Chiaroscuro

Welcome to AccessArt: Chiaroscuro

The word chiaroscuro is Italian for light and shadow. It was a technique introduced during the Renaissance period, referring to the use of light and shadow. This technique is used to make drawings appear three-dimensional as well as to capture drama and a sense of space.

Chiaroscuro can be achieved through explorations of tonal variation.

Have fun exploring AccessArt resources focused around chiaroscuro.

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
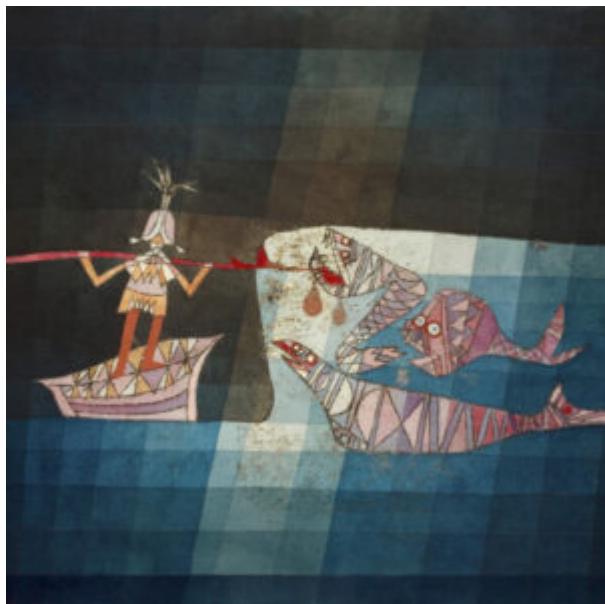
Shaun Tan

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
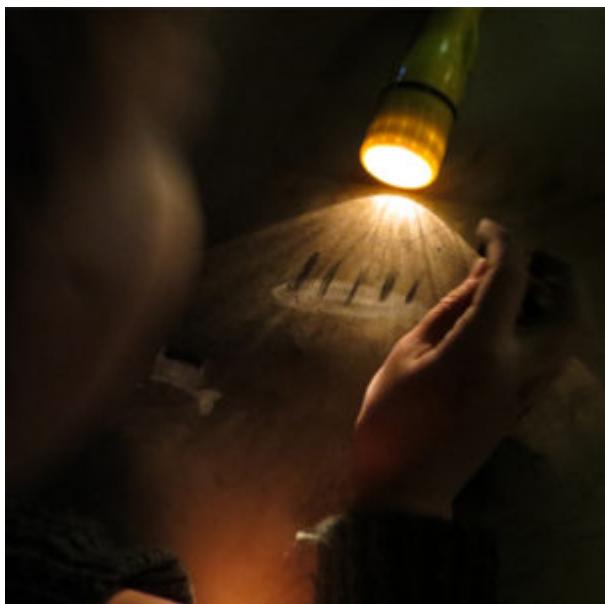
See Three Shapes

See All AccessArt Resources Exploring Chiaroscuro…