

Glossary of visual arts terms – Mission Patch Art Competition IAC 2025

The Glossary of visual arts terms is a resource designed to support the use of the marking criteria rubric for both the Mission Patch Art Competition IAC 2025 and the Space Art Competition IAC 2025 – Vision and Voice – Student Art for Earth and Space. It defines key visual arts terms and provides clarity around the artistic language and concepts used in the criteria, helping both students and educators apply the rubric consistently and with confidence.

Visual Arts term	Definition and indicators in student work
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives	Representations or respectful acknowledgements of First Nations knowledge, symbolism, or connection to Country and Sky.
aesthetics	The visual appeal and beauty of the piece. Does it engage the eye through colour, texture or layout?
composition	The arrangement and balance of elements within the designated space. Are shapes, colours and images placed with purpose?
creativity	The originality of ideas presented in the design. Look for unexpected, thoughtful or imaginative approaches.
cultural significance	Inclusion of elements that represent cultural identity, including language, traditions, patterns or landscape.
narrative	The story or message behind the design. Look for a personal, cultural or imaginative story that adds richness to the work.
originality	Unique expression that stands out from typical or copied ideas. Does it feel genuinely student-created and

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	fresh?
perspective and depth	Does the artwork create a feeling of distance or depth (for example, objects appearing closer or further away)? Has the student used techniques like overlapping or size variation to suggest perspective? Are foreground, middle ground, and background used intentionally? Does the composition give a realistic or imaginative sense of spatial awareness?
presentation	The overall finish and completeness of the artwork, including neatness and attention to detail.
reference to technology	Inclusion of space-related innovations, satellites, rovers, rockets or Australian-made technology in space missions.
relevance to Australia	Refers to Australian identity – natural environment, technologies, culture, or contributions to space exploration.
symbolism	Use of images, shapes or icons to represent deeper meanings. Do the symbols clearly reflect ideas or stories?
theme alignment	How well the artwork connects with 'Sustainable Space : Resilient Earth'. Are these ideas clearly visible or implied?
use of medium	The degree of skill applied to the use of materials.
visual impact	The immediate impression the artwork makes.

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