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Imagine walking through an art gallery, captivated by a vibrant canvas that seems to leap off the wall. Different textures in art can transform a simple piece into an immersive experience. From the roughness of impasto oil paints to the smooth elegance of watercolors, texture plays a crucial role in how you perceive and connect with artwork. Different textures in art significantly influence how you perceive and engage with a piece. Artists utilize various materials and techniques to create distinct tactile experiences. Rough textures, like those found in impasto oil paintings, add depth and dimension. These thick applications of paint catch light uniquely, creating shadows that enhance visual interest. Smooth textures, on the other hand, are common in watercolor artworks. The fluidity of watercolors allows for subtle transitions between colors, resulting in a serene atmosphere. Patterned surfaces, such as those seen in collage art, invite exploration. They can incorporate mixed media elements like fabric or paper, offering both visual and tactile contrasts. Natural textures, found in sculptures made from wood or stone, evoke organic beauty. You may notice how the grain of wood or the roughness of stone creates an emotional connection to nature. Each texture serves a purpose within its artwork, enhancing storytelling and evoking feelings. By understanding these different textures, you gain insight into the artist's intent and the overall impact of the piece on your experience as a viewer. Texture plays a crucial role in art, enhancing the viewer's experience and connection to a piece. It transforms simple artworks into immersive experiences. Different textures influence perception and engagement, adding depth or creating serenity.Different textures can significantly alter the visual impact of an artwork. For instance, thick impasto oil paints create bold surfaces that evoke calmness. Textured surfaces can also guide the viewer's eye across a painting, emphasizing specific areas or elements. Tactile experience invites viewers to engage with art on a physical level. When you encounter varied textures in collage art—like rough fabrics versus glossy papers—it encourages exploration. Sculptures often feature natural textures that invite touch and spark curiosity about their materials. emotional connections and enriches your understanding of the artist's intent. Textures in art can be categorized into two primary types: actual texture and implied texture. Understanding these categorized into two primary types: actual texture and implied texture. piece of art. You can feel it with your hands, making it an essential aspect of three-dimensional works like sculptures or collage. For example: Sculptures or collage. For example: Sculptures of three-dimensional works like sculptures of three-dimensional works combine various materials, resulting in unique textures from fabric, paper, or found objects. These surfaces invite interaction and evoke different sensory responses. In contrast, Implied Texture involves the illusion of texture created through visual techniques. Consider these examples: Realistic paintings may depict fur on animals or intricate fabrics that appear tactile but remain flat. Graphic illustrations often use shading to suggest depth without altering the canvas's surface. Digital art utilizes software tools to simulate textures such as wood grain or soft skin. Implied textures engage viewers visually while stimulating imagination about what they might feel if they could touch the artwork. Creating texture in art involves various techniques to achieve different effects. Artists employ multiple painting techniques to create texture. For instance, impasto technique uses thick layers of paint for a three-dimensional effect. This method allows light to catch on the surface, creating dynamic visuals. Another example is scumbling, where a dry brush applies a thin layer of paint over another color, producing a rough texture that adds interest. Sgraffito: Scratching into wet paint reveals the underlying layer. Stippling: Dabbing with a brush creates small dots for varied surface depth. Glazing: Applying transparent layers enhances visual richness without losing underlying textures. In sculpture, texture plays a vital role in conveying form and emotion. Artists often use specific techniques to achieve desired tactile qualities. For example, carving stone or wood can produce both smooth and rough areas that invite touch and exploration. Modeling: Shaping clay or soft materials into molds creates consistent textures across pieces. Assemblage: Combining found objects generates unique textural contrasts. Utilizing these techniques not only enriches artistic expression but also deepens viewer interaction with the artwork. Different cultures to express their artistic heritage. For example, African art often features intricate carvings and textiles that combine rough and smooth surfaces, highlighting cultural stories. In contrast, Japanese art embraces minimalism with a focus on harmony found in materials like silk and paper, which convey softness. Additionally, Native American crafts showcase natural textures through beadwork and woven baskets. Impressionists employed brushstroke techniques that create visual texture while capturing light's effects on landscapes. You might also notice how contemporary artists blend various mediums to explore texture further. Artists like Anselm Kiefer incorporate mixed media into their works, utilizing elements like straw or ash for tactile experiences. This approach deepens emotional resonance by inviting viewers to interact with the surface of the artwork physically. Overall, each culture's interpretation of texture in art is described as the way artists use their chosen medium to create a physical or tactile surface texture in their art. This could mean either creating a three dimensional aspect to the painting or drawing surface with their paint medium, or creating the appearance of texture. Disclaimer: Fine Art Tutorials is a reader supported site. When you make purchases through links on this site, we may earn a small commission at no extra cost to you. Texture in art is the way an artist creates a visual feel or perceived surface on their work. It is achieved through the use of various elements to create a desired effect on the viewer. Texture can be used to create a sense of depth, add interest, or evoke certain emotions. It can also be used to create visual balance or contrast. For example, a painting with rough texture might have smooth areas to provide relief from the busyness of the overall image. Some artists use texture as their primary means of expression, while others use it to complement other elements in their work. There are many different ways to create texture, and the possibilities are limited only by the artist's imagination. An example of thick, three dimensional surface texture in art. The physical surface texture in art. The physical surface texture in art. creating marks and visible brush strokes in thick paint or painting on a texture d surface. Physical texture must be viscous and hold their shape when wet. For example, you can add mediums such as cold wax to oil paint to make mixtures thicker and to help retain brushstrokes on the canvas. Grab a palette knife and paste paint onto the canvas to make interesting patterns and shapes. Example of illusory or visual texture, which is when the artist uses various elements to create the illusion of texture. This could be done through the use of brushstrokes, colour or values. For example, an artist might use a dry-brush painting technique to create the look and feel of fur on an animal. Or, they could use contrasting colours to give the illusion of different textures in the same image. Final artworks may not have any physical or tactile surface qualities on the