



# ART GLOSSARY

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## Adhesives



### Epoxy

Epoxy is a hard, plastic-like substance used as an adhesive, coating, or casting material. It consists of two parts: resin and hardener, which react when combined. Epoxy can be combined with substances like glitter, gold powder, and small amounts of acrylic paint to create a variety of effects. Read the mixing ratio instructions for each type of epoxy and experiment with small amounts before using on your final project.



### Mod Podge

Mod Podge is a quick-drying water-based glue that can be used to coat/seal works. Mod podge is perfect for collage and decorating sculptural objects (decoupage).

# Clay



## Ball stylus

Ball stylus tools are used to create rounded shapes of clay and decorate with dots and indentations.



## Hand-building

Hand-building ceramic techniques such as pinching, coiling, and using flat slabs of clay do not involve a potter's wheel.



## Molding and casting sculpture

To create multiple replicas of an object (such as a clay sculpture or found item), first create a "mold" by surrounding the object with a flexible material such as silicon. After the mold is set, a casting material such as resin or plaster is poured into the mold to harden.



## Potter's wheel

A potter's wheel is a machine with a flat surface where clay is centered and shaped using hands and tools as the wheel spins. This process, called "throwing," produces radially symmetrical ceramic pieces.



## Ribbon tool

Ribbon tools have ribbon-shaped wire ends used for sculpting and hollowing out clay and trimming the base ("foot") of thrown pots.



## Silicon brushes

Silicon brushes are used to shape ("model") clay without leaving brushstrokes.



## Wire cutter

Wire cutters are used to slice through thick pieces of clay, and to cut the base of a thrown pot from a wheel. Thin wire has less surface resistance and cuts through clay more easily than a knife.

## Drawing / Collage



### Blending stump

A blending stump is a pencil-shaped tool made of paper pulp used to blend and smudge pencil or charcoal.



### Collage

Collage is named after the French word for "to glue" and involves arranging separate images and items into a composition.



### Compass

A compass is a drafting tool used to draw precise circles. Watch this quick demo:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/hdNpOBeuLeo>



### Copyholder ruler

A copyholder ruler attaches to the left side of a clipboard or drawing board and slides up and down to measure/draw parallel horizontal lines. It can also aid readability by isolating lines of text on a document.



### Cutting mat

A cutting mat protects tables from cut marks and provides a smooth surface for cutting using an X-acto knife.

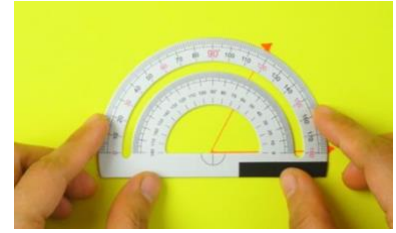


### Triangle

A drafting triangle is used to draw straight lines at precise angles, usually 45, 90, 30, or 60 degrees.

Watch this quick demo:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0apaLBxQduw>



### Protractor

A protractor is a drafting tool used to measure and draw exact angles. Protractors measure a wider range of angles than triangles. Watch this quick demo:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1HNzJa0Qao>.



### Vellum

Vellum is a translucent drawing surface with a smooth texture, used for tracing and achieving a layered effect.



### X-acto knife

An X-acto knife is a cutting tool with replaceable blades. To protect table surfaces, use a cutting mat. Use with a metal ruler to cut precise straight lines.

## Fabric Art



### Crochet

Crochet involves using a hooked needle to create closed stitches of yarn or thread. Crochet is used to create lace and fabric, and is less likely to unravel than knitted pieces.



### Cross-stitch

Cross-stitch involves sewing x-shaped stitches to create an image or pattern onto fabric.



### Fabric Edging / Trim

Fabric edging or trim is a decorative strip sewn onto fabric, such as ribbon, tassels, sequins, lace, etc.



### Jute

Jute is a natural fiber made from dried plant stems, often used in weaving and macramé.



### Knitting

Knitting involves using two pointed needles to create interlocking loops of yarn or thread. Rows of stitches can be **flat** or **in-the-round** (tubular).



### Loom

A loom is a device used in weaving that holds a set of parallel threads tight while yarn or thread is woven through them.



### Macramé

Macramé involves knotting strands of string to create textiles.



### Weaving

In weaving, a set of parallel threads (called **warp**) is held by a loom, and yarn or thread (called **weft** or **filling**) is threaded through at a 90-degree angle to create fabric.

