



How Artists Create Patterns and Texture in Their Work

KS2 ART & DESIGN

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

What Are Patterns and Texture?

Patterns are designs that repeat over and over again. **Texture** is how something feels or looks like it would feel if you touched it. Artists use both to make their work more interesting and exciting to look at.

When you see a painting with rough, bumpy brushstrokes, that's texture. When you notice shapes repeating across a canvas, that's a pattern. Together, these techniques help bring artwork to life.

Think of it like wallpaper in your bedroom—it has a repeating pattern, and some textures feel smooth while others feel bumpy or fuzzy.

Creating Patterns

Artists create patterns by repeating shapes, colours, or lines in **organized ways**. Some patterns are simple, like stripes or dots. Others are complex, like the detailed designs you might see in **Islamic art** or **Aboriginal dot paintings**.

Patterns can be made with pencils, paint, printing techniques, or even digital tools. Artists plan their patterns carefully, thinking about spacing and rhythm to create balance and visual interest.

Building Texture

Texture is created in many ways. An artist might:

Use thick paint (called **impasto**) to create raised, visible brushstrokes. Use different materials like sand, string, or cloth mixed into paint. Create fine lines with pen or pencil to show shadows and depth. Scratch or carve into surfaces to create grooves and ridges.

Think of it like frosting a cake—you can make it smooth and flat, or swirl it into peaks and valleys for texture and visual interest.

Why Do Artists Use These Techniques?

Patterns and textures grab your attention and guide your eye around the artwork. They can make a flat piece of paper or canvas feel like it has **depth** and dimension. They also help create **mood**—rough textures might feel angry or dramatic, while smooth patterns might feel calm and organized.

Famous artists like **Van Gogh**, **Matisse**, and **Frida Kahlo** used textures and patterns to make their work unforgettable. When you look closely at any great artwork, you'll usually find interesting patterns and textures working together to tell the story.