canvas, but the brush or pencil marks emulate the textural qualities of certain objects or subjects. For example, in the painting above, I stippled paint on the panel in short sharp strokes to create the illusion of leaf texture. Painting with a stiff brush using a variety of mark-making tools, like palette knives, catalyst blades and wedges building up layers of paint using a variety of mediums adding sand, or other materials to a painting surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint onto the surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint onto the surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint onto the surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint onto the surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint onto the surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint onto the surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint onto the surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint on the surface using a spray bottle to add texture flicking paint on the surface using flicking paint on the surfa to the piece. It can also be used to create a sense of movement or change. Artists can use thicker, more viscous mediums that can create physical texture on the surface of the canvas or panel are oil paints, heavy body acrylic paints and wax either encaustic or cold wax. Oil paint dries slowly and when painting in thick layers, it could take months to fully dry and harden. The solution to this, is to add an oil paint medium to the paint cures and hardens faster, it will be ready to varnish, hang on the wall, or send to a gallery sooner! To create the appearance or illusion of texture, you don't need paint to hold its shape. You can use any kind of paint or drawing medium to create this effect. For example, watercolours can be used to create the illusion of fur, feathers, leaves on trees or grass. Dry-brush painting is a good technique for creating the illusion of texture with any kind of paint. You could also get a thin brush and runny paint, such as oil paint mixed with linseed oil, or gouache, and detail single brush strokes to represent grass shapes. Other art mediums such as clay can be used to create wonderful textures on vessels or sculptures. Picking up 3D media can take more practice compared to 2D media like paint, so try to find a local art class if this is something you're interested in. There are a number of different supplies that can be used to create physical texture on an artwork's surface. From dry mediums such as marble dust, or sand, to oil paint mediums such as cold wax. When choosing your mediums and additives, make sure they are suitable for your painting medium of choice, as some will only be suitable for use with oil or acrylic and not both. Golden makes a range of awesome texture mediums are mostly made to be used with acrylic paint, but some can be used with other media too. Here are a few of our favourites. Artists can incorporate Golden Gel mediums also come in a variety of formulations, each with a different purpose. For example, the Golden Heavy Gel is good for thickening and extending it go further without affecting the colour, viscosity or adhesive qualities. This is a fiber paste made by Golden that can be used as a painting or drawing ground. Apply it over your surface, making dynamic peaks and marks, or scratching into it whilst wet. The texture can be likened to papier mache. The Golden Molding Paste is one of our favourite texture mediums! This is another paste medium, similar to the Fibre Paste and comes in different textures. The coarse texture has marble dust and chalk in its mixture, which gives it a toothy, sand-like quality. It holds peaks on the surface and provides structure to a surface before painting. It's relatively easy to control with a palette knife and depending on how thickly artists apply it to the surface, it will dry in a few hours. Mix it with acrylic paint, or apply it to the surface, it will dry in a few hours. Mix it with a palette knife and depending on how thickly artists apply it to the surface, it will dry in a few hours. Mix it with acrylic paint, or apply it to the surface it will dry in a few hours. a little practice to get to grips with. If you want the ultimate rough texture in your artwork, almost like the texture of brick, this could be a great option. Apply to a surface, then paint with a crylic over the top. This medium is particularly inflexible and can crumble when dry, so mix it with a little Golden Gel medium to make it more flexible. This is one of the most fun texture mediums! Crackle paste shrinks as it dries, so when paint or another medium is applied over the top, it cracks and fragments, resulting in an awesome weathered effect. It can be used with glass beads, which suspend in the mixture and leave a lustrous, shining surface when dry. The glass beads give a 3-dimensional quality to the surface and paint over the top. The options for creating texture with oil paints are slightly more limited compared to acrylic paints. This is because Golden has manufactured so many textured pastes and gels specifically for acrylic painting. However, you can use some of the Golden pastes as textured grounds. There are also these options to choose from: A beeswax and oil mixture, cold wax can be added to oil paint to create interesting texture and depth. You can apply it with a brush or painting knife to build up texture on the surface. It takes a little practice to get used to as it's quite a dense medium, but once you have the hang of it, it's great for creating interesting effects in oil paintings. Cold wax dries to a matte finish and holds its shape on the surface. It also dries a little quicker than regular oil paint, so it's useful for speeding up the drying time of the slow drying oils. You can also add dry mediums such as sand, marble dust or pumice stone to your oil paint to create textured surfaces. Liquin is a synthetic resin that you can add to oil paint to make it thicker. It's useful for creating textured surfaces as it helps the paint hold its shape on the surface. You can also use it to speed up the drying time of oil paint and it dries to a satin finish. There are limited options for creating surface texture with watercolour. This is because watercolour is an incredibly thin, runny, water-based medium that has inherent self-levelling properties. However, there are a couple of mediums that can be added to the paint to create some interesting effects. Artists can add Aquapasto to the paint mix to make soft and subtle peaks and texture with a brush. It won't hold its shape like some of the other texture mediums on this list, but it can show brush marks and create swirling textures. Use this medium with watercolour or gouache. It's super easy to create texture with salt. Sprinkle salt into a wash of wet colour on the paper and wait for the layer of paint to dry. Salt is absorbent, so the water in the watercolour will pool around it. Although this method doesn't create pronounced texture, it can create the appearance of movement and a mottled effect. Your materials are really important when it comes to creating a texture painting. For example, if you're using thick, heavy body paint, make sure to use a stiff applicator like a bristle brush or synthetic alternative, or even a palette knife, so that you can move the thick paint across the surface effectively. Once you have your materials, it's time to start creating! Here are some tips: Start with a sketch of your idea. This will help you know where to place the different textures in your painting. Plan your idea. This will help you know where to place the different texture on the surface. For example, you want to create of your idea. separate looking colour layers. If you're painting wet on wet, paint with the thickest paint layer last. Experiment with different mediums and techniques to add