

Spooky Patterns and Shadows: A Halloween Art Study

Learning objective: To explore the use of silhouettes, negative space, and colour theory to create atmospheric Halloween-themed art.

Study these flashcards to master the artistic techniques needed to create eerie and effective Halloween designs. Use these terms to describe your own artwork.

Silhouette

A dark shape or outline of someone or something visible against a lighter background, often used to create a mysterious effect.

Contrast

The arrangement of opposite elements, such as light and dark colours, to create visual interest and drama in a piece of art.

Negative Space

The empty space around and between the subject of an image; Zara the zebra often uses this to make her subjects stand out.

Atmospheric Perspective

A technique used to create the illusion of depth by making distant objects appear paler, bluer, or less detailed.

Hue

A term used to describe a pure colour from the colour wheel, such as the vibrant orange of a pumpkin or the deep violet of a night sky.

Composition

The way in which different elements of an artwork are arranged or placed within the frame.

Foreground

The part of the artwork that appears closest to the viewer, often containing the main focus of the image.

Background

The area of an artwork that appears furthest away, providing context or setting the scene, like a moonlit forest.

Symmetry

When one side of an artwork is a mirror image of the other, often used to create a balanced or slightly unsettling look in character masks.

Texture

The perceived surface quality of a work of art, such as the rough, jagged look of bark or the smooth, glossy surface of a witch's cauldron.

Complementary Colours

Colours that are opposite each other on the colour wheel, such as orange and blue, which create a strong, vibrant contrast.

Warm vs Cool Colours

Warm colours (reds, oranges, yellows) evoke heat and fire, while cool colours (blues, greens, purples) evoke shadows and cold night air.