**ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE AESTHETIC QUALITIES AND ART ELEMENTS**

**List of Aesthetic Qualities/ Moods/ Feelings**

* Calm, content, peaceful, relaxed, tranquil
* Cheerful, happy, joyful, romantic
* Depressed, gloomy, miserable, sad, somber, tearful, unhappy
* Aggressive, angry, chilling, dark, distressing, frightening, violent
* Energetic, exciting, stimulating, thought-provoking
* Boring, dull, lifeless, insipid

**Words to describe the composition (the overall set up of the artwork):**

* Arrangement, layout, structure, position
* [Landscape format](https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/top-painting-tips-for-strong-compositions-2578902), portrait format, square format, circular, triangular
* Horizontal, vertical, diagonal, angled
* Foreground, background, middle ground
* Centered, asymmetrical, symmetrical, balanced, unbalanced, lopsided, off-center
* Overlapping, cluttered, chaotic
* Separate, spacious, empty
* Free, flowing, fragmented
* Formal, rigid, upright, confined
* [Negative space](https://www.liveabout.com/negative-space-definition-2573838), [positive space](https://www.liveabout.com/definition-of-positive-space-2577683)

**COLOUR:**

* Natural, clear, compatible, distinctive, lively, stimulating, subtle, sympathetic
* Artificial, clashing, depressing, discordant, garish, gaudy, jarring, unfriendly, violent
* Bright, brilliant, deep, earthy, harmonious, intense, rich, saturated, strong, vibrant, vivid
* Dull, flat, insipid, pale, mellow, muted, subdued, quiet, weak
* Cool, cold, [warm](https://www.lifewire.com/the-meaning-of-colors-1077398), hot, light, dark
* [Blended](https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/definition-of-blending-2577475), [broken](https://www.liveabout.com/impressionists-techniques-broken-color-2578609), mixed, muddled, muddied, pure
* [Complementary](https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/definition-of-complementary-colors-2577513), contrasting, harmonious

**Tone:**

* Dark, light, mid (middle)
* Flat, uniform, unvarying, smooth, plain
* Varied, broken
* Constant, changing
* Graduated, [contrasting](https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-contrast-in-art-182430)
* Monochromatic

**Texture:**

* Flat, polished, smooth
* Raised, rough, coarse
* Cut, incised, pitted, scratched, uneven
* Hairy, sticky
* Soft, hard
* Shiny, glossy, reflective
* Semigloss, satin, silk, frosted, matte

**Line:**

* Line: Thick, thin
* Bold, timid
* Heavy, light
* Edgy, smooth
* Exhibiting [glazes](https://www.liveabout.com/painting-glazes-in-oils-or-acrylics-2578560), washes, [scumbling](https://www.liveabout.com/scumbling-painting-technique-2578777), dry brushing, stippling, [hatching](https://www.liveabout.com/what-is-hatching-1123056), splatters
* Layered, flat
* Precise, refined, regular, straight, systematic
* Quick, sketchy, uneven, irregular, vigorous
* Regular, patterned
* Exhibiting marks made with a knife, brush

**Shape:**

* 2-D, flat, abstracted, simplified, stylized
* Sharp, detailed
* Blurred, obscured, overlapping, indistinct
* Distorted, exaggerated, geometric
* Linear, long, narrow
* [Hard-edged, soft-edged](https://www.liveabout.com/hard-edges-and-soft-edges-2577590)

**Light:**

* Backlit, front lit, side lit, top lit
* Having indirect light, reflected light, no directional light source
* Natural or artificial
* Cool, blue, gray or Warm, yellow, red
* Dim, faint, gentle, gloomy, low, minimal, muted, soft
* Clear, brilliant, bright, glowing, fiery, harsh, intense, sharp