interest to your artwork. Use contrasting colours to accentuate the different textures in the painting and make them stand out more. To create movement or change, use multiple methods of creating texture in a single work. Just like with painting, you can use a variety of drawing techniques to create marks on the paper that emulate texture with pencil medium. Some examples of techniques that create a sense of texture and movement in a drawing are hatching, scumbling, cross hatching and stippling. Stippling is the technique of creating thousands of tiny dots on the page to represent light and shadow in an artwork. Dots appear closer together in the darkest areas of the drawing and also provide a subtle textural appearance. Hatching is the technique of drawing parallel lines close together to create an even darker shadow. One idea to create a texture in art, is to create a t surface, to achieve a unique appearance. There are a number of Golden Acrylic mediums that can be used as an initial layer over a gesso canvas or panel, to provide texture before starting a painting. As we demonstrated before, the Golden Molding paste, is an opaque white paste that contains marble dust to give it extra absorbency, which makes it suitable for use with most drawing and painting mediums. Apply the paste with a palette knife in your desired shapes, to achieve three dimensional texture. Texture in art can look painterly, but still represent a subject. Just like works by expressionist and impressionist and impre which don't have distinct subject matter. Play and experiment with materials and colours to achieve different effects. Some ideas to get you started: Use a variety of mark-making tools to create different kinds of marks and lines on the surface. For example, you could use a Catalyst Wedge tool to scrape paint from the surface. Use mixed media techniques, such as paint and pastels, or ink and watercolour, to create interesting effects. Apply thick layers of paint with a palette knife. Paint on a textured ground. Incorporate additives like marble dust or sand into the paint is applied to the surface in thick, textural strokes. This technique is often used in oil painting; allow time for the paint to dry in between layers, or paint on wet layers, or paint to reveal the layer beneath. This can be done with a variety of tools, such as the end of a paint brush, tooth pick, or other similar objects you find around your house. One idea is to create a textured ground, such as with the Golden Molding Paste, and then paint over it with oil paints. You could use a palette knife tool to create flower shapes on the canvas with the molding paste, then paint with realistic colours over the top. The coarse molding paste is an choice for creating realistic sand in seascapes and beach scenes, as the paste has a texture similar to sand. Use it as a ground and paint a sand colour over the top, or mix it in with your acrylic paint and apply straight to the surface. The Golden Crackle Paste is another great product for creating texture in art. It provides an absorbent surface that dries to an inflexible cracked layer. Paint over it with washes of colour and watch the paint run into the surface of your two favourite colours, then use the end of a paintbrush to scratch away a design of your choice. For more arty ideas, check out our easy oil painting ideas guide. The Starry Night: Vincent Van Gogh and Monet both used the impasto technique in their paintings. Van Gogh and Monet both used the impasto technique in their works. Van Gogh and Monet both used the impasto technique in their painting ideas guide. can be used to create a sense of movement in a painting. Monet's 'Water Lilies' also uses thick strokes of paint to give the work an almost three-dimensional quality. Other artists, like Jackson Pollock, used the sgraffito IV is an excellent example of how this technique in his paintings. of movement and energy in a painting. In Pollock's Number 1A, 1948, he used various splatter and mark making techniques to create a relief print. A famous example of his work is 'La Foret', which uses this technique to create a sense of depth and add dimensionality to your paintings. Experiment with different techniques and materials to find the ones that you like best. By understanding how texture works, you can use it to enhance your own artwork. Don't be afraid to get creative! Try new things and see what you can come up with. Texture is one of the seven elements of art. Texture can be used in different ways to make an artwork look interesting, three dimensional, or just plain cool. Does the artwork look the same way it feels? Has the artwork got an interesting pattern repeated throughout it? All these effects that you can see and touch are known as textures. Texture is the physical feeling and visual appearance of an artwork. It can be used in different ways to influence an artwork's tactile properties or to create an illusion by making an artwork appear different to how it feels. Texture can also be used to create abstract patterns to enhance an artwork's visual appearance. In this article, we will discuss the different types (followed by some examples). Then, we'll take a look at ways that we can use texture in our own artworks! The four types of texture is achieved when the expectation of how a surface appears it should feel is consistent with how it actual texture of an artwork's surface. Actual texture are: The rough surface of a stone sculpture. If you reach forward to touch the surface, it will actually feel rough. Just as you expected! The smooth surface of a finely glazed acrylic painting. If you run your (very clean) fingers on it, it will feel smooth. The irregular appearance of a thick, buttery oil painting. The paint catches light at different angles of the painting. If you feel the painting, some areas are thicker than others, with brushstrokes in a variety of directions. This is consistent with how the painting appears. Simulated texture is a when an artwork's appearance looks different to how it feels. It is an illusion created by the artist to make a surface appear different to how it actually is. simulated texture are: A hyper realistic drawing of a dead leaf. It looks so brittle and crunchy, but when you go to touch it, you only feel the smooth surface of the paper. (You also hear a voice behind you saying "Don't touch the artwork!") A photograph of a cute, fluffy puppy. You reach out to pet him (cos he's a good boy!), but no matter how much you stroke the photo, all you feel is a smooth, flat surface. Abstract texture is an artist's simplified representation of a real texture is not a realistic effect, but it will appear real enough for the viewer to know what they are looking at. Examples of abstract texture is an artist's simplified representation of a real texture is not a realistic effect, but it will appear real enough for the viewer to know what they are looking at. just a flat, red color, with a shiny reflection added near the top of it (to give that red surface a shiny, smooth texture!). There are enough so that nobody would ever think that the balloon is real. A drawing of a fishing line in a pond. There are ripples emanating from where the line entered the water. The viewer can see that the fisherman has disturbed the calm water with his deep love for fishing. But the viewer also knows that those ripples are just concentric circles that have been drawn with a pen. Invented texture is a texture on an artwork that has been completely made up by the artist. It does not represent anything in reality and is purely for decoration or visual impact. Examples of invented texture are: An abstract painting of an orange square with blue dots scattered all over it. What does this orange square represent? What do those blue dots mean?! We may never know! But it looks cool. A drawing of small arrows, joined together to make a tessellation. Each