Art Vocabulary

Analogous colours	groups of colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel
Background	the part of an artwork that is far away
Blending	mixing from light to dark
Blurring details	making small things have less detail so they seem far away
Brainstorming	coming up with a large number of ideas
Brushstroke	the mark made by the bristles of a brush in painting
Central composition	an arrangement where the most important thing is in the middle
Colour composition	the arrangement of colours in an artwork
Colour scheme	the choice of colours in an artwork
Colour mixing	adding two or more colours together
Colour wheel	a circle of coloured sections that shows the relationships between colours
Complementary colours	colours that are opposites on the colour wheel
Composition	the arrangement of things in an artwork
Contour drawing	drawing the edges and outlines
Contrast	the difference between the lights and darks
Cool colours	colours that are calm and soothing, such as blues and greens
Creativity	ideas that are useful, unique, and insightful
Cropping	cutting off part of a picture
Cross-hatching	drawing using close parallel lines that that cross each other at an angle
Cyan	a greenish-blue colour that is one of the colour primaries
Decreasing contrast	making the range between the lights and darks smaller so that things look muddier and far away
Depth	the sense that some things are near and others are far away
Detail	small, important parts of a drawing
Dry brush painting	creating scratchy brushstrokes using a brush that is mostly dry
Dull colours	colours that are weak, and not very vivid
Foreground	the part of an artwork that is biggest and closest
Hatching	drawing using close parallel lines
Idea development	a process that is used to create useful, insightful, and unique ideas

Increasing contrast	making the range between the lights and darks bigger so that things look more intense and close up
Insightful	something that shows deep thinking
Intense colours	colours that are strong and very vivid
Magenta	a reddish purple (hot pink) that is one of the colour primaries
Modelling	making things 3D using blending
Negative space	the shape of the space between the things you would normally look at (the positive space)
Non-central composition	an arrangement where the most important thing is NOT in the middle
Positive space	the contour of the things you would normally look at
Primary colour	a colour that cannot be mixed using other colours: cyan, yellow, and magenta
Reference images	photographs used to look at so you can make a better artwork
Rotating	turning a picture to a new angle
Secondary colour	a colour that is created by mixing two primary colours: red, green, and blue
Shading	drawing with white, black, and greys
Sharpening details	making small things have more detail so they seem close up
Smoothness	drawing cleanly, with no bumps
Split complement colour scheme	a colour scheme using one base colour, and two colours on either side of the complementary
Square colour scheme	a colour scheme in which colours are balanced around the colour wheel in the shape of a square
Stippling	drawing using small dots
Texture	drawing that looks the same as what it feels like
Thumbnail drawings	small drawings that are used to develop the composition of an artwork
Triad colour scheme	a colour scheme in which colours are balanced around the colour wheel in the shape of a triangle
Unique	something that is rare, or one-of-a-kind
Warm colours	colours that are suggestive of heat or passion: yellows, oranges, and reds
Web-mapping	linking together ideas into a web
Wet-on-wet painting	adding paint to an already wet painting surface
Zooming in/zooming out	making a picture seem closer (zoom in) or further away (zoom out)