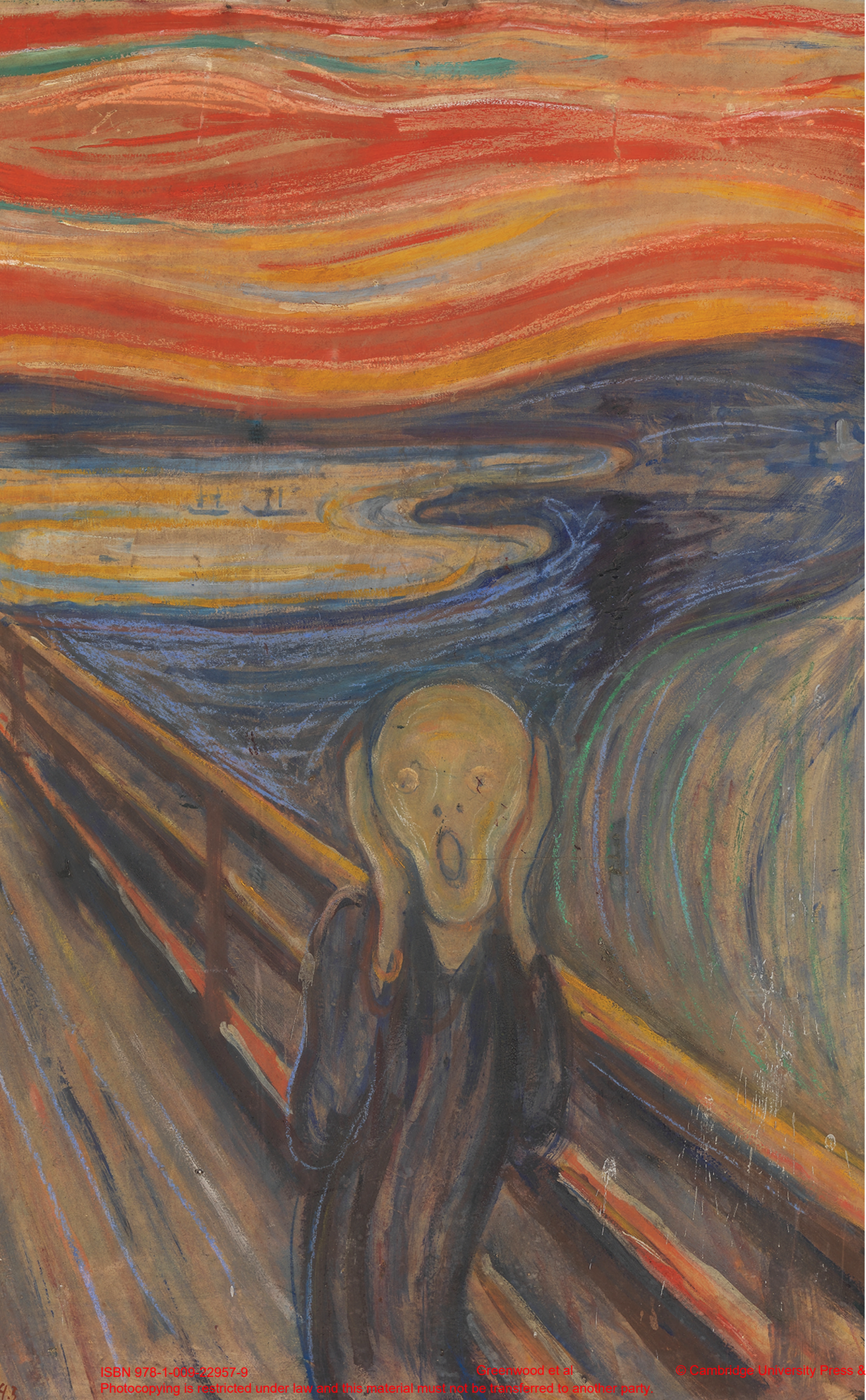


Glossary



Exam terminology

analyse dissect to ascertain and examine constituent parts and/or their relationships. Break down or examine in order to identify the essential elements, features, components or structures, determine the logic and reasonableness of information. Examine or consider something in order to explain and interpret it for the purpose of finding meaning or relationships and identifying patterns, similarities and differences.

