

Art 59 / 44 Terminology

Support – a flat surface designed to receive paint

Canvas – a traditional painting support, usually stretched over a wood frame or other rigid structure

Ground – a preparatory coating applied to a painting support

Gesso – a traditional painting ground for rigid supports made from hide glue and chalk

Acrylic gesso – a popular acrylic (water based) painting ground used on both cloth and rigid supports

Pigment – a material pulverized into powder to provide color in paint

Vehicle – a binding material used to suspend pigment in the manufacture of paint

Linseed oil – the oil of the flax seed, used in artist's oil paint because of its drying qualities

Solvent – a substance capable of blending with another substance of dissimilar make-up

Turpentine – a solvent derived from the resin of pine trees, used to thin oil paint

Medium –
1. a mixture of turpentine and oil used to thin oil paint
2. the specific form of a work of art (oil, watercolor, etching, etc.)

Composition – the arrangement of form and shape on a painting surface that takes into consideration the rectangular perimeter of the painting

Frame – the rectangular perimeter of the painting

Picture plane – the implied location of a picture's outermost surface, as defined by the surface itself

Color – either a specific color, or a general characterization of multiple colors used in a painting

Palette -
1. A flat, usually wood board with a hole for the thumb used to arrange colors for the painter
2. a general characterization of multiple colors used in a painting

Palette knife – a tool used to mix or scrape paint on a palette

Hue – the identifying characteristic of a specific color (red, blue, brown, etc.)

Intensity – the strength of a color

Value – the tone (light and dark) of a color

Primary color – red, yellow and blue: colors that cannot be produced by the mixing of other colors

Secondary colors – green, orange, purple: the simplest colors produced by mixing two primary colors

Cool – a characteristic of a color that tends toward the blue region of the spectrum

Warm - a characteristic of a color that tends toward the yellow region of the spectrum

Spectrum – the array of color produced when light passes through a prism (i.e. a rainbow)

Painterly – a style of painting that retains the paint's physical presence and emphasizes the mass and texture of the object depicted

Linear - a style of painting that subordinates the paint's physical properties to depicted objects with clearly defined contours