**2-D Design**

**Shape Vocabulary**

**Picture Plane**

The area of a flat surface defined by its outer borders on which an artist creates an image- the outer rectangle which forms the initial lines of a composition.

**Shape**

The flat, two-dimensional definition of form as opposed to the illusion of three-dimensional volume

**Composition**

The skeletal structure or essential design of a picture as separate from both subject and style

**Amorphous Shape**

Indefinable shapes- any form antithetical to geometric contours, straight lines, and angles

**Geometric /Rectilinear Shape**

Calculated forms characterized by straight lines, angular corners, or smooth, regular forms

**Negative Space**

The empty space around positive forms

**Abstraction**

The extraction of an essence; an analytical study leading to the reformation of an object apart from its recognizable form, whereby the insightful re-arrangement of forms are substituted for exact representation

**Pure forms**

Shapes created without direct reference to reality

**Definition**

The degree to which a shape is distinguished from both the ground area and other forms within the composition

**High Definition**

A strong contrast between shapes and other elements within the picture plane

**Low Definition**

Little to no contrast between objects creating a hazy, soft edged gradation increasing complexity in the design

**Closed Composition**

A compositional format in which the art elements are visually well contained by the picture plane

**Open Composition**

A compositional format where form and structure appear unrelated to the size of paper, seemingly exceeding the boundaries of the picture plane