

# ART MEDIA

**ACRYLIC** A fast drying synthetic paint invented in the 1950's. Its water-based, and dries with a glossy finish. Its made from three basic ingredients-pigment, water and a synthetic resin that acts as the binder.

**BINDER** A paint ingredient that holds pigment particles to each other and to a ground (surface). Typical binders include linseed oil (oil paint), gum arabic (watercolor paint), acrylic resin (acrylic paint), gum tragacanth (pastels), and egg yolk (egg tempera). Also called *VEHICLE*.

**CANVAS** The fabric that is stretched on a wooden frame which oil paintings and acrylic paintings are done.

**CHARCOAL** Is a form of carbon, made by heating wood in the absence or near-absence of air so that the material cannot burn. Artist's charcoal is made from willow twigs, beech twigs and vines. Depending on the type of wood used, the temperature and how long the heat is applied, the resulting charcoal has varying degrees of softness/blackness-for example, willow charcoal is usually blacker than vine charcoal.

**CRAFTS** Art forms creating works of art that are both beautiful and useful. Crafts include weaving, fabric design, ceramics, and jewelry making.

**CRAYONS** Pigments held together with wax and molded into sticks.

**DRAWING MEDIA** Media such as pencil (graphite or colored), charcoal, ink, crayons, oil pastels, chalk, and pastels.

**FIXATIVE** A transparent spray used to help bind particles of charcoal or pastel to a surface or to prevent smearing of graphite or colored pencil. Fixatives should be used sparingly, especially on pastels, since they alter the appearance (color and value) of the surface.

**FRESCO** A technique of painting on a layer of wet plaster. The plaster absorbs the pigments and the painting becomes part of the wall.

**GLAZE** A thin transparent layer of darker paint laid over a lighter layer. Sometimes the objective of a glaze is to methodically build up a color or to slightly alter the color already laid down; and in still other instances a glaze of one color is laid over another color so that their combined effect is a third color. Although historically associated with oil painting, the term is now used in acrylic, watercolor and other mediums as well.

**IMPASTO** A painting technique in which paint is applied thickly. Usually the brush or knife strokes are readily apparent, and often their visibility is a deliberate part of the painting, lending bold texture. Impasto techniques are most often seen in oil and acrylic paintings.

**INK** Any variety of fluid or semifluid colored materials used for writing or printing. Printing inks are slow drying.

**LINSEED OIL** The binder used in artists' oil paints, also as an ingredient in some varnishes and inks. Can be used to make oil paint more transparent. It will cause yellowing with age.

**MEDIUM** Refers to the materials used by an artist. Plural is media . Examples: tempera paint, pencil, pastel, charcoal.

**MIXED-MEDIA** the use of more than a single kind of material in a work of art. The different materials are visible in a finished work of art.

**MOSAIC** Small pieces of tile which, when pieced together, make a design on a wall or floor.

**OIL PAINT** Paint containing pigment and linseed oil as a binder. It may be blended easily because they dry so slowly.

**OIL PASTELS** Color in stick form, similar to pastels but with oil and wax ingredients in place of the gum found in regular (dry) pastels. Oil pastels make no dust. Oil pastels may be moistened and brushed with turpentine or mineral spirits to make a wash.

**OPAQUE** When a medium is applied thickly enough to hide what lies beneath it. Not allowing light to go through. The opposite of transparent.

**PAINTING MEDIA** Paints such as watercolor, oil, acrylic, tempera and fresco, commonly used by artists.

**PALETTE** A wood, metal, or plastic surface which an artist mixes paint.

**PASTELS** A combination of chalk, pigment and a binder, usually gum tragacanth, a substance derived from various plants. The ingredients are mixed and formed into round or rectangular sticks. Pastels are available in three basic forms: *hard pastel*, *soft pastel* and *pastel pencils*. Hard pastels are usually rectangular and soft pastels are cylinder shaped and covered with paper.

**PENCIL** A compressed mixture of clay and graphite in a wooden casing. A versatile drawing medium.

**PIGMENT** The powder (synthetic or natural) that gives art materials its color.

**PRINTING INK** Ink, usually with a viscosity thicker than paint, which dries slowly to aid in the printing process.

**RESIST** A technique or material used to block an area of a picture from accepting paint, ink or other materials. Some examples would be liquid frisket or waxy crayons used in watercolor to block paint from an area.

**SCULPTING MEDIA** Materials such as marble, clay, wood, stone, and metal.

**SOLVENT** A liquid material that is used to thin the binder in a paint.

**TEMPERA** An economical starch- or glue-based paint. Its water-based and dries flat, not glossy. It is not water-proof when dry.

**TRANSLUCENT** The quality of any material that allows some light to pass through, but greatly obscuring the image of objects on the other side. A quality that is between transparent and opaque.

**WATERCOLOR** Paint consisting of pigment and a binder of gum arabic, along with other materials: glycerin to improve moistness and brushability and to prevent excessive caking. Watercolor is usually applied in thin, transparent layers on white paper. Watercolor dries by evaporation of the water rather than by a chemical change. Once dry, the paint can be made fluid again by reintroducing water.