alternating row is colored black. This tessellation has created a texture with no particular meaning, but is visually appealing and interesting to look at. So far we have discussed the four types of texture in art. Next up we're going to look at some easy ways to incorporate texture into your artworks... If you are wanting to create realistic texture using pencil, you will need to have a plan first! For example, if you are wanting to draw a textured rock, you will need to start with the basic shapes. Once you are happy with the overall shape, you can move onto the details. Identify the light areas and dark areas. shade in your dark areas, leaving your highlights white. Then go over the darkest areas with darker shades. Finally, pencil in little bits of detail. Texture is a very important part of painting. It adds depth and interest to an otherwise flat surface. The physical properties of paint allow the artist to incorporate texture into their work using several methods. Building up your canvas with paint (or a medium) is a type of actual texture. The three dimensional effect the viewer sees is because of the thickly applied paint. If they were to actually feel the painting, it would be consistent with the way it looks. In this section, we'll first talk about adding texture with pure paint (this technique is called Impasto painting). Then we'll talk a bit about adding texture to the surface before you start painting (this is done by applying a textured medium to your surface). Impasto painting is mainly used by oil and acrylic painters. I would not recommend trying it with watercolor or gouache - you won't get the same effect and you'll just end up wasting your paint. Impasto painting can be achieved by applying thick layers of paint to your painting. This can be done in many ways, for example: by using a paintbrush, will give the painting brushstroke textures. If you really want to go nuts with the layering swap out your paintbrush for a palette knife for some guaranteed maximum texture! This is because palette knives are metal, and therefore they will have minimum excess paint left on the bristles. The good thing about palette knives is that they are also great for mixing colors. So you can get the color you want before applying it to your painting, straight from the tube. In summary, impasto painting, straight from the tube. In summary, impasto painting, straight from the tube. In summary, impasto painting, straight from the tube. from the tube... actually you can use just about any object, so feel free to get creative. So we've talked about adding texture defects. Textured mediums are often acrylic based, which means you can use them as your base for either acrylic or oil painting, otherwise you'll get some very impressive cracks!) Check your local art store or website to see the different types of mediums, but personally I use one called Atelier modelling compound. Similar to impasto painting, you can apply a textured medium with a paintbrush, palette knife, elbow, chair, fork - whatever you have around you that you don't mind getting a bit messy. This is a purely creative process! You don't need to worry about color, shape or form. All you are doing here is creating interesting effects on your canvas with actual texture that will show through once you apply your paint over it. When you are happy with the texture you have it. There are four different types of texture, all with very important roles to play in helping are look fantastic! Actual texture helps to give an artwork its physical structure. Simulated texture is used to create the illusion of something real. Invented texture doesn't represent anything in reality, but is great for enhancing an artwork's visual appeal. Texture car be added to an artwork in different ways including (but not limited to) Creating an illusion with pencil on paper, using lines and shading. Impasto painting on a canvas using a paintbrush, palette knife or straight from the tubeUsing Texture medium to build up texture on a canvas before you begin painting Without texture, we would be left with far less interesting art in the world. So grab some art supplies and have some fun exploring your own ways to create texture! All the best! Malcolm Thank you for stopping by to learn about texture! Check out more of the Elements of Art - Space! (and How to Use It!) Share - copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt - remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution - You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Colour Tone Line Shape Form Space Pattern Texture in art definition to understand what it means and how it works. Texture in art and composition is the visual and tactile surface characteristics that are added to a work of art. It refers to the physical appearance or feel of an object, and can be seen through bumps, ridges, grooves and other physical details. Texture can also refer to the illusion of physicality it creates by adding depth to a painting or sculpture. It is used by artists to add interest, dimension and drama to their artwork. It can be achieved with different materials like paint, paper, metal and clay, or everyday objects like fabric or foliage. Textures can also be implied through brushstrokes, lines, patterns and colors. When used correctly it will draw attention to certain elements in an artwork while evoking emotion from the viewer. Adds depth and dimension Draw attention to certain elements in an artwork Creates a sense of physicality Texture is just one of many techniques in composition. For a complete overview, download our FREE E-book: The Elements of Composition. Many art styles from throughout the art history timeline incorporate texture with a variety of materials and techniques. There are endless possibilities and combinations when it comes to creating textures. Impasto textures can be created with a variety of materials, such as heavy body acrylics, oil paints and gels. An impasto texture typically stands out from the canvas, creating a raised effect that adds depth to artwork. Here it is used to create a snow effect that adds depth to artwork. Here it is used to create a snow effect that adds depth to artwork. vibrant and dynamic paintings or sculptures. By layering different colors and types of paint on the canvas you can create interesting effects that cast shadows, adding dimension to your artwork. Faux Texture is an art technique that uses different materials, such as sponging and glazing, to mimic the effect of natural elements. It is a great way to create interesting textures without having to use expensive or difficult-to-find materials. This is common in interior design and architecture. Some examples of faux textures include sponged marble, leathery surfaces, painted woodgrain and stone-like walls. are both visually appealing and cost effective.Gritty Texture in art is a type of medium-to-heavy textural effect created by the use of coarse brushes, palette knives or other tools. It can be used to create rough, uneven surfaces that add depth and dimension to artwork. This technique can be used in both 2D and 3D art contexts and is especially effective when combined with bold colors or layered materials. Specific examples of gritty texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weathered metal, heavily texture in art include cracked paint, chiseled stone or concrete, rustic woodgrain, weather sponge to create a flat, uniform surface. It can be used to create an even and consistent look that helps unify an artwork. Examples of smooth textures in art include glass, glossy paint, polished stone, satin fabric and glazed ceramic. Here is a great example in a painting done by pop art icon David Hockney. Stippled texture is created by applying many and consistent look that helps unify an artwork. small dots of different shades and tones to a surface. This technique can be used to create a