apply use knowledge and understanding in response to a given situation or circumstance, carry out or use a procedure in a given or particular situation

appreciate recognise or make a judgement about the value or worth of something, understand fully

assess measure, determine, evaluate, estimate or make a judgement about the value, quality, outcomes, results, size, significance, nature or extent of something

comment express an opinion, observation or reaction in speech or writing, give a judgement based on a given statement or a result of a calculation

communicate convey knowledge and/or understanding to others, make known, transmit

compare display recognition of similarities and differences and recognise the significance of these similarities and differences

comprehend understand the meaning or nature of; mentally grasp

consider think deliberately or carefully about something, typically before making a decision, take something into account when making a judgement, view alternatively or scrutinise, reflect on

construct create or put together an argument by arranging ideas or items; display information in a diagrammatic or logical form; make, build

contrast display recognition of differences by deliberate juxtaposition of contrary elements; show how things are different or opposite; give an account of differences between two or more items or situations, referring to both or all of them throughout

create bring something into being or existence, produce or evolve from one's own thought or imagination, reorganise or put elements together into a new pattern or structure or to form a coherent or functional whole

critique review theory, practice or performance in a detailed, analytical and critical way

decide reach a resolution as a result of consideration, make a choice from a number of alternatives

define give the meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quality; state meaning and identify or describe qualities

demonstrate prove or make clear by argument, reasoning or evidence, illustrating with practical example

describe give an account, written or spoken, of the situation, event, pattern or process, or of the characteristics or features of something

design produce a plan, simulation, model or similar, planned, formed or conceived in the mind

develop elaborate, expand or enlarge in detail, add detail and fullness to, cause to become more complex or intricate

devise think out, plan, contrive, invent

discuss examine by argument, sift the considerations for and against, debate, talk or write about a topic, include a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses, consider taking into account different issues and ideas, points for and/or against, and supporting opinions or conclusions with evidence

distinguish recognise as distinct or different, note points of difference between, discriminate, discern, make clear a difference between two or more concepts or items

document support an assertion, claim or statement with evidence, decisive information, written references and citations

evaluate make an appraisal by weighing up or assessing strengths, implications and limitations, make judgements about ideas, works, solutions or methods in relation to selected criteria, examine and determine the merit, value or significance of something based on criteria

examine investigate, inspect or scrutinise, enquire or search into, consider or discuss an argument or concept in a way that encompasses the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue

experiment try out or test new ideas or methods, especially in order to discover or prove something, undertake or perform a scientific procedure to test a hypothesis, make a discovery or demonstrate a known fact

explain make an idea or situation plain or clear by describing it in more detail or revealing relevant facts, give an account of, provide additional information

explore look into both closely and broadly, scrutinise, enquire into or discuss something in detail

express convey, show or communicate ideas, views, opinions, feelings or emotions; convey or suggest a representation or depiction

identify distinguish, locate, recognise and name, establish or indicate who or what someone or something is, provide an answer from a number of possibilities, recognise and state a distinguishing factor or feature

implement put something into effect, such as a plan or proposal

interpret make clear or explicit, elucidate or understand in a particular way, bring out the meaning of; identify or draw meaning from or give meaning to, information presented in various forms, such as text, symbols or images

investigate carry out an examination or formal inquiry in order to establish or obtain facts and reach new conclusions; search, enquire into, interpret and draw conclusions about information

justify give reasons or evidence to support an answer, response or conclusion, show or prove how an argument, statement or conclusion is right or reasonable

make decisions select from available options, weigh up positives and negatives of each option and consider all the alternatives to arrive at a position

manipulate adapt or change to suit one's purpose

modify change the form or qualities of, make partial or minor changes to something

organise arrange, order, form all into a whole consisting of interdependent or coordinated parts

propose put forward a point of view, idea, argument or suggestion for consideration or action

realise create or make an artistic work, actualise, make real or concrete, give reality or substance to

recognise identify or recall particular features of information from knowledge; identify that an item, characteristic or quality exists; perceive as existing or true; be aware or acknowledge

reflect on think about deeply and carefully

resolve consolidate and communicate intent through a synthesis of ideas and application of media to express meaning

select choose in preference to another or others, pick out

structure give a pattern, organisation or arrangement to, construct or arrange according to a plan

test take measures to check the quality, performance or reliability of something

understand perceive what is meant by something; be familiar with, construct meaning from messages, including oral, written and visual communication

use operate or put into effect, apply knowledge or rules to put theory into practice

