

The Courtauld

Glossary of Key Art Terms for Teachers

Painting	An artwork made by putting paint on a firm surface, usually with a paintbrush on canvas or wood.
Drawing	An artwork made by making lines or marks with a pencil, pen, crayon, or other materials, usually on paper.
Photograph	An artwork made using a camera.
Print	An artwork made using any method involving the transfer of an image from one surface to another (traditionally from metal or wood onto paper).
Sculpture	A three-dimensional artwork made by carving, constructing, modelling or casting (using a mold).
Ceramic	An object such as a vase or plate, which is made from clay. It is hardened by heating in a special oven known as a kiln. Ceramics are often painted and glazed.
Landscape	A type of artwork which shows an outdoor scene, often in the countryside.
Still Life	An artwork which shows an arrangement of non-living objects that might be found in a household. Objects might include natural items like fruit and flowers, or man-made objects like a glass or a vase.
Portrait	A painting, drawing, photograph, video, print or sculpture of a person, usually focusing on the face.
Self-Portrait	An artist's painting, drawing, photograph, print, sculpture or video of themselves.
Metalwork	Decorative objects which are made of metal (often brass). Especially associated with Islamic countries.
Frame	A protective and decorative border around an artwork, usually wooden. This may be painted, carved or gilded (covered with gold leaf).