

**Vocabulary List for Visual Arts TK – 6**

**Abstract:** Artwork that has been altered from the realistic representation of the object. Abstraction can happen through distortion or exaggeration of shapes, space, color etc.

**Animal portrait:** a portrait of an animal

**Artist intent:** the idea, mood, purpose, or story the artist was attempting to convey

**Art Museum or Gallery:** a building or space for the exhibition of Art

**Art Tools:** Any instrument or equipment used to carry out a function in creation of art.

**Background:** Objects farthest from the viewer, in the background, are usually higher in the picture plane; seem less clear in detail, and their colors are less intense than objects in the foreground and middle ground.

**Character:** A person, animal or other animate object in a narrative story

**Creativity:** Ability to conceive and develop rich, original ideas, discover unexpected connections, and invent or make new things.

**Color:** The visual sensation that is produced when light strikes an object and is reflected back to the eye.

**Commission:** the act of requesting the creation of a piece, often on behalf of another. Artwork may be commissioned by private individuals, by the government, or businesses.

**Criteria:** in art and design, principles that direct attention to significant aspects of a work and provide guidelines for evaluating its success.

**Exhibit:** to show artwork publicly especially for purposes of competition or demonstration.

**Expression:** Moods, feelings, or ideas suggested through the attributes, features, or qualities of an image or work of art.

**Expressive drawing:** Drawing made to express moods, feelings, or ideas of the artist.

**Foreground:** The space closer to the viewer and at the bottom of the composition

**Geometric Shape:** A measured or “formulated” shape. Often made by humans, i.e...circle, square, triangle.

**Highlight:** The lightest value in a space or area on an artwork.

**Illustration:** A picture or diagram that helps make something clear

**Imagination:** A creation of the mind; the forming of a mental image of something that does not actually exist or is present.

**Landscape:** Subject matter within a work depicting primarily an expanse of land.

**Materials:** Media used to make or compose art. Ranging from traditional media to “non- art” materials, and can include virtual formats.

**Medium/Media:** Materials used for creating art.

**Middle ground:** Objects at a medium distance are perceived as mid-ground

**Mixed Media:** more than one medium in an artwork, *ex. Colored pencil and watercolor paint*

**Observational drawing:** drawing while observing firsthand the object, figure, or place.

**Organic Shape:** a free form shape. Can be found in nature, i.e. kidney bean, leaves.

**Overlapping:** The placement of objects over one another in order to create space and show an illusion of depth.

**Placement:** A technique in art where objects placed higher on the composition appear farther away and objects placed lower appear closer to the viewer.

**Portfolio:** Actual or virtual collection of artworks and documentation that demonstrates art and design knowledge and skills organized to reflect an individual’s creative growth and artistic literacy.

**Portrait:** Subject matter within a work (painting, photography, sculpture, etc.) that represents a person whose face and expression is predominant. The intent of a portrait is to display the likeness, personality, mood or character of the person.

## X-Ploration Visual Art Units

## Bakersfield City School District

**Preserve:** Protect, save, and care for (curate) objects, artifacts, and artworks.

**Realistic:** Artwork that resembles what seen in real life. The subject matter has been recreated to the best of the artist's ability to represent it as they see it in real life.

**Realism:** Artist style or theory where artwork is rooted in reality and is realistic.

**Representation:** The use of signs, symbols, images, or other elements to represent or take the place of something else.

**Self-portrait:** A portrait by the artist of the artist.

**Setting:** The place or type of surroundings where something is positioned or where an event takes place.

**Shading:** A technique used in art by applying the media darker or lighter to create an illusion of depth on a 2-dimensional surface.

**Shadow:** An area in an artwork that is not in direct light.

**Shape:** A flat, enclosed area, created when a line closes in on itself.

**Still life:** Subject matter within a work depicting mostly inanimate objects. Usually commonplace objects which are either natural (food, flowers, plants, shells, etc.) or human-made (drinking glasses, books, vases, etc.).

**Subject:** Something represented or indicated in a work of art.

**Texture:** How the surface of something feels or looks like it might feel if touched.

**Value:** The lightness or darkness of a color.