Art terminology

abstract not representing outward appearances; having no recognisable subject. Note: this is different from 'abstracted', where the artist simplifies the subject but it remains figurative.

abstracted simplified from reality and lacking in the details that make the work clearly recognisable; can retain elements of its figurative origin

achromatic lacking hue/colour, such as white, grey or black; a = without and chrome = hue/colour

actual space space that exists in the physical world and is not implied, virtual or imagined

allegory a story, play, poem, picture or other work in which the characters and events represent particular qualities or ideas that relate to morals or politics

ambiguous space space that is expressed or can be perceived in more than one possible way, sometimes intentionally

analogous colours three hues, which are positioned next to each other on the colour wheel

analyse to examine in detail in order to discover meaning, to break down into components or essential features

analysis the separation of the parts of a subject for individual study, to find out their nature, function and meaning. To analyse an artwork, the audience breaks the artwork into simple elements to interpret the ideas and meanings expressed. The fundamentals of art analysis include studying the art elements and art principles, techniques, style, symbols and metaphors included in the artwork. Students use critical analysis to refine their own artistic exploration.

appropriation using an object or image, usually without permission, and placing it in a new context that changes its meaning

approximate symmetry symmetry where elements on either side of a compositional axis are similar in size and shape and number but are not mirror images of one another

arbitrary colour colours in an artwork that have no basis in the realistic appearance of the object depicted

art criticism the analysis, evaluation, interpretation and judgement of works of art; can vary in degrees of positive as well as negative remarks, and critical methods vary considerably in their approaches to considering the forms, content and contexts of works of art

art elements the building blocks used by artists to create a work of art; include colour, form, line, shape, texture, tone, light, sound and time

art form an established form of artistic expression, which can include, but is not limited to, painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, film, video, ceramics, sound, photography, performance, textiles, fashion, digital artworks, interdisciplinary practices, installations and street art

art principles how an artist organises or uses the elements within a work of art; include emphasis (focal point), movement, rhythm, unity, variety, space, repetition (including pattern), balance, contrast, proportion and scale

artificial texture texture that does not actually exist but is implied through the artist's use of art materials and other elements of art

artistic practice refers to the ways in which an artist goes about their work, going beyond the physical activities of making art and including influences, ideas and materials as well as tools and skills; includes use of the art process: critical, creative and reflective thinking, visual language and the analysis and interpretation of artworks using the Interpretive Lenses

aspective when one or more aspect or view of the subject is shown in a unified whole (sometimes referred to as twisted perspective); the Egyptians portrayed what they knew about the subject rather than what they saw from a single perspective

asymmetrical (or informal) balance where balance is achieved by elements either side of a visual axis achieving equal visual weight despite their variation in colour, scale and number; a large object can be balanced by a number of smaller objects or a single large area of subdued colour can be balanced by a small area of bright colour, creating a dynamic informal composition

atmospheric or aerial perspective the use of atmospheric haze to enhance the illusion of depth; distance appears to be cooler and less intense, have less contrast and be less defined

balance a state where things are of equal (actual or visual) weight or force

Baroque art style or movement of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, where artists used strong contrasts, emotion, movement, exaggeration and theatrical effects

body of work consists of personal responses by the student in exploring the Creative Practice, which should lead to a collection of artworks related to each other through ideas, subject matter, style, art form or materials and techniques; each one being as important as the others

brainstorm to suggest many ideas for a future activity very quickly before considering some of them more carefully

chiaroscuro Italian for 'light-dark'; refers to the contrast of light and dark to make forms look three-dimensional

collaborative involving two or more people working together for a special purpose

colour the aspect of any object that may be described in terms of hue, lightness and saturation