variety of effects, ranging from a softly blurred image to an abstract pattern. It's a texture used heavily in art movements such as Post Impressionism. Examples of stippled textures in various styles include pointillism, as well as other textured paintings or drawings.Drybrush texture is created by lightly dragging a dry paint brush over the surface of the artwork. This technique can be used to create a broken, textures artists use in their work. All of them employ a function as to what the artists is trying to achieve through their work. Let's take a look at a few of the reasons artists enlist texture as a technique effects texture is a powerful tool for artists, allowing them to give their artwork more depth and visual interest. By adding different textures to their paintings, artists can create unique effects texture as a technique and the various effects texture as a technique and texture as a texture as a technique and texture as a texture a that engage the viewer and evoke emotion. Whether it's through the use of drybrush, impasto, or any other technique, texture in art.Add depth and dimensionTexture can be used to create shadows, highlights, or even an abstract textured pattern. With subtle shifts in color and tone, they can create depth that evokes strong emotions and gives their artwork an extra level of complexity. This is valuable for 2-dimensional artwork an extra level of complexity. viewers attention into the piece and even toward specific elements of the artwork. Dimension is important in art because it helps create a sense of realism, depth, and perspective. It adds visual interest to the artwork, drawing the viewer in and creating an emotional connection with the artwork. elements and creates more realistic textures that show off the artist's skill. With dimension, artists can really push their work from merely good to truly great. Create a sense of physicality to an artwork by creating an illusion of three-dimensional surfaces and shapes that can be seen and felt. This physicality helps make the artwork more realistic, immersive, and engaging. An example of this in art is the use of film grain for texture in photography and cinematography. Grain adds texture and physicality to an image the same way pointillism was used in paintings. The texture of grain in a photograph can have a huge impact on the overall look and feel of the image. Through a grainy texture, an otherwise flat image is given more depth and therefore physicality that becomes more real. Texture in art is an important component of any artwork, helping to define its form and add visual interest. It gives the artwork a feeling of depth and complexity, making it more engaging for the viewer. Texture helps bring a painting or sculpture to life, create atmosphere and dialogue between the creator and their audience. Up NextWhat is Scale in Art?Similarly to texture, scale is an artistic technique used to immerse and engage a viewer into an artwork. What is Scale in Art?Similarly to texture, scale is an artistic technique used to immerse and engage a viewer into an artwork. Inside: A curated collection of texture in art examples—organized by media and type, including both actual and implied texture to spark student curiosity and conversation. Texture is one of those elements students can almost feel. Whether it's the thick, tactile brushstrokes of a Van Gogh painting or the illusion of softness in a drawn fabric, texture invites the senses into the visual experience. In this post, you'll find a wide range of artworks that demonstrate texture in all its forms—perfect for your next art appreciation lesson, critique, or creative project. Want a printable to use alongside these artworks? Grab the free Elements & Principles Pack below. Just click the yellow "Download" button This post is part of the Elements of Art series—a comprehensive collection of artwork examples and teaching tools for your classroom. Want printable resources that pair with these artworks? These art interpretation worksheets are ready to go and perfect for sparking deeper engagement. This pack of printables was designed to work in a variety of ways in your classroom when teaching the elements and principles of art. You can print and hang in your classroom as posters/anchor charts or you can cut each element and principle of art in its own individual card to use as a lesson manipulative. Actual texture is the physical feel an artwork has. From the silky texture of the paint to the rough texture of stone, artists use texture to add interest, create emphasis and expression, and add depth to their work. You absolutely cannot teach actual textures in all sorts of different textures in art such as glass, sand, dried flowers, ash, broken ceramics, straw, and more. His art is bold, dark, and emotional, and the textures contribute to the mood of his work. He was born in Germany at the tail end of World War II. His art shows his attempt to come to terms with the history of his country. Learn more about his work here. Marcia Gygli King, The Family, from The Culture Series, 2005 Vincent van Gogh, The Starry Night, 1889 Anselm Kiefer, Aschenblume, 1983-97 Justin Gaffrey, Any J.M.W. Turner, Rain, Steam, and Speed-The Great Western Railway, 1844 Iran, Silk Kashan Carpet, 1936 Robert Rauschenberg, Monogram, 1955-59 Constantin Brancusi, Bird in Space, 1925 Donatello, Penitent Magdalene, 1453-1455 Michaelangelo, The Awakening Slave (Design for Julius II Tomb), 1536 Auguste Rodin, Thought Emerging From Matter, 1895 Benin, Head of an Oba, 18th Century Mike Kelley, More Love Hours Than Can Ever Be Repaid and The Wages of Sin, 1987 Buddhas from the Otagi-Nenbutsi Temple, Kyoto Japan Ka'apor culture, Necklace with attached flute, 1955-1962 Asmat people, Body Mask (Det), mid-20th century Fred Wilson, Mining the Museum, Metalwork, 1793-1880 Maya Lin, Vietnam Memorial, Washington D.C., 1982 Ancient Egypt, The Great Pyramid of Giza, c. 2580-2560 BCE Frank Lloyd Wright, Fallingwater, 1936 Antoni Gaudi, Sagrada Família, 1882-present Cambodia, Angkor Wat Temple, 12th century India, Meenakshi Amman Temple, 12th century India, Me are so many masterful artists who create visual texture, but if I had to pick one, I would go with Albrecht Durer. He's a master in creating textures in multiple media. Albrecht Durer, 1526 Ralph Goings, Ralph's Diner, 1982 Artemisia Gentileschi, Judith Slaying Holofernes, 1614 Max Ernst, Europe After Rain II, 1940-42 Jan van Eyck, The Arnolfini Portrait, 1434 Gustave Caillebotte, Place de l'Europe on a Rainy Day, 1876-1877 Salvador Dalí, Girl at a Window, 1925 Pieter Claesz, Still Life with a Skull and a Writing Quill, 1628 Albrecht Durer, Young Hare, 1502 Jason de Graaf, Oil Paintings (Any) Teresa Elliott, Deliverance Join the Curated Connections Library and get access to hundreds of art appreciation resources, teacher trainings, and time-saving materials. Click here to learn more elements and principles of art teacher resources? Check out the below posts. In the vast realm of visual arts, texture stands as a fundamental element that breathes life into artworks, inviting viewers to engage not just visually, but also through an imagined sense of touch. Texture, whether actual (tactile) or implied (visual), plays a crucial role in how we perceive and interact with art. It adds depth, dimension, and richness to paintings sculptures, and textiles, elevating them from mere visual representations to multi-sensory experiences. This article delves into the intricate world of texture in art, exploring how artists across different mediums and eras have harnessed its power to create compelling works that resonate with viewers on a profound level. From the thick, swirling brushstrokes of Van Gogh's impasto technique to the innovative use of mixed media by contemporary artists, we will examine the diverse ways in which texture contributes to the overall impact and meaning of