

Autumnal Art Masterclass with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To explore the formal elements of art, including colour theory, texture, and composition, through the lens of seasonal autumn changes.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of artistic techniques used to capture the essence of autumn. Read the front of the card, attempt to answer, and then check the definition on the back.

What are 'Warm Colours' in the context of an autumn landscape?

Colours such as crimson, burnt orange, and golden yellow that mimic the changing foliage of trees.

Define 'Complementary Colours' and explain how an artist might use them in an autumn scene.

Colours opposite each other on the colour wheel, such as blue and orange, used to create high visual impact and contrast.

What is 'Texture' in art, and how can it be created using autumn materials?

The perceived surface quality of a work, it can be created by layering paint or collage materials like dried leaves to add physical depth.

Explain 'Composition' in the frame of a forest study.

The intentional arrangement of elements within a piece of art to create a balanced or dynamic visual experience.

What is 'Impasto' technique?

A method where paint is applied so thickly that it stands out from the surface, often used to depict the rough bark of an autumn tree.

Define 'Foreground' versus 'Background'.

The foreground is the area closest to the viewer with high detail, while the background is the furthest part of the image, often less defined.

What does 'Negative Space' refer to in a drawing of bare autumn branches?

The empty space around and between the physical subjects of an image, which helps define the shape of the branches.

Explain the difference between 'Hue' and 'Tone'.

Hue refers to the pure colour itself, while tone refers to the lightness or darkness of that colour when mixed with black, white, or grey.

How can 'Contrast' be used to make an autumn subject stand out?

By placing light colours against dark colours or smooth textures against rough ones to draw the viewer's eye to a focal point.

What is an 'Abstract' interpretation of nature?

Art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of visual reality, but instead uses shapes, colours, and forms to achieve its effect.

Why might an artist choose a 'Cool' colour palette for an autumn morning?

To convey the crisp, chilly atmosphere of a late autumn day, perhaps using blues and purples to contrast with the warm ground leaves.

Justify why an artist might choose to use a 'Viewfinder' when sketching outdoors.

A viewfinder helps the artist isolate a specific section of a landscape to improve their composition and focus on essential elements.