Nebraska K-12 Fine Arts Standards: Visual Arts Glossary

Aesthetics  The philosophy of the nature and expression of beauty.  
FA 12.2.1, FA 12.2.3.d

Aesthetic Theories  Specific set of criteria used to evaluate artwork (e.g., imitationism, formalism, emotionalism, expressionism, contextualism, institutionalism, instrumentalism). 
FA 12.2.1.c, FA 12.2.4.c

Artifact  A functional object of cultural or historical interest that may show fine art qualities in its form or decoration.  
FA 8.2.4.c

Artistic Style  Genres of art in history or based on distinctive characteristics (e.g., abstract, non-representational, expressionism, impressionism, romanesque). See historical style.  
FA 12.2.3.c

Artist statement  Usually a brief written statement by the artist describing factual information (materials used in the creative process creation and the process) and the artist’s understanding of the meaning of the work. Assists the viewer in understanding the artwork. Also may be used by persons in presenting artwork of others such as curators, gallery directors.  
FA 2.2.2.a, FA 5.2.2.a, FA 8.2.2.a, FA 12.2.2.a

Contextualism  Belief that art is best viewed in social, political, and cultural relationships.  
FA 12.2.1.c

Craftsmanship/Workmanship  The quality and skill of something made; the product of effort or endeavor on the part of the artist.  
FA 2.2.1.e, FA 5.2.1.e, FA 8.2.1.e, FA 12.2.1.e

Creative Process  Define a problem, use knowledge and experience, creatively brainstorm, develop possibilities, put ideas to work – in an artistic context  
FA 2.2.1, FA 5.2.1, FA 8.2.1, FA 12.2.1

Critical Process  Ordered steps in examining art: describe, analyze, interpret, evaluate.  
FA 2.2.3, FA 5.2.3, FA 8.2.3, FA 12.2.3

- Describe – tell exactly what you see
- Analyze – compare and contrast the elements/principals to reflect upon the art form
- Interpret – reflect upon the possible meaning of the artwork
- Evaluate – justify the effectiveness or successfulness of the artwork

Critical Thinking  Intellectual process of skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, and synthesizing information to guide behavior, in this case, the creation of artwork.

Digital Collection  Compiling artwork in an electronic form (e.g., podcast, website, blog).  
FA 12.2.2.b

Elements and Principles  Elements - the fundamental parts of art: line, value, shape, form, space, colors, texture; Principles - how elements are used: balance, contrast, movement, emphasis, pattern, proportion, unity  
FA 2.2.1.d, FA 5.2.1.d, FA 8.2.1.d, FA 12.2.1.d, FA 2.2.3.b, FA 5.2.3.b, FA 8.2.3.b, FA 5.2.3.c
FA 12.2.3.b
Expressionism  Emotional qualities of art. Belief that art transmits an emotional state to the viewer through evoking inner mental states, emotions, moods, and feelings. See emotionalism.
FA 12.2.1.c

Emotionalism  Expressive qualities of art. Belief that art transmits expressive qualities to the viewer through evoking inner mental states, emotions, moods, and feelings. See expressionism.

Emotional Qualities  The vivid communication of moods, feelings, and ideas presented to the viewer. See emotionalism.

Formalism  Visual qualities of art. Belief that art triggers aesthetic responses solely through the effective organization of the elements of art.
FA 12.2.1.c

Genre  Category of artistic composition or artwork characterized by distinctive style, form, or content. See historical style.

Historical Style  Genre of art in history or based on distinctive characteristics (e.g., abstract, non-representational, expressionism, impressionism, romanesque). See artistic style.

Imitationalism  Literal qualities of art. Belief that art imitates life, so artwork is best viewed in a realistic presentation of subject matter. A work is successful if it looks like and reminds us of what we see in the world, evoking an artistic (aesthetic) response.
FA 12.2.1.c

Institutionalism  Contextual classification of art. Belief that art exists as determined by the context in which it exists and in which it is validated by the art world, not through elements or principles of art.
FA 12.2.1.c

Instrumentalism  Functional qualities of art. Belief that art is the means to an important end. Art is useful in helping us comprehend and improve experiences in life, and often furthers a moral or religious point of view.
FA 12.2.1.c

Materials  Art media or consumables (e.g., paper, watercolors, crayons, clay, pencil, stone, wood). See media.
FA 2.2.1, FA 5.2.1, FA 2.2.1.a, FA 5.2.1.a, FA 8.2.1.a, FA 12.2.1.a, FA 2.2.1.f, FA 5.2.1.f, FA 8.2.1.f, FA 12.2.1.f

Media  Materials that are used in any form of art. See materials.
FA 2.2.1.c, FA 5.2.3.a

Portfolio  Representative collection of an artist’s work.
FA 12.2.2.b

Sensory Experience  - apprehending through the 5 senses.
FA 5.2.1.c, FA 8.2.1.c.

Social Media  Electronic means of communication to share ideas and/or content.
FA 8.2.2.c, FA 12.2.2.c
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**Subject matter**  The main focus of the art work (e.g., the person in a portrait, natural environment in a landscape, objects in a still life).

*FA 2.2.3.a, FA 5.2.3.a, FA 5.2.3.c*

**Themes**  Grouping similar ideas to assist artists in building context (e.g., power, family, patriotism, nature).

*FA 5.2.1, FA 5.2.1.b, FA 8.2.3.b, FA 8.2.3.c*

**Tools**  Non-consumables used in the creation of artwork (e.g., scissors, rulers, brushes).

**Venue**  The forum, outlet, platform, or location for experiencing artwork.

*FA 2.2.2.c, FA 8.2.2.c, FA 12.2.2.c*

**Local, state, regional, national, and international resources:**

*Discovering Art History*, Gerald F. Brommer, Davis Publications, Inc., Worcester, Massachusetts, textbook, high school level.

Nebraska Art Galleries/Gallery Guides
http://art-collecting.com/galleries_ne.htm

Art Gallery
University of Nebraska-Omaha. Official site.
http://www.unomaha.edu/fineart/art/unoartgallery/welcome.htm

Great Plains Art Museum
University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Official site.
http://www.unl.edu/plains/gallery/gallery.shtml

International Quilt Study Center & Museum
University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Official site.
http://www.quiltstudy.org/

Museum of Nebraska Art
University of Nebraska-Kearney. Official site, includes podcast list.
http://mona.unk.edu/mona/home.html

Sheldon Museum of Art
University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Official site.
http://www.sheldonartmuseum.org/

Joslyn Art Museum
Omaha, Nebraska. Official site, includes education resources.
https://www.joslyn.org/
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Antiques Roadshow, site includes glossary of terms, recommended books. Official site.  
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/

Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois. Official site, includes audio lectures.  
http://www.artic.edu/

The J. Paul Getty Museum  
Los Angeles, California and Pacific Palisades, California. Official site, includes resources for the classroom.  
www.getty.edu

Metropolitan Museum of Art  
New York, New York. Official site for the largest art museum in the United States. Site includes education resources, including lesson plans.  
http://www.metmuseum.org/

Museum of Modern Art  
New York, New York. Official museum site includes online resources for teachers and students.  
http://www.moma.org/

Philadelphia Museum of Art  
http://www.philamuseum.org/

Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery  
Washington, D.C. Official museum site includes content links, teacher guides and student activities.  
http://americanart.si.edu/

Tate  
London, England. Official Site. Holds the national collection of British art from 1500 to the present day and international modern and contemporary art.  
http://www.tate.org.uk/

Tate Modern  
www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern

The Louvre  
Paris, France. Official museum site includes learning about art, interactive media studies.  
http://www.louvre.fr/en