colour scheme a combination of colours chosen for a particular reason

complementary colours two colours that are on opposite sides of the colour wheel

composition the arrangement of the objects and the way the art elements are structured to achieve the principles in the format

conceptual art art in which the creative thought, concept and process are considered to be more important than the product

contemporary artists for the purposes of this study, contemporary artists are defined as those who have produced art in the twenty-first century or since 2000; contemporary art mirrors contemporary culture and society

context location and time where the artwork is made, presented or viewed; the economic, philosophical, social or cultural influences on the practices of the artist, their intentions and their expression of ideas, values and beliefs in their artworks or on the audience

contrast when two different art elements or principles are used in the same work specifically to create emphasis and visual interest; for example, the use of changing scale, or contrasting tone or colours, such as blue and yellow

Creative Practice the process used by students for the conceptualisation, development and making of artworks; includes research and exploration, experimentation and development, refinement and resolution as well as reflection and evaluation. These aspects are interrelated and iterative; they do not operate in a set sequence that privileges one or another over the others.

critique a report that examines a person's work or ideas and provides a judgement. A critique is a discursive collaborative environment that is organised to engage, explore, express, present and evaluate artworks and to understand, reflect on and improve awareness of the characteristics of art making.

cubistic space promotes the flatness of the picture plane while acknowledging the three-dimensional form of the subject by showing multiple viewpoints simultaneously

development the process of growing or changing and becoming more advanced or the process of creating something new

didactic information text that is intended to teach

double exposure can be used to create a complex image that combines elements from more than one negative or repeats aspects from the same negative in one print

emotive arousing feeling or emotion

emphasis placing importance on or drawing attention to something

empirical data objective evidence; not influenced by opinion or bias

ephemeral lasting for a very short time; an artwork that is temporary and lasts at the site for a short period of time

experiential learning learning through concrete experiences in Making and Responding; students test the validity of their ideas and exploration, reflect on their experience and respond to that reflection to guide their art making

experimentation the process of trying methods, activities, etc. to discover the effect they have

exploration the activity of searching and finding out about something

expressive and imaginative freedom the freedom of the artist, not just to represent the external world, but to express their inner state and give visual representation to their thoughts

figurative representing objects from the observed world in such a way that they can easily be recognised

focal point the thing that the audience looks at first or that holds their interest

foreshortening shortening or distorting objects to create an illusion of depth and to make them look like they are coming towards the audience

format the work area (shape) of a two-dimensional work of art, such as the canvas, wall (mural), paper (drawing or graphic)

four-dimensional adds time to the traditional dimensions of height, width and depth

free-standing sculpture standing free of support or attachment to a background and can be viewed from all angles

French Impressionists style of painting originating in France during the 1870s, characterised by a focus on the immediate visual impression of a scene and by the use of small brush strokes of colour to suggest reflected light

fresco a painting on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling

gelatin silver print black-and-white photographs produced in the darkroom using paper coated with an emulsion of light-sensitive silver salts in gelatin

genre depicts the realistic representation of everyday life; genres are also various categories of subject matter

geometric shapes shapes that are precise and regular, and can be described using mathematical formulas

glaze a translucent layer of oil paint that can be either thick or thin; a glaze medium can be mixed with the paint or diluted with a mixture of 50 per cent linseed oil and 50 per cent turpentine

global tone the overall tone of an artwork

golden ratio the equation in which a line divided into two parts, where the longer part (a) divided by the smaller part (b) is equal to the sum of (a) + (b) divided by (a)

hand-coloured gelatin silver print black-and-white print coloured using watercolour paints or drawing inks

harmony elements are harmonious if they are similar, such as colours (e.g. warm colours)

high key composed mainly of light tones

holistic the idea that all the properties of a given system (e.g. physical) cannot be determined or explained by its component parts alone; painting with no particular focal point and no natural boundaries – also called all-over painting

hue refers to both a colour and a shade of a colour; the attribute of colours that permits them to be classed as red, yellow, green, blue, etc.

iconography the use of images and symbols to represent ideas or the particular images and symbols used in this way by a religious or political group

inquiry learning learning that requires students to solve problems through questions that have more than one possible resolution; emphasises the process of exploration and experimentation, where the end result is unknown. Develops students' critical and creative thinking, moving beyond gaining knowledge of facts to developing an understanding and critical awareness of their thinking and learning.

