

Art Vocabulary

Analogous colours

rangi zinazofanana

groups of colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel

Background

Background

the part of an artwork that is far away

Blending

Kuchanganya

mixing from light to dark

Blurring details

maelezo ya kupakia

making small things have less detail so they seem far away

Brainstorming

Kuburudisha

coming up with a large number of ideas

Brushstroke

Brushstroke

the mark made by the bristles of a brush in painting

Central composition

muundo wa kati

an arrangement where the most important thing is in the middle

Colour composition

utungaji wa rangi

the arrangement of colours in an artwork

Colour scheme

mpangilio wa rangi

the choice of colours in an artwork

Colour mixing

mchanganyiko wa rangi

adding two or more colours together

Colour wheel

gurudumu la rangi

a circle of coloured sections that shows the relationships between colours

Complementary colours

rangi ya ziada

colours that are opposites on the colour wheel

Composition

utungaji

the arrangement of things in an artwork

Contour drawing

kuchora mchoro

drawing the edges and outlines

Contrast

tofauti

the difference between the lights and darks

Cool colours

rangi nyekundu

colours that are calm and soothing, such as blues and greens

Creativity

ubunifu

ideas that are useful, unique, and insightful

Cropping

kukua

cutting off part of a picture

Cross-hatching

kupiga-kukata

drawing using close parallel lines that cross each other at an angle

Cyan

cyan

a greenish-blue colour that is one of the colour primaries

Decreasing contrast

tofauti ya kupungua

making the range between the lights and darks smaller so that things look muddier and far away

Depth

Kina

the sense that some things are near and others are far away

Detail

maelezo zaidi

small, important parts of a drawing

Dry brush painting

kavu ya uchoraji

creating scratchy brushstrokes using a brush that is mostly dry

Dull colours

rangi nyekundu

colours that are weak, and not very vivid

Foreground

mbele ya mbele

the part of an artwork that is biggest and closest

Hatching

Kukata

drawing using close parallel lines

Idea development

maendeleo ya mawazo

a process that is used to create useful, insightful, and unique ideas

Increasing contrast

kuongezeka tofauti

making the range between the lights and darks bigger so that things look more intense and close up

Insightful

ufahamu

something that shows deep thinking

Intense colours

rangi kali

colours that are strong and very vivid

Magenta

magenta

a reddish purple (hot pink) that is one of the colour primaries

Modelling

mfano

making things 3D using blending

Negative space

nafasi hasi

the shape of the space between the things you would normally look at (the positive space)

Non-central composition

muundo usio kati

an arrangement where the most important thing is NOT in the middle

Positive space

nafasi nzuri

the contour of the things you would normally look at

Primary colour

rangi ya msingi

a colour that cannot be mixed using other colours: cyan, yellow, and magenta

Reference images

picha za kumbukumbu

photographs used to look at so you can make a better artwork

Rotating

kupokezana

turning a picture to a new angle

Secondary colour

rangi ya sekondari

a colour that is created by mixing two primary colours: red, green, and blue

Shading

kivuli

drawing with white, black, and greys

Sharpening details

maelezo ya kunyoosha

making small things have more detail so they seem close up

Smoothness

laini

drawing cleanly, with no bumps

Split complement colour scheme

kupasua mpango wa rangi ya ziada

a colour scheme using one base colour, and two colours on either side of the complementary

Square colour scheme

mpango wa rangi ya mraba

a colour scheme in which colours are balanced around the colour wheel in the shape of a square

Stippling

kupigana

drawing using small dots

Texture

texture

drawing that looks the same as what it feels like

Thumbnail drawings

michoro ya picha

small drawings that are used to develop the composition of an artwork

Triad colour scheme

mpango wa rangi ya triad

a colour scheme in which colours are balanced around the colour wheel in the shape of a triangle

Unique

kipekee

something that is rare, or one-of-a-kind

Warm colours

rangi ya joto

colours that are suggestive of heat or passion: yellows, oranges, and reds

Web-mapping

ramani ya mtandao

linking together ideas into a web

Wet-on-wet painting

uchoraji mvua juu ya mvua

adding paint to an already wet painting surface

Zooming in/zooming out

inakuja katika / kutembea nje

making a picture seem closer (zoom in) or further away (zoom out)