

Misconceptions in Art & Design

Misconception	Clarification
I can't draw.	Everyone can make marks; drawing is making marks. Not everyone can draw with precision and control, but everyone can draw.
Painting can only be done with a brush.	You can paint with anything, fingers, sticks, plants, etc. Creativity is key.
There is one set of primary colours.	In terms of drawing and painting the colours are red, blue and yellow. For printing and pigments, magenta, cyan and yellow are. If you mix an orangey tone red with blue, you will get brown not purple. You need to use a pinker tone of red (magenta) to get a true purple.
Black and white are colours.	They aren't. Black is absence of colour, and white is all the colours combined, in scientific terms.
To make something darker, add black.	Use colour mixing theory to make darker and lighter shades. It may be appropriate to add black to darken sometimes, but generally it will just make black.
Sculptures are only made of clay.	Sculpture is any three-dimensional artwork.
Collage can only be paper.	Collage can include any medium, including everyday objects, mud, etc. (Look at the work of Anselm Kiefer for example)
Artworks are only paintings.	A rubbish bin can be art, art is everywhere and in everything.
Art is easy.	It can be, but also not. It includes technical skills which require mastery, just like any other subject.
There are "good" and "bad" artists.	There is no such thing as a good or bad artist. Art is subjective and preferences are based on opinion.
Art has to be "pretty."	That's not art, it's aesthetics.
Art is made to be admired and seen as beautiful.	A lot of art is designed to challenge thinking and share difficult emotions. Some art is beautiful, but some is not.
Art is difficult to teach.	Some skills may be difficult for some people, but perseverance, confidence and attitude are key.
I'm not arty / creative.	Anyone can be arty and creative; we all have imagination.