Intaglio a method of printing using a surface with lines cut into it

Interpretive Lenses there are three interpretive lenses: structural, personal and cultural. They have been created by the VCAA to provide students with a framework that can be used to understand the meanings and messages of artworks, and the relationship that exists between the artist, the artwork, the audience and the world.

issue an important topic or problem for debate or discussion that affects people's experiences and background; can be related to the economic, philosophical, social or cultural context of artworks, the artist or the audience

kinetic relating to, or resulting from, movement

kintsugi a Japanese method for repairing broken ceramics with a special lacquer mixed with gold; the philosophy behind the technique is to recognise the history of the object and to visibly incorporate the repair into the new piece instead of disguising it

kitsch refers to 'vulgar' art, or art with no artistic merit such as commercial ornaments, tourist souvenirs; the Cambridge Dictionary defines it as works of art or decorative objects that are ugly, silly or worthless

land art an art movement that emerged in the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s, in which landscape and the work of art are inextricably linked

light the brightness that comes from the sun, fire, etc. and from electrical devices, and that allows things to be seen

linear perspective the illusion of spatial depth created by parallel lines that appear to converge as they move towards the horizon

local tone tone used in a particular area within an artwork

low key composed mainly of dark tones

Making students learn about and use knowledge, skills, techniques, processes, materials and technologies to make visual artworks that allow them to explore their experiences and to express their ideas and intentions

manga a style of Japanese comic books and graphic novels; aimed at adults as well as children

maquette a model for a larger sculpture, created to visualise how it might look and work out what approaches and materials would be the most appropriate

materials what an artwork is actually made of (e.g. charcoal, video or plaster); not to be confused with 'technique' (how the materials are used)

memento mori an object serving as a reminder of death and mortality

mobile a type of sculpture created using components that are suspended in the air and move in response to external influences, such as air currents or a motor

modulation moving from vibrant warm hues to cool hues to describe the transition from light to shade; using colour rather than tone to imply form in painting

monochromatic only using variations of one colour; mono = one and chrome = colour

movement an artwork can demonstrate actual kinetic movement or the artist can rely on other elements and principles of art to create visual movement or an impression of action

narrative a story

natural texture actual textures that already exist and are tactile or can be felt

negative space the background or the area that surrounds the subject of the work

Neo-Platonic a philosophical system that originated in the third century, founded by Plotinus and was based chiefly on Platonic doctrine and Oriental mysticism, with later influences from Christianity; it holds that all existence consists of emanations from the One, with whom the soul may be reunited

new media refers to interdisciplinary works using recently developed electronic media and recent developments in software and related hardware devices

objective colour the actual colour of an object, observed colour; also known as local colour

organic shapes irregular and uneven shapes that occur in nature

overlapping covering something partly by going over its edge, or covering part of the same space

pattern any regularly repeated arrangement of a motif

performance art art that consists of a person or group performing something and that does not exist apart from when it is being performed, unless recorded in film, video or through photography

photogram image created in the darkroom without the use of a camera; objects are placed onto photographic paper and then exposed to light; the silhouette of the object appears on the paper; objects that combine interesting positive and negative shapes as well as those that have areas of transparency are often used

pictorial space the space on the picture plane or surface of the artwork

picture plane the surface of the artwork

plinth a base that supports a statue, or a tall structure, such as a column, on which something rests

positive space the subject or areas of interest in an artwork

presentation the act of showing something, or the way in which something is shown

process a series of actions that the artist takes to achieve a result

project-based learning learning based in the construction of knowledge with multiple perspectives where students drive their own learning through inquiry; requires problem-solving, decision-making, investigation and reflection in response to a specific task while allowing for student choice

propaganda the spreading of a doctrine that reflects the views of interests of a particular group

proportion the relationship of elements in an artwork to the whole and to one another

radial balance balance based on a circle with its design focused upon or extending from its centre

radial symmetry visual elements are arranged equally around a central point in the composition

ready-made a manufactured found object modified by an artist and presented as an artwork in a different context from that originally intended

refinement a small change or the process that improves something

relief sculpture any three-dimensional work that projects from, but belongs to, the wall or other type of background surface on which it is carved

repetition where elements of an artwork occur more than once, often to create unity in a work; can be repeated shapes, colours, arrangements or even sounds in multimedia works

research detailed study of a subject, especially to discover new information or reach a new understanding

resolution the act of solving or ending a problem or difficulty

Responding students explore, analyse and interpret their own artworks and the artworks of others. Students discuss and evaluate artworks and the practices used to create them.

