

Art Terms Workbook

PHOTOGRAPHY



Abject

Abstract

Aesthetic

Relating to or characterized by a concern with beauty or good taste (adjective); a particular taste or approach to the visual qualities of an object (noun). **Aesthetics:** the study of the theory of art within philosophy. Questions such as: are there universal aesthetic categories. Do good aesthetics make for good people? What is arts' relationship to the world and politics?

Albumen Print

Allegory

American social realist photography (This includes the Farm Securities Administration Photographers)

Appropriation

Archive

Aura

Automatism

Avant-garde

Black Arts Movement (1960s)

Baroque

A term meaning extravagant, complex; applied to a style in art and architecture developed in Europe from the early seventeenth to mid-eighteenth century, emphasizing dramatic, often strained effect and typified by bold, curving forms, elaborate ornamentation, and overall balance of disparate parts.

Bauhaus

Bourgeois

Cartes-de-visite

Small handheld photographic cards, first popularized in the 1850s. Inexpensive and mass-produced, these cards depicted individual or celebrity portraits, and were popularly traded or collected in albums.

Camera Obscura

Cinématographe

A combination motion-picture camera, printer, and projector invented by French photographers, photographic equipment manufacturers, and brothers Auguste and Louis Lumière in 1895. The Lumière brothers used the Cinématographe to show their films when they set up the world's first movie theater, in the back room of a Parisian café. Unlike Thomas Alva Edison and William K. L. Dickson's electrically powered Kinetograph, the Cinématographe was compact and hand-cranked, so it could be easily transported to shoot films on location.

Colonization

Conventional

Cropping

Culture

Curator

Cyanotype

Dada

Daguerreotype

A photographic technique invented by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre in 1839. A daguerreotype uses a silver or silver-coated-copper plate to develop an image in a camera obscura. The image is formed when the light-sensitive plate is exposed to light through a camera lens. A daguerreotype was a unique, direct positive image that could not produce copies.

Diptych

A work of art consisting of two sections or panels, usually hinged together.

Direct Cinema

A method of documentary filmmaking developed in the late 1950s and early 1960s in the US and Canada, in which filmmakers sought to capture their subjects as directly as possible. Reducing equipment and crews to bare essentials, they used handheld cameras and attempted to make themselves unobtrusive, allowing life to unfold before the camera. American Direct Cinema pioneers include Richard Leacock, Robert Drew, D. A. Pennebaker, and brothers Albert and David Maysles.

Discursive**Documentary photography**

A genre of photography that aims to objectively chronicle a subject or event.

Double exposure

In photography and filmmaking, a technique in which film is exposed twice to capture and merge two different images in a single frame.

Enlargement

A photographic print that is bigger than the original negative. Because enlargements can be made, cameras can remain small and portable yet photographers can still produce big photographic prints. Before the development of enlargement techniques, the size of a photograph was determined by the size of its negative.

Exposure**Exquisite Corpse**

Feminist art

Figurative

Foreground

Formal

Futurism

Genre

A category of artistic practice having a particular form, content, or technique.

Grotesque

Characterized by ludicrous, repulsive, or incongruous distortion, as of appearance or manner; ugly, outlandish, or bizarre, as in character or appearance.

Heliograph

Hue

A particular gradation of color; a shade or tint.

Iconic

Having the character of an icon, i.e., an important and enduring symbol, an object of great attention and devotion

Illusion

An unreal, deceptive, or misleading appearance or image.

Installation

A form of art, developed in the late 1950s, which involves the creation of an enveloping aesthetic or sensory experience in a particular environment, often inviting active engagement or immersion by the spectator.

Institutional critique

An art term describing the systematic inquiry into the practices and ethos surrounding art institutions such as art academies, galleries, and museums, often challenging assumed and historical norms of artistic theory and practice. It often seeks to make visible the historically and socially constructed boundaries between inside and outside and public and private.

Juxtaposition

An act of placing things close together or side by side for comparison or contrast.

Landscape

The natural landforms of a region; also, an image that has natural scenery as its primary focus.

Lithography

A printmaking technique that involves drawing with greasy crayons or a liquid called tusche, on a polished slab of limestone; aluminum plates, which are less cumbersome to handle, may also be used. The term is derived from the Greek words for stone (litho) and drawing (graph).

Manifesto

Medium

Metaphysical

Transcending physical matter or the laws of nature. Metaphysics refers to the branch of philosophy that studies that fundamental nature of being and knowing.

Modernism

Negative (photographic)

A previously exposed and developed photographic film or plate showing an image that, in black-and-white photography, has a reversal of tones (for example, white eyes appear black). In color photography, the image is in complementary colors to the subject (for example, a blue sky appears yellow). The transfer of a negative image to another surface results in a positive image.

Objective

Opaque

Panopticon

Panorama

An unbroken view on an entire surrounding area.

Performance Art

Perspective

Technique used to depict volumes and spatial relationships on a flat surface, as in a painted scene that appears to extend into the distance.

Photogram

A photographic print made by placing objects and other elements on photosensitive paper and exposing it to light. **Also see Cyanotype**

Photogenic drawing

Photogravure

A printmaking process in which a photographic negative is transferred onto a copper plate.

Photojournalism

Photomontage

A collage work that includes cut or torn and pasted photographs or photographic reproductions.

Pictorialism

Popular culture

Cultural activities, ideas, or products that reflect or target the tastes of the general population of any society.

Pose

The way a figure is positioned.

Positive

In photography, images capable of being produced in multiples that result from the transfer of a negative image to another surface, such as a photographic print on paper.

Postmodernism

Propaganda

Proportion

Refers to the harmonious relation of parts to each other or to the whole.

Rayograph

Shutter

A mechanical device for controlling the aperture, or opening, in a camera through which light passes to the film or plate. By opening and closing for different amounts of time, the shutter determines the length of the photographic exposure

Social construct

A concept or practice that doesn't exist innately in the world but is instead created by society.

Stereotype

Standardized and oversimplified assumptions about specific social groups.

Street photography

Subconscious (in technical use, Unconscious)

Sublime

Surrealism

Technique

The method with which an artist, writer, performer, athlete, or other producer employs technical skills or materials to achieve a finished product or endeavor.

Tintype

Tone

The lightness or darkness of a color. In painting, a color plus gray.

Translucent

Permitting the passage of light.

“Truth Value”

Vantage point

A position or place that affords an advantageous perspective; in photography, the position from which a photographer has taken a photograph.

Vernacular photography

Viewpoint

The position from which something is viewed or observed.

Zoetrope

Zoopraxiscope

19th-century motion-picture device, designed by Edward Muybridge, in which light is projected through rotating glass disks applied at the rim with a changing sequence of images, creating the illusion of movement.

See also

www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/

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