**Glossary**

**Color** is what we see because of reflected light. Light contains bands of color; when light hits an object, we see the colored light that reflects off of the object.

**Primary colors** are red, blue, and yellow, the three colors that mix to form secondary colors.  
Red + blue = purple, red + yellow = orange, blue +yellow = green.

**Secondary colors** for artists are green, orange and purple, the colors that result from mixing the primary colors.

**Complementary colors** are directly across from each other on the color wheel. When used next to each other, these colors seem to vibrate, become very bright and "pop" off the canvas. Red and green, orange and blue, purple and yellow are each sets of complementary colors.

**Warm colors** are red, orange and yellow tones; colors that often relate to warm things (the sun, light, fire).

**Cool colors** are blue, green, and purple tones; colors that often relate to cool things (water, ice, atmosphere)

**Mood:** the overall feeling expressed by the colors, shapes, lines and texture used in a work of art

**Palette:** the board or surface that holds an artist's paints; the artist mixes paint colors together on the palette before brushing them onto the canvas or paper.

**Pigment:** colorful minerals and other materials that are mixed with a liquid substance (called a medium) to make paint.

**Shade:** a new, darker color made by adding black to the original color.

**Tint:** a new, lighter color made by adding white to the original color.

**Shape:** a flat area bordered by edges or an outline; shapes are geometric or biomorphic.

**Biomorphic shapes:** literally, biomorphic means from life; used to describe shapes that suggest forms taken from nature, like flower, leaf, cloud, animal shapes.

**Organic:** another term for biomorphic

**Geometric shapes:** regular shapes most often found in human-made objects, machines and architecture. Circles, ovals, squares, rectangles, and triangles are common geometric shapes.

**Form:** a 3-dimensional shape; for example, spheres, cubes, and pyramids are forms.

**Line:** a mark made with a drawing tool or brush. Some types of lines: thick, thin, diagonal, horizontal, vertical, straight, curved, zigzag, wavy

**Texture:** the look and feel of a surface