Vital Vocab List – Art KS3-4

The Vital Vocab for Art can be linked to the Elements of Art. It is important to use a variety of words when describing, analysing and evaluating different artworks which contain a variety of methods across different genres. We use this vocabulary when researching artists and art movements and we also use it when being critical of our own work.

COLOUR.

saturated bright pure vivid strong dramatic vibrant brilliant intense powerful primary secondary tertiary intermediate muted subtle dull watery sepia subdued delicate gloomy faded bleed limited gentle blend clash cold warm deep neutral glowing harmonious luminous

mixed tint tone opaque pale pastel tint complementary analogous transparent hue saturation shade value monochromatic spectrum optical mixing translucent

FORM AND SPACE.

jagged sharp mechanical man-made organic rounded curved natural irregular regular heavy solid volume overlapping floating insubstantial advance angled atmospheric perspective human grid enlarge motif aerial view ornament pointed 3D 2D

scale stacked woven negative space positive space symmetrical asymmetrical illusion unity mass

TEXTURE.

uneven bumpy rough jagged serrated coarse gritty grainy gestural complex smooth plain soft featureless glossy silky crosshatching fine flat brushstroke glaze matt shiny splatter thick thin wash

LINE.

angular broken confident faint flowing fluent free hesitant scribble sweeping woolly rhythm contour

TONE.

dramatic dark deep intense heavy rich strong pale bleached light faded pallid ashen bright contrast crisp fair graduation harsh smooth value

SHAPE.

geometric organic angular body figure conical form frame harmonious image knead model mould precise rough-hewn sculpt sharp uniform vague open closed free