

Chiaroscuro

Welcome to AccessArt: Chiaroscuro



The word *chiaroscuro* is Italian for “light and shadow.” It is a technique that emerged during the Renaissance, referring to the use of strong contrasts between light and dark. This method helps drawings appear three-dimensional by giving the illusion of [form](#) while also creating drama and a sense of space.

[Charcoal](#) is an ideal material for exploring chiaroscuro, thanks to its ability to create a wide tonal range through mark-making, blending, and erasing.

Find AccessArt resources that help you explore chiaroscuro below.

Dip your toes into chiaroscuro

Explore this Talking Points to help you find out more about chiaroscuro.

Talking Points: What is chiaroscuro?



Chiaroscuro is used because it draws the eye toward the focus point which the artist intends in a very natural way.

Find key concepts below to help you explore chiaroscuro:

- Light
- Dark
- Tonal value

• Form

Explore Artists

See how artists use chiaroscuro to bring focus to elements in their work.

Paul Klee



Shaun Tan



dutch and flemish still life



Explore resources using chiaroscuro

Explore these sample resources to help you explore chiaroscuro.

Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings



Show Me The Shadows



Drawing by torchlight



See Three Shapes



See All AccessArt Resources Exploring Chiaroscuro...