

# Painting – Realism

Developed in the mid nineteenth century, realism is an artistic movement, which began in France. It is characterised by subjects painted from everyday life in a naturalistic manner. Realism is also generally used to describe artworks painted in a realistic, almost photographic way. It is the attempt to represent subject matter truthfully, without it