## Gallery / Exhibition Terms



### Artist Statement

Text written by an artist that includes their biography, process, concepts, and any information that will add context to their work. Short artist statements are usually a page or less.



### Object label (artwork label)

A simple label displayed with a specific work that includes: artist's name, title of work, year created, dimensions (height x width x depth), and medium.



### Didactic

Didactics are longer statements, typically written by a curator, that give viewers a deeper understanding of an exhibition, e.g., themes, techniques, and historical context of a body of work.



### Gallery Height

Works are generally exhibited at eye level—approximately 54" from the ground for larger works and 56" high for smaller works. Watch [this video](#) for more information.



### Floor plan

A photo or diagram of the exhibition space labeled with measurements used for planning artwork placement.

# Painting



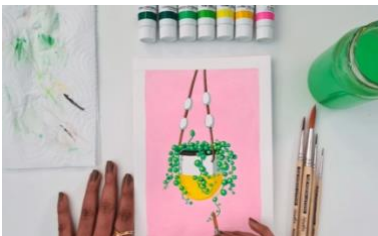
## Acrylic paint

Acrylic paint is fast-drying and water-soluble, making it easy to clean up. Dried acrylic paint resembles plastic but can be diluted with water or acrylic medium to achieve a wide variety of effects.



## Gesso

Gesso is a white, absorbent substance made of chalk and binder that is used to “prime” (prepare) painting surfaces. Layers of gesso are usually sanded to a smooth surface but can also be textured to add depth.



## Gouache

Gouache (pronounced gwash) is an opaque watercolor paint commonly used for posters, illustrations, and comics, valued for its vibrancy and matte finish.



## Impasto

Impasto is a technique of applying thick paint to achieve a 3D texture.



## Oil-based paint

Oil-based paint involves mixing pigment with oil (such as linseed) with a palette knife to achieve the desired thickness. Oil paint takes considerably longer to dry than acrylic, making it blendable for longer periods of time.



## Paint medium

Paint medium is a substance to mix with paint to change its fluidity, texture, or finish (matte or glossy). Make sure to read each label to determine if the medium is designed for acrylic or oil paint. For example: **Cold wax medium** is an oil painting medium that makes oil colors thicker and matte. **Gloss medium** makes acrylic paints transparent and shiny. **Pouring medium** has a liquid consistency.



## Primed panel

Sometimes called a gesso board, a primed panel is a rigid painting surfaced that has been coated in gesso.



## Tempera

Tempera paint, sometimes called poster paint, dries quickly with a matte finish and is used to create flat blocks of color. Traditionally, tempera paint is made using egg yolks.



## Palette / palette knife

A palette is a flat surface used to hold and mix dabs of paints currently being used. A palette knife is a tool used to mix paint on a palette, and can be used to create textures on a painting.

## Printmaking



### Bamboo baren

A bamboo baren is a round bamboo disk used in Japanese woodblock printing to apply pressure and transfer ink from a carved woodblock to paper, ensuring a consistent and even image.



### Brayer

A brayer is a hand-tool used in printmaking to break up and spread ink onto the printing surface.



### Edition

An edition refers to the number of prints created from a plate. An open edition means an unlimited number of prints from one plate. A limited edition refers to a fixed number of prints before the plate is destroyed. Editions are labeled and signed by the artist in pencil directly under the printed image, as follows:

# / edition total – left aligned to image (use OE for an open edition)  
“Title” – center aligned to image  
Artist signature – right aligned to image

For example:

1/6 “Jellyfish” Signature



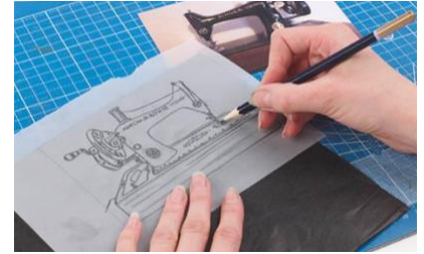
### Linocut

Linocut is a printmaking technique where a design is carved into a sheet of linoleum, ink is applied to the raised surface, and the image is transferred onto paper or fabric by pressing.



### Mylar

In printmaking, the reversed or mirror image is created on the printing surface so that it appears correct when printed. Trace an image on mylar, flip it, and use transfer paper to transfer the reversed image onto the printing surface.



### Transfer paper

In printmaking, the reversed or mirror image is created on the printing surface so that it appears correct when printed. Transfer paper is used to trace, flip, and transfer the reversed image onto the printing surface.