ELEMENTS OF ART SERIES

TEXTURE

HOW DOES IT FEEL?
TEXTURE is one of the seven elements of art.

**TEXTURE** is defined as the appearance of how a surface feels or looks like it would feel.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Even clean skin still produces natural oils. These oils keep our skin soft, but can damage art. This is why we are not allowed to touch the art in museums!
Texture is often a sensation we experience through touch. This roughness or smoothness you can physically feel is called tactile texture.

Flip to see some of the techniques artists use to transform tactile sensations into a visual sensations.
VISUAL OR IMPLIED TEXTURE CAN ONLY BE SEEN; ARTISTS CREATE THE ILLUSION OF A TEXTURE BY REPEATING LINES OR SHAPES.

Below are detail images from selected works in the "New Symphony of Time" exhibition. What textures do you see?

John McCrady, Rural Symposium, 1964

George Morland, Execrable Human Traffick, 1789

Walter Ingles Anderson, Snakes, August 1962

Theora Hamblett, Walking, Meditating in the Woods, 1963

To view the FULL artworks, find them in our digital collection.

Thomas Eloby, no title, not dated
MATERIALS:
• 2 PIECES OF WHITE COPY PAPER
• CRAYONS WITH PAPER WRAPPER REMOVED
• ACCESS TO DIFFERENT TEXTURES AROUND THE HOUSE, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
• SHARPENED PENCIL
• A HAND TO TRACE

PROMPT:
Because we typically use our fingers to feel texture, we are going to practice drawing different textures on a hand! For this activity, we are going to use repeating lines and shapes to create visual or implied texture.

But first, let's do a quick warm up!
WARM-UP EXERCISE

Let’s see how tactile texture translates to visual texture in a two-dimensional format on paper.

First, fold your piece of copy paper in four—like this!

Using four different examples of texture, place your paper on top of that item or surface.

Use the long side of the peeled crayon (laying flat) and rub your crayon back and forth, filling each square.

What words would you use to describe the texture of the object vs. the rubbing?

EXAMPLE: A rubbing of a soft paper towel might show up as bumpy or containing lots of spirals.
On your copy paper, carefully use your pencil to trace around your hand, fingers, and a little bit of your wrist.

FIRST UP, FUR

Start at the tip top of your thumb and draw a row of vertical (or straight up & down) lines closely together, overlapping, and wrapping around the thumb.

Continue layering HAIRY lines directly under one another going all the way to the base of the thumb.

Source: https://thevirtualinstructor.com/blog/how-to-draw-rabbit-pen-ink
Draw the long, ribbed lines all the way down the index finger. Because a cactus is a natural object, these ribbed lines will be a little irregular and not perfectly straight.

Then, give the cactus its signature SHARP spines. These are created by drawing the letter V with a vertical line coming up out of the middle. Draw these all along the edges and all across the finger.
Start at the tip of the finger and draw a scalloped line or a bunch of letter U’s all connected together.

Repeat horizontal rows of lines all the way down the finger making sure each line touches the one before it.

Draw rows of rectangles in a staggered pattern. The middle of one brick should line up with the space between two bricks.

Make each brick look ROUGH by drawing random vertical lines on each rectangle you’ve drawn.

Then, add a random spattering of dots to show the pores in the bricks.
Begin drawing irregular vertical wavy lines from the top of the pinky to the bottom. The lines should be close together but not overlap.

Next, draw horizontal irregular wavy lines across the pinky finger. It will start to look like this!

To increase FUZZINESS, make some “threads” thicker or add some irregular marks or thicken some of the lines.

FINISHING TOUCHES:
Look at the palm of the hand that you traced. Try to draw the texture lines and wrinkles of your palm.