

Mastering the Art of Sketching with Zara

Learning objective: To understand and apply key sketching techniques including shading, mark-making, and observation to create texture and form.

Read each flashcard carefully. Use the key terms to help Zara identify the best methods for her next art project. For the Greater Depth section, provide thoughtful justifications for your artistic choices.

What is 'Hatching'?

Hatching is a sketching technique where an artist uses closely spaced, parallel lines to create areas of shade or texture.

How does 'Cross-hatching' differ from hatching?

Cross-hatching involves layering a second set of parallel lines at an angle over the first, creating darker tones and more complex texture.

What is 'Stippling'?

Stippling is the process of using small, individual dots to build up areas of light and shadow, with denser dots creating darker tones.

Define 'Tone' in the context of a pencil sketch.

Tone refers to the lightness or darkness of a color or area, used to give objects a three-dimensional appearance.

What is a 'Contour' line?

A contour line is a line that defines the edges and surface ridges of an object, describing its outline and shape.

Explain 'Blending' in sketching.

Blending is the technique of smudging or overlapping marks to create a smooth transition between light and dark areas.

What is the purpose of 'Perspective' in a drawing?

Perspective is a technique used to create the illusion of depth and distance on a two-dimensional surface, making objects appear further away or closer.

Define 'Texture' as an element of art.

Texture is the perceived surface quality of an object, which an artist can mimic using different types of marks and pressure.

What is a 'Focal Point'?

The focal point is the area of a composition that the artist wants the viewer to notice first, often emphasised by high contrast or detail.

Why do artists use 'pressure' when sketching?

Varying the pressure on a pencil allows an artist to control the darkness and thickness of a line, which helps to define form and mood.

Greater Depth: Compare and contrast hatching and stippling. Which would you choose for a drawing of a fluffy kitten?

Hatching uses lines while stippling uses dots. For a fluffy kitten, stippling might be more effective to suggest the soft, irregular texture of fur.

Greater Depth: Justify why an artist might choose to use a very dark, heavy contour line around their focal point.

An artist might do this to create high contrast, which draws the viewer's eye specifically to that object, ensuring it stands out from the background.