

# 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...**