

# GLOSSARY AND CREDITS

## VOCABULARY

abstract	not directly representing or imitating external reality or objects of nature
adire	traditional Yoruba hand-painted cloth
aficionado	one who appreciates and admires something
Africanist	someone who studies the influence of African culture and history
anchorage	a place to anchor or hold on to something
appropriation	using the works of others to create a new piece
Arts and Crafts movement	a movement advocating simplicity, good craftsmanship, and good design, especially in home furnishings, emphasizing the skill and creativity of the artist
assemblage	an artistic process in which a three-dimensional artistic composition is made from putting together found objects
atrium	a large open space, often several stories high, with a glass roof or large windows
austerity	a harsh plainness; no frills or decorations
automatism	performing a task unconsciously
avant-garde	military term meaning "front line"; today means "cutting edge"
batik	paraffin or beeswax is used to resist paint or dye on fabric or paper, and designs and patterns are produced on the unwaxed areas

bourgeoisie	the class of well-off town dwellers whose wealth came from manufacturing, finance, commerce, and so on.
caricature	a portrait that exaggerates or distorts the essence of a person or thing to create an easily identifiable visual likeness
cast iron	a type of iron, mass-produced in the nineteenth century, created by pouring molten iron into a mold; used for ornament, garden furniture, and building parts
codified	arranged into a code to transmit a message
concrete	capable of being perceived by the senses
Confucianism	a philosophy of life developed by Confucius. It stresses the proper relationships in society, such as father/son and subject/ruler
connotation	the implied meaning rather than the dictionary meaning
corps	body or group
curator	someone who is in charge of collecting, conserving, and interpreting objects for exhibit at a museum, zoo, or other place of exhibition
Dante's Inferno	part of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> , an epic poem that deals with Dante's imagined trip through the Hell, guided by the poet Virgil
deft	quick and neat in action; skillful
diaspora	the dispersal or scattering of a group of people from their homeland
documentary	style of photography that aims to tell a true story
dynamism	characterized by a sense of energy and movement
en vogue	French for "in style"
ethereal	momentary; quickly vanishing
eurhythmy	harmonious bodily movements to the rhythm of musical compositions
expressionism	visual product of emotional spontaneity

fascism	an authoritarian political ideology (generally tied to a mass movement) that considers the individual subordinate to the interests of the state, party, or society as a whole
folk art	traditional art, often anonymous, usually produced by untrained people
formal	using composition and design for an artistic effect
graphic art	two-dimensional art forms such as drawing, engraving, etching and illustration in their various forms
graphite	a soft, steel-gray to black, stable form of carbon; used in lead pencils, lubricants, paints, and coatings
high art	fine art of great quality generally seen in museums and galleries
high-key	greater contrast with bright whiteness and light tone
installation	art that uses sculptural materials and other media to modify the way we experience a particular space
irony	meaning something other than what is indicated, often the opposite
juxtaposition	the placement of one object against or side by side another
kanga	ink painting in the Chinese style
laterally reversed	mirror image
lattices	a crisscross design
lithograph	produced by etching an image onto a flat surface, then copying the etched surface by applying ink (or some equivalent) to it and pressing another material against it
macabre	gruesome; a fascination with horror
metaphorical	meaning something else

mobile	sculpture suspended in midair whose delicately balanced parts can be set in motion by air currents
molds	shape or form used to create an exact likeness
monochrome	one color in various hues; black and white
mysticism	belief in direct communication with God
nautical	related to ships
nihilism	complete denial or rejection of all established authority and institutions; a belief in nothing
nonobjectivity	art representing no natural object, figure, or scene
nuance	delicate and subtle; not obvious, but artful
optical color	the effect of color as seen in lighting conditions other than white daylight, such as rain, sunrise, sunset, candlelight, and so on
parody	a work or performance that imitates another work or performance with ridicule or irony
pastiche	a work of art that intentionally imitates other works, often to ridicule or satire
pastoral	peaceful farming scenes
patina	a fine coating of oxide on the surface of a metal
Pointillism	the theory or practice in art of applying small strokes or dots of color to the surface of a painting so that they appear to blend together from a distance
posthumously	after death
premise	underlying idea or foundational idea
prolific	characterized by creating large numbers of works

public art	art generally paid for by government to beautify parks, buildings and other public property
quintessential	primary example
reductive	reduced to a few key elements
regalia	clothing, costumes, medals and ornaments worn by a person for ritualistic purposes
scarification	the practice of scarring the flesh for aesthetics purposes
static	not moving
steatite	a gray, soft, heavy, and compact variety of talc having a soapy feel; used to make decorative tabletops and ornaments; soapstone
still	photograph, as opposed to a motion picture, can be a single frame from a movie
stoic	possessing an ability to suffer without complaint
stupa	a funerary monument in the shape of a dome or pyramid
subjective	an individualized viewpoint
subversiveness	quality of that which undermines the established
suffragette	a woman who advocated suffrage, or the right to vote, for women
suggestive	implying something else
superimposing	placing one image on top of the other
taboo	forbidden subject or behavior
Taoist	a follower of Taoism, a Chinese religious understanding that emphasizes people's inherent goodness and promotes humility, moderation and compassion
tea ceremony	the Japanese tea ceremony is a traditional ritual influenced by Zen Buddhism in which powdered green tea is ceremonially prepared by

	a skilled practitioner and served to a small group of guests in a tranquil setting
tonality	the hue of a black-and-white photograph and the gradation of black to white throughout the photograph
tonally reversed	dark appears light, and light appears dark
topography	depiction of land forms
undulate	to move or appear to move like waves
voodoo	a religion with roots in African polytheism and ancestor worship; practiced chiefly in Haiti
Works Progress Administration	a governmental relief program that pumped millions of dollars into the economy and helped people work through and survive the Great Depression