

Art and Craft Media

Medium: the material used in a work of art.

Media: the plural of medium.

Mixed Media: a work of art that combines multiple media.

Drawing: the most basic and direct of all of the art media. It is often used for a preliminary sketch for more expensive media.

Drawing was a way of **recording information** before the invention of photography, and pre-dates written language. It was used in making maps, studying anatomy, recording botanical plants, and architecture.

Dry Media: metal point (silver), chalk and charcoal, graphite, and pastel

Wet Media: pen and ink, wash and brush

Painting: paint is pigment in a binder. Pigment is a powder and provides color. Examples are cadmium and cobalt.

Type	Binder	Uses/Properties
Oil	Linseed oil	Slow drying; easy to blend; was popularized in Europe in the 15 th century
Acrylic	Plastic resin	Developed in the 20 th century; versatile; useful for outdoor painting such as murals
Encaustic	wax	One of the oldest paint medias; used in ancient Greece and Egypt.
Watercolor	Gum Arabic (tree sap)	transparent
Tempera	Egg binder	Difficult to blend; paintings combine very small brushstrokes crossing over one another
Fresco	Lime water	Traditional for painting on walls, ceilings, and architectural structures

Sculpture: Uses the visual elements of **actual space and actual texture**. We experience sculpture three dimensionally in the round or as an environment, or

two-dimensionally as a *relief*. Sculptures are made through **additive** or **subtractive** processes.

Additive Processes: modeling, assemblage, earthworks

Subtractive Processes: carving, earthworks

Assemblage: a work that is constructed from separate pieces or materials, commonly non-traditional materials that are transformed.

Readymade: pioneered by artist Marcel Duchamp, a readymade is an ordinary object, usually mass-produced, commercially available, and utilitarian, that is designated as art by the artist.

Printmaking: A print is defined as a single impression of an image that has been transferred through pressure into paper from a matrix. The printing press was invented by Johannes Gutenberg around 1440. The printing press allowed for the mass production of images and made information and images more accessible. Today it is associated with commercial processes, and is also an affordable way to collect artwork.

Matrix: The surface upon which an image has been created. Also referred to as the plate.

Edition: the collection of multiple impressions.

Process	Types	Description
Relief	Woodcuts, linocuts	A wooden block or linoleum is carved, leaving the design raised (like a stamp)
Intaglio	Engraving, etching, drypoint, mezzotint, aquatint	The line is cut into the surface of the matrix, usually made of copper, and the line holds the ink. It is the opposite of relief.
Lithography	Stone. The surface is flat.	The stone is drawn upon with greasy material. This process relies on the properties of oil and water.
Screenprint (also called serigraphy)	Silkscreen	Ink is pushed through a fine mesh screen; areas not meant to print are blocked out (like stenciling).
Monotype (also called	Image is formed on a plate	Produces a unique image . It

monoprint)	(with ink or paint, and then transferred to paper.	can only be printed once.
------------	--	---------------------------

Photography: A time based media. It captures a moment in time all at once. Early photography was used for documentation purposes. The invention of photography allowed for portraits to be more accessible to the public.

Considered the **most “truthful” of all of the mediums**, though now it can be easily manipulated with the invention of digital photography and programs.

Early forms of photography include camera obscura, daguerreotypes, and photogenic drawings.

Types of photography include:

Documentary: accurate representations of people and places (examples: early portraits, National Geographic)

Commercial: used in advertising (examples: food and goods)

Staged vs. Unstaged: Artists may create scenes to photograph (staged) or photograph things that they find (unstaged).

Video art is another time based media.

The Craft Media: The craft media have been distinguished from the fine arts because they are used to make **functional objects**. Functional objects are objects that are intended for everyday use, and that serve a utilitarian purpose. These objects can include container vessels, eating utensils, weapons, clothing, jewelry, textiles, etc.

The five main types of craft media are *ceramic, metal, glass, wood and fiber*.