artworks. Before we dive into specific techniques and examples, it's essential to understand what we mean by texture in the context of art Texture refers to the surface quality of an object - how it feels or looks like it would feel if touched. In art, texture can be: Actual Texture (Tactile): The physical feel of a surface, which can be experienced through touch. This is common in sculpture, textiles, and heavily textured paintings. Visual Texture (Implied): The illusion of texture created through visual means, such as painting techniques or photography, which suggest how a surface might feel without actually having a three-dimensional quality. Texture serves several purposes in art: It adds visual interest and complexity to a piece. It can create contrast and focal points within a composition. It helps convey emotions, mood, and atmosphere. It can represent real-world surfaces and materials. It invites viewer engagement by stimulating the sense of touch, even if only imagined. Now, let's explore how artists in various mediums have employed texture to enhance their work. One of the most renowned examples of texture in painting comes from the Dutch post-impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh. Van Gogh was a master of the impasto technique, which involves applying paint thickly to the canvas, often with visible brushstrokes or palette knife marks. This technique not only creates actual texture on the canvas, often with visible brushstrokes or palette knife marks. and "Wheatfield with Crows" (1890), Van Gogh's thick, swirling brushstrokes create a sense of movement and energy. The texture of the paint itself becomes an integral part of the artist's emotional state and the vibrant, almost palpable atmosphere of the scenes he depicted. The impasto technique adds several dimensions to Van Gogh's work: Depth and Dimensional justice. Emotional Intensity: The visible, energetic brushstrokes convey a sense of the artist's passion and the intensity of his creative process. Visual Interest: The varying textures within the painting draw the viewer's eye across the canvas, creating a dynamic viewing experience. Light Interaction: The uneven surface of the work under different lighting conditions. On the opposite end of the texture spectrum, we find the sfumato technique, perfected by Leonardo da Vinci during the Renaissance. Sfumato, which means "to evaporate like smoke" in Italian, involves the subtle blending of colors and tones to create a soft, hazy effect. While this technique doesn't create actual texture, it produces a visual texture that gives paintings a dreamlike quality. In works like the "Mona Lisa" (c. 1503-1506), da Vinci used sfumato to create subtle transitions between light and shadow, particularly around the subject's eyes and mouth. This technique adds depth and mystery to the painting, inviting viewers to look closer and engage with the work on a more intimate level. The sfumato technique contributes to artwork in several ways: Soft Realism: It creates a more natural, lifelike appearance by mimicking how the human eye perceives edges and transitions in real life. Depth and Volume: The gradual blending of tones gives a sense of three-dimensionality to figures and objects. Atmospheric Effect: in landscape backgrounds. Emotional Resonance: The soft, hazy quality can evoke a dreamy or mysterious mood, adding emotional depth to the artwork. In the realm of contemporary painting, artists have pushed the boundaries of texture even further, often incorporating mixed media elements to create complex, multi-layered surfaces. Artists like Anselm Kiefer and Antoni Tàpies have become known for their heavily textured works that blur the line between painting and sculpture. Anselm Kiefer, a German artist, often incorporates materials such as straw, ash, clay, lead, and shellac into his large-scale paintings. In works like "Margarethe" (1981), Kiefer applied straw to the canvas to represent hair, creating a striking contrast between the rough, three-dimensional texture of the straw and the flatter painted areas. This use of unconventional materials not only adds visual and tactile interest but also carries symbolic weight, often relating to themes of history, mythology, and memory in Kiefer's work. Antoni Tàpies, a Spanish artist was known for his "matter paintings" that featured thick, textured surfaces created with a mixture of paint and materials like marble dust, ground chalk, and sand. In works such as "Great Painting" (1958), Tapies created a surface that resembles a weathered wall, inviting viewers to consider the passage of time and the stories embedded in everyday surfaces. These contemporary approaches to texture in painting: Challenge Traditional Boundaries: By incorporating three-dimensional elements, these works push the definition of what constitutes a painting. Engage Multiple Senses: The complex textures invite not just visual, but also imagined tactile engagement. Carry Conceptual Weight: The choice of materials often relates directly to the themes and ideas the artist is exploring. Create Unpredictability: The interaction of various materials can lead to unexpected effects, adding an element of chance to the artistic process. Also check: How to Draw from Imagination Sculpture, by its very nature, is an art form deeply connected to texture. The three-dimensional quality of sculpture allows artists to create works that engage directly with the viewer's sense of touch, even when physical contact is not permitted. Let's explore how different sculptors have used texture to enhance their work. Classical Greek and Roman sculptors, as well as those of the Renaissance who emulated them, often aimed for a smooth, polished surface in their marble sculptures. This approach to texture served several purposes: Idealization: The smooth surface helped create an idealized representation of the human form, emphasizing perfection and divine beauty. three-dimensional form, creating subtle gradations of light and shadow. Contrast with Surroundings: The smooth texture of the sculpture often contrasted with the rougher textures of its surroundings, making the work stand out. Technical Mastery: Achieving a perfectly smooth finish demonstrated the sculptor's skill and control over the material. Ar excellent example of this approach is Michelangelo's "David" (1501-1504). The smooth, polished surface of the marble gives the sculpture, a sense of living flesh, while also elevating it to a realm of ideal beauty. In contrast to the smooth perfection of classical sculpture, Auguste Rodin, the father of modern sculpture, often left parts of his works roughly textured or seemingly unfinished. This approach, seen in works like "The Thinker" (1880) and "The Kiss" (1882), added a new dimension to sculptural texture: Emotional States or emphasize certain aspects of the figure. Process Visibility: By leaving some areas rough or unfinished, Rodin allowed viewers to see traces of the sculptural process, emphasizing the act of creation. Dynamic Surfaces: The interplay of smooth and rough textures creates a more dynamic surface that interacts with light in complex ways. Modernist Approach: This technique challenged traditional notions of "finished" art and paved the way for more experimental approaches to sculpture. In contemporary sculpture, artists have taken texture to new heights, often making it a central concept in their work rather than just a surface quality. Here are a few notable examples: Eva Hesse: Known for her pioneering work in materials like latex, fiberglass, and plastics, Hesse created sculptures with unique textural qualities that often evoked organic, bodily forms. Her work "Contingent" (1969) features sheets of cheesecloth coated in latex and fiberglass, creating a texture that is simultaneously fragile and industrial. Tara Donovan: Donovan toothpicks, pencils, or plastic cups. The repetitive use of these