rhythm the movement within a piece of art achieved through repetition, that helps the eye travel through the work to a point of focus; can vary in its speed

rhythmic repetition the recurrence of a particular line, pattern, shape, or other visual elements

Romanticism a style of art, music and literature, popular in Europe in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, distinguished by a new interest in human psychology, expression of personal feeling and interest in the natural world

saturation the intensity of a colour

scale the overall physical size of an artwork or objects in the artwork in relation to another object or the audience

simultaneity the Cubist characteristic where the artist represented multiple views of the same objects simultaneously in a single artwork, maintaining both the truth of a three-dimensional object represented and the two-dimensional picture plane on which it was painted

site-specific installation created for a specific site; an artwork that relates to various aesthetic qualities of the site or environment for which it is created

soft sculpture a type of sculpture made from materials that are supple and not rigid

sound art a form of contemporary art that uses sound as an element (what it is made out of) and as its subject (what it is about), for creative expression

space the distances or areas around, between and within components of an artwork

spatial colour the use of advancing and receding colour to create the illusion of depth on a two-dimensional picture plane

street art artwork that is created in a public space, typically without official permission

subjective colour a colour chosen for personal reasons or selected by the artist for its symbolic value

surface composition the space of the picture plane – how objects are arranged within the space of the format and the space that exists between these objects; also refers to the space around the objects and the space into the image (real or illusion)

symbolism representing something abstract, an idea or concept with something concrete, visible or tangible

symmetrical (or formal) balance where elements are mirrored on opposite sides of a visual axis; this creates a stable and formal composition

technique the manner in which the artist applies materials to the artwork

tessellation the process of fitting shapes together in a pattern with no spaces in between, or an arrangement of shapes that has been made in this way

texture the quality of something that can be decided by touch; the degree to which something is rough or smooth, or soft or hard

three-dimensional has three dimensions: height, width and depth

thumbnail sketch small, rough sketches that eliminate the unimportant elements and details from the composition. They are not fully rendered sketches and are useful for exploring multiple ideas quickly, or to try out different configurations.

tone the relative lightness or darkness of a colour or the range of lightness and darkness from white through various greys to black

two-dimensional flat with two dimensions: height and width

unity the similar or uniform use of an element to create cohesion and a sense of balance

value the degree of lightness or darkness in a colour

vanishing point the point in linear perspective where receding parallel lines meet on the horizon

vanitas Latin for 'emptiness'; refers to the transience of things of the world and the inevitability of death; in seventeenth-century still-life paintings, vanitas was signified by images of spoiling food, the overturned glass, the burning candle, worms and the obvious inclusion of the skull

variety created by using a different element in a repetitive pattern (e.g. a square in a composition of circles)

vertical placement the higher the base of an object on the ground is positioned on the picture plane, the further away it is

visual brainstorm a technique of solving specific problems, amassing information, stimulating creative thinking and developing new ideas by unrestrained and spontaneous drawing

visual language combines the art elements and art principles with materials, techniques and processes to communicate meaning and personal, cultural and contemporary ideas to an audience. This combination can result in the creation of styles, symbols and imagery.

visual path when certain areas throughout an artwork are connected by some manner of visual emphasis that leads the eye of the audience in a particular direction

wave field synthesis software a system that uses specifically designed loudspeakers to provide listeners with an immersive sonic experience; the technology allows sound to appear to emanate from any desired area of the space, and then move through the area in spatial pathways or patterns within and outside the formation of the loudspeakers

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Title: Art: Creative Practice: VCE Units 1–4

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