Value, Light, and Form

AP Drawing · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
value /ˈvæljuː/	**Value** is how light or dark a tone is.
value scale /ˈvæljuː skeɪl/	A **value scale** goes from white to black in steps.
high-key /haɪ kiː/	A **high-key** drawing uses mostly light tones.
low-key /ləʊ kiː/	A **low-key** drawing uses mostly dark tones.
local value /ˈləʊkl ˈvæljuː/	**Local value** is the real lightness of an object.
squint /skwɪnt/	**Squint** your eyes to see the main shapes of light and dark.
highlight /ˈhaɪlaɪt/	The **highlight** is the brightest spot.
halftone /ˈhɑːftəʊn/	The **halftone** is between light and shadow.
core shadow /kɔː ˈʃædəʊ/	The **core shadow** is the darkest part of the object.
reflected light /rɪˈflektɪd laɪt/	**Reflected light** bounces back into the shadow.
cast shadow /kæst ˈʃædəʊ/	The **cast shadow** falls on the table.
rendering /ˈrendərɪŋ/	**Rendering** means drawing with full light and shadow.
basic forms /ˈbeɪsɪk fɔːmz/	Cubes, spheres and cones are **basic forms**.
blending stump /ˈblendɪŋ stʌmp/	A **blending stump** smooths pencil marks.
chiaroscuro /ˌkjɑːrəˈskjʊərəʊ/	**Chiaroscuro** uses strong light and dark.

Word	Example
tenebrism /ˈtenɪbrɪzəm/	**Tenebrism** uses very dark backgrounds.
focal point /ˈfəʊkl pɔɪnt/	The **focal point** draws the eye first.
toned paper /təʊnd ˈpeɪpə/	**Toned paper** is grey or brown, not white.
notan /ˈnəʊtn/	**Notan** studies the balance of light and dark shapes.
thumbnail sketches /ˈθʌmneɪl ˈsketʃɪz/	Make small **thumbnail sketches** to plan the picture.
toned ground /təʊnd graʊnd/	A **toned ground** covers the paper with a middle tone first.
lift out /lɪft aʊt/	Use an eraser to **lift out** highlights.
subtractive drawing /sʌbˈtræktɪv ˈdrɔːɪŋ/	In **subtractive drawing**, you erase to make light areas.
kneaded eraser /ˈniːdɪd ɪˈreɪzə/	A **kneaded eraser** can be shaped to a point.
experimentation /ekˌsperɪmənˈteɪʃn/	**Experimentation** helps you find new methods.

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