items creates complex textures that transform the mundane into the extraordinary. Her work "Untitled (Plastic Cups)" (2006) uses thousands of plastic cups to create a undulating, cloud-like form with a mesmerizing textural quality. Anish Kapoor: While known for highly polished works like "Cloud Gate" in Chicago, Kapoor also explores intense textures. His piece "Marsyas" (2002) at the Tate Modern featured a vast expanse of raw, red PVC membrane stretched between steel rings, creating a texture that was simultaneously industrial and organic. These contemporary approaches to texture in sculpture: Expand Material Possibilities: Artists are constantly exploring new materials and their textural properties. Create Immersing themselves in the textural experiences: Large-scale textural works can create environments that viewers can walk through or around, fully immersing themselves in the textural experience. can challenge how we perceive and interact with everyday objects. Blur Boundaries: The line between sculpture, installation, and architecture is often blurred in works that use texture as a primary element. Also check: Color Theory for Beginners Textiles offer perhaps the most direct and varied exploration of texture in art. The very nature of fabric and fiber allows for an incredible range of tactile experiences. From smooth silk to rough burlap, from intricate embroidery to chunky knits, textile artists have a vast palette of textures to work with. Many traditional texture, but weavers can enhance this by varying the types of yarns used or by employing techniques like twill or basketweave. Embroidery: This technique adds texture to a flat fabric surface through raised stitches. Traditional forms like crewelwork or goldwork create particularly rich textures. Quilting: By stitching together layers of fabric, quilters create raised areas that add both visual and factile texture to their work. Knitting and Crochet: These techniques naturally create texture is the Bayeux Tapestry (c. 10/0-1080). While technicalline and tactile art that emphasizes texture is the Bayeux Tapestry (c. 10/0-1080). an embroidery rather than a tapestry, this medieval masterpiece uses a variety of stitches to create texture and depth in its depiction of historical events. Contemporary textile artists have taken texture to new levels, often combining traditional techniques with innovative approaches: Magdalena Abakanowicz: This Polish artist is known for her "Abakans," large-scale, three-dimensional woven forms that hang in space. These works, made from coarse fibers like sisal, creates both large and small-scale textile works that explore color, form, and texture. Her "minimes" series consists of small woven pieces that serve as textural studies, while her larger installations, like "The Treaty of Chromatic Zones" (2002), create immersive environments of color and texture. El Anatsui: This Ghanaian artist creates large-scale sculptures from thousands of discarded bottle caps and other metal detritus, woven together with copper wire. The resulting works, such as "Fresh and Fading Memories" (2007), resemble shimmering, textured tapestries that reflect on themes of consumption, waste, and transformation. Contemporary approaches to texture in textile art: Blur Boundaries: Many contemporary textile artists create works that challenge the distinction between textile, sculpture, and installation. Incorporate Unconventional Materials: Artists often integrate non-traditional materials into their textile works, creating unique textures and conceptual depth. Emphasize Process: The labor-intensive Experiences Large-scale textile installations often invite viewers to engage with texture on a bodily level, walking around or through the work. The use of texture in art goes beyond mere visual or tactile interest; it has profound psychological effects on viewers. Understanding these effects can help us appreciate why artists choose certain textures and how they contribute to the overall impact of a work. Emotional Resonance: Different textures can evoke different emotional responses. Smooth textures can create a sense of rawness or urgency. The impasto technique used by Van Gogh, for instance, adds to the emotional intensity of his paintings. Memory and Association: Textures can trigger memories and associations. A work that incorporates a texture reminiscent of a familiar object or material might evoke personal memories or cultural associations. Engagement and Exploration: Complex textures invite closer inspection, encouraging viewers to spend more time with a work of art. This increased engagement can lead to a deeper appreciation and understanding of the piece. Haptic Perception: Even when we can't touch an artwork, our brains process textural information in a way that simulates tactile sensation. This "visual touch" can make our experience of an artwork more immersive and multisensory. Contrast and Focus: Variations in texture within a single work can guide the viewer's attention, creating focal points and helping to structure the visual narrative of the piece. As art moves increasingly into digital realms, the concept of texture has evolved. Digital artists have found innovative ways to incorporate texture into their work: 3D Modeling and Rendering: In 3D digital art, texture mapping allows artists to apply detailed surface textures to digital models. This technique is widely used in animation, video games, and digital sculpture. Digital painting software packages offer brushes and tools that simulate various textures, allowing digital artists to create works with the textural richness of traditional media. Generative Art: Some artists use algorithms to generate complex textural patterns, creating works that would be difficult or impossible to produce by hand. Virtual and Augmented Reality: These technologies offer new possibilities for creating immersive, textural patterns, creating works that would be difficult or impossible to produce by hand. digital textures are not tactile in the traditional sense, they can still evoke strong sensory and emotional responses. The challenge for digital artists is to create textures that feel authentic and engaging, even when experienced through a screen. While not traditionally considered "fine art," architecture provides some of the most impactful examples of texture in creative work. The textures of buildings affect not just their appearance, but how we interact with and experience spaces. Brutalism: This architectural style, popular in the mid-20th century, emphasizes raw concrete surfaces. The rough, unfinished texture of buildings affect not just their appearance, but how we interact with and experience spaces. Brutalism: This architectural style, popular in the mid-20th century, emphasizes raw concrete surfaces. stark, powerful aesthetic. Frank Gehry: Known for his deconstructivist style, Gehry often uses materials like titanium and stainless steel to create buildings with complex, undulating surfaces. The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (1997) is a prime example, its shimmering, textured exterior changing appearance with the light and weather. Green Architecture: The growing trend of integrating living plants into building design introduces a dynamic, changing texture to architecture. Patrick Blanc's vertical gardens, like the one on the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, create a lush, organic texture that contrasts with traditional building materials. Architectures: Influence how we perceive the scale and proportion of buildings Affect the acoustics and climate control of interior spaces Can make buildings feel more inviting or imposing Change the way buildings interact with light and shadow As we look to the future, several trends suggest exciting possibilities for the use of texture in art: Smart Materials: Advances in material science are creating new possibilities