapes, colors, or other distinctive features
- **Movement:** A way of combining visual elements to produce a sense of action. This helps the viewer's eye to sweep over the work in a definite manner
- **Pattern:** A choice of lines, colors, or shapes repeated over and over in a planned way
- **Rhythm:** A type of visual or actual movement in an artwork. It is created by repeating visual elements. Rhythms are often described as regular, alternating, flowing, progressive, or jazzy
- **Unity:** A feeling that all parts of the design are working together