SCULPTURE TERMS

ARMATURE a support upon which clay or other materials may be used in building or fashioning an image. A skeleton-like framework used to support constructions of clay or papier-mâché, usually made of stiff wire.

ASSEMBLAGE three-dimensional assembly of various materials to make an image. A technique of combining together pieces of “this and that” to create a 3-D artwork. A piece of art made by combining a collection of three-dimensional objects into a whole. It is usually made from scraps, junk, or various man-made or natural objects.

BALSA WOOD a very soft wood used for carving and crafts.

BASE the portion of the work on which the sculpture rests.

CRAFTSMANSHIP the skill with which one uses tools and materials.

PAPERMACHE in French, it means “chewed paper”. This versatile technique of molding paper into permanent shapes originated in China, was learned by the Europeans in the 18th century and reached its zenith as a popular craft in Victorian England. An art material made of paper torn into strips or made into pulp and mixed with paste or glue. It can be molded into various shapes when wet and produces a solid material that is quite strong when it dries.

PLASTER OF PARIS a fine white powder which sets hard when mixed in water, mixed 2 to 1

RELIEF a form of sculpture in which the image projects from a background.

FREESTANDING a sculpture intended to be viewed from all sides.

MANIPULATION to shape by skilled use of the hands, modeling.

MOBILE a three-dimensional, moving sculpture, that hangs from the ceiling. A type of sculpture in which objects are suspended and balanced so that they are moved by currents of air. The mobile as an art form was introduced by Alexander Calder in the 1930s.

MODELING a sculpture technique meaning to shape a pliable material (clay)

ADDITION a sculptural technique meaning to build up, to assemble or to put on.

CASTING a sculptural technique in which liquid materials are shaped by pouring into a mold. To copy a solid object by pouring a liquid, such as melted metal, clay, wax, or plaster, into a mold and letting it harden. The mold is then removed and a copy, or cast, is left in the shape of the mold.

SCULPTURE the art of shaping expressive three-dimensional forms. (3-D art)

SCUMBLE to lay a light, semi-transparent color on a surface already painted with another color, to unify or soften the area and create a textural quality; usually accomplished with a dry-brush.

SUBTRACTION A sculptural technique which material is carved or cut away. Carving is a way of making sculpture by cutting away unwanted parts.

MOLD a negative (hollow) form that is filled with a material such as plaster or metal and removed when the material hardens into the shape of the mold. A mold can be used to make copies of an object.
CHISEL  a sculptural tool used in the subtractive process. Chisels are used by sculptors for carving stone, wood, and other materials.

WHEAT PASTE  this is the type of glue normally used for hanging wallpaper, and can be in papiermache.

KINETIC SCULPTURE  A kind of art introduced in the 1930s that expresses motion in time. By including elements that are moved either by natural forces, such as wind (as in a mobile), or by devices such as motors and cranks.

REPLICA  An exact copy or reproduction of an artwork, sometimes made on a smaller scale than the original.

STATUE  A carved, modeled, or sculpted three-dimensional figure, especially of a person or animal, that stands up by itself.

VOID  An opening, gap, hole, or empty space, often used in modern sculpture. Voids are an important feature in the sculpture of Henry Moore.

4 basic ways to create sculpture- addition(assemble), model, carve, cast

Traditional materials for sculpture- wood, metal, clay, stone, ivory, bone.

Well-known Renaissance sculptor-Michelangelo.