for texture in art. Shape-memory alloys, for instance, could allow sculptures to change texture in response to temperature. Bioart: Artists working with living organisms are creating works with unique, evolving textures. Eduardo Kac's "Natural History of the Enigma" (2003-2008), which involved creating a genetically engineered flower, points to possibilities of living, growing textures in art. Nanotextures: As our ability to manipulate materials at the nanoscale improves, artists may be able to create textures with unique optical or tactile properties invisible to the naked eye. Haptic Technology: Developments in haptic feedback could allow viewers to "feel" the texture of digital artworks, opening new avenues for interactive and immersive art experiences. AI and Generative Textures: Machine learning algorithms could be used to generate complex, evolving textures of different artists. Texture in art is far more than a surface consideration. It's a fundamental element that artists use to add depth, meaning, and emotional resonance to their work. From the thick impasto of Van Gogh to the smooth marble of classical sculpture, from the intricate weaves of textile art to the complex surfaces of contemporary installations, texture can: Guide our eye and our emotions through a composition Connect us to memories and associations Invite us to engage more deeply with an artwork Challenge our perceptions of materials and space Blur the boundaries between different art forms In an increasingly digital world, the role of texture in art takes on new significance. It reminds us of the physicality of our world and our own embodied experience. At the same time, new technologies are opening up exciting possibilities for creating and experience art. Whether through traditional techniques or cutting-edge technologies, the tactile and visual richness that texture brings to art will continue to captivate, challenge, and inspire us. In this lesson we are going to look at the different types of texture in art, as well as how to create some of those textures. Whether actual or implied, texture in art makes a work much more interesting to look at. When describing texture we can use words like smooth, wet, bumpy, rough, fuzzy, sharp, or soft. Not to mention countless others as well. As artists we use texture in our work all the time. Sometimes without even realizing it. With practice, using texture in art becomes an automatic function for us. Adding these extra details to your drawings can make the difference between your works of art. It describes the way a work of art looks or feels. Everything has some type of texture. In physical works of art, it describes how an object feels when touched. The texture is how you would describe the visual feel a work has. Different techniques can be used to make a drawing look rough, smooth, fuzzy, or bumpy. Texture appeals to our senses of sight and touch. It can be used to create emotions in art. What Are the Types of Texture in Art Actual, implied (or simulated), abstract, and invented are the four main types of texture in Art. detail. We'll also look at examples and talk about some famous artists who used texture in their artwork. Actual Texture This refers to how a painting or work of art feels. With actual texture, the object feels the way it looks. Paint can be layered or placed on the canvas in such a way that it's raised. painting. Painting on a surface that isn't smooth would also create some texture in the work of art. Some artists add other materials to their painting such as wood or grass. Vincent van Gogh (1853 - 1890) was a Dutch painter known for his bright colors and heavy brush strokes. His artistic credo was "Love what you love". He was known for his intense self-portraits and sunny landscapes. Van Gogh painted nearly forty self-portraits during his ten year career. Van Gogh didn't pursue his art career until the age of 27, after failing at many other vocations. He was seen as a misfit who suffered from depression and mental illness. But he felt there was something inside himself that he was meant to share with humanity. So in 1886 he went to Paris, where he discovered Impressionism. It was here that he adopted the broken brushstrokes and bright complementary colors. But his art was always original. Van Gogh believed his painting incorrectly, by academic standards, he could better tell the truth. Vincent van Gogh used art as his therapy, producing over 800 paintings and many more drawings in ten years. He would often paint all day without even stopping to eat. From 1888 - 1890 was spent in a sanatorium in Arles. It was during this time he painted the famous Starry Night. Although his mind was in complete chaos during this time, his painting short of complete unity. But whether he was painting sunflowers, landscapes, night skies, or self-portraits, his painting swere filled with emotion, colors, and rich with textured brush strokes. You can actually feel the texture with your eyes. He is often credited for the creation of the Impasto technique which refers to applying and mixing the paints directly on the canvas. It is said that Van Gogh would mix them with his fingers rather than a brush. Vincent van Gogh only sold one painting during his best known for incorporating materials in his paintings. Such as straw, tar, epoxy, ash, copper wire, lead, and more. Many of his works depict the horrors of the Holocaust, and are done on a large scale. His Kiefer's paintings are often described as being confrontational. They are definitely breathtaking and powerful. And his use of actual texture is amazing. Implied Texture This type of texture in art refers to creating the illusion of an actual texture in a work of art. For example, making a painting of a lion with realistic texture will take a bit of practice. But if you work at it and don't give up you can make your textures as real as you want them to be. Abstract Texture This refers to a texture that is inspired by an actual surface but is simplified or rearranged in such a way that appeals to the artist's sense of creativity. When creating abstract texture, you are free to do whatever you want. Let your inspiration take your artwork wherever you want it to go. Invented Texture These textures don't exist in the real world. They are completely from the imagination. This can be seen in drawings of real objects but with lines and patterns instead of feathers. There are many ways to create invented texture in art. Texture Examples There are some really cool textures you can create for your artwork. Things like wood grain, fur, brick, or scales. There are so many different ways to create texture to use in your paintings and drawings. You can draw feathers on your angel wings that look soft. Or you could draw a brick wall for your graffiti art that looks rough. You can make your textures loose, super detailed and realistic, or abstract. There is a lot you can do with texture in art. In this drawing of a alligator eye, a variety of textures and makes for a more interesting design. And you can make your textures realistic or they can be abstract like the scales. Types of Texture in Art - Final Thoughts We all have experiences in a world full of textures, whether we realize it or not. From rough rocks, to smooth marbles, all of us interact with texture everyday of our lives. While going through your day to day activities begin to notice the textures around you. Pay closer attention to the way things look and feel. How would you describe the objects you come into contact with? Could you recreate these textures on paper or could you describe the objects you come into contact with? Roshanda is an art education blogger who is on a mission to coach and encourage as many aspiring artists as possible through the use of her blog. Learn more about her on the About Me page and connect with her on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.