

Art 1 Shell Drawing Vocabulary

1. Blending stick- A tightly rolled up piece of paper that we use to blend light values of graphite or pencil.
2. Smudgie- A folded paper towel that we use to shade medium to light values of shading without using a graphite well. With a graphite well, we can shade dark values.
3. Graphite well- A piece of sandpaper that we grind graphite sticks onto to create dark values with our smudgies. We can also use it to sharpen or clean our blending sticks.
4. Graphite stick- A compressed block of "pencil lead" or graphite that we use with graphite wells OR shade the back of our projects with to transfer.
5. Gradation- A GRADUAL or a slow blend from dark to light.
6. Hand blot- A blank sheet of paper that we put under our hand to protect our art work from smearing.
7. Curvy block out- A piece of paper that has been cut with scissors in varying curves to block out either areas for shading or erasing.
8. Straight block out- The same as a curving block out, but has straight sides.
9. #2 pencil- A pencil we use to shade the 1-9 values on our shell bodies.
10. Value- The lightness or darkness of a color
11. Shading- Showing the change from light to dark in an image by darkening areas and leaving other areas light
12. Blending- The process of getting rid of lines. If a line is a value of 5, we shade a value of 5 until it blends into a 1 (white).
13. Contrast- In shading, contrast is used by showing the difference between very light and very dark areas.
14. Light source- The direction from where light originates (comes from).

15. Contour- French for "outline". Used to describe the boundary of an image, without shading.
16. Outline- A silhouette made of a line that appears 2-dimensional
17. Form- An element of art that is three-dimensional, has volume and depth. In drawing and painting, form is an illusion.
18. Kneaded eraser- A grey malleable eraser. It is soft and squishy and makes very gradual erasing of graphite values.
19. Cast shadow- The absence of light that surrounds an object's base opposite the light source. The shadow that follows you around on a sunny day. Made using an ebony pencil.
20. Still life- A set of inanimate objects arranged in a certain way.
21. Division of Thirds- When creating a composition for artwork, this is the concept that when you divide the paper vertically and horizontally 3 times, you create 4 hotspots or areas that should be covered with positive objects. 3 of the 4 hot spots should be covered. After division, you should have 9 total boxes.
22. Composition- How objects (positive space) are arranged in a work of art. We usually want a pleasing composition.
23. Masking tape- A yellowish/tan white sticky tape we use to tape our shells down as well as transfer with.
24. Newsprint- An off-white/tan piece of paper that we do preliminary drawings on and then transfer to a final paper. No shading is done on this paper.
25. Drawing paper- The final white paper that we shade with. It has "tooth" that allows us to make smooth blends.
26. Scratch paper- A scrap sheet of paper that we use to make hand blots, curvy/straight blockouts.
27. Embossed lines- These are "ghost" lines that are created by pressing too hard during the transfer process. It's a dent in the paper that the pencil cannot get into.

28. Lines- The worst thing possible when shading a shape to create a form. A line prevents an object from looking realistic because it still makes the outline of a shape.
29. Value scale- A series of values of shading from 1 (white) and 10 (ebony pencil). There should be no jumps in value and transition seamlessly from one to another.
30. Ebony pencil- A graphite pencil that is the deepest and darkest value we can get in our shell drawings. This is a considered a value of 10.
31. Light source box- A box we use to figure out what our cast shadows look like.
32. Back shading- The shading behind an object (our overlapping shells) to create contrast.
33. White eraser- A cube-like eraser we use to erase large areas of drawings/mistakes.
34. Pointed pink cap eraser- A pink eraser that "caps" our pencils to erase small areas.
35. High light- The brightest areas on a smooth, rounded area.
36. X-acto Knife- The metal knife that looks like what surgeons use to cut their patients. We use it to cut paper or boards.
37. Cutting board- A thick cardboard piece that we cut with our X-acto knives.