

Words to Describe...

COLOR

artificial	distinctive	muted
blended	dull	natural
bold	earthy	naturalistic
bright	flat	pale
brilliant	garish	pure
broken	gaudy	quiet
clashing	harmonious	rich
clear	hot	saturated
cold	insipid	stimulating
compatible	intense	strong
complementary	jarring	subdued
contrasting	light	subtle
cool	lively	unfriendly
dark	mellow	vibrant
deep	mixed	vivid
depressing	muddied	warm
discordant	muddled	weak

COMPOSITION

abstract	empty	mythological
angled	fantasy	negative space
arrangement	flowing	overlapping
asymmetrical	focal point	portrait format
background	foreground	position
balanced	formal	positive space
buildings	fragmented	rigid
centered	free	separate
chaotic	horizontal	spacious
circular	imaginary	square format
cityscape	industrial	structure
cluttered	invented	symmetrical
composition	landscape format	triangular
confined	layout	unbalanced
depth	lopsided	upright
diagonal	man-made	urban
distorted	middle ground	vertical

CONTRAST

dramatic	low
high	strong
juxtaposition	subtle

LIGHTING

artificial	harsh
back lit	indirect light
blue	intense
bright	low
brilliant	minimal
clear	muted
cool	natural
dim	red
faint	reflected light
fiery	sharp
front lit	side lit
gentle	soft
gloomy	top lit
glowing	warm
grey	yellow

no directional light source

MOOD

aggressive	insipid
angry	joyful
boring	lifeless
calm	miserable
cheerful	peaceful
chilling	relaxed
content	romantic
dark	sad
depressed	sombre
distressing	stimulating
dull	tearful
energetic	thought-provoking
exciting	tranquil
frightening	unhappy
gloomy	violent
happy	

FORM & SHAPE

2D	indistinct
3D	linear
abstracted	long
angular	narrow
blurred	natural
curvaceous	obscured
detailed	organic
depth	overlapping
distorted	realistic
elongated	sharp
exaggerated	simplified
flat	soft-edged
geometric	space
hard-edged	stylized

TEXTURE

coarse	raised
cut	reflective
fine	rough
flat	satin
frosted	scratched
glossy	semi-gloss
hairy	shiny
hard	silk
incised	smooth
matte	soft
pitted	sticky
polished	uneven

TONE

broken	smooth
changes	subtle
constant	uniform
contrasting	unvarying
dark	varied
dramatic	
flat	
graduated	
light	
mid (middle)	
muted	
plain	

LINE

bold
delicate
flowing
simple
thick
thin

SCALE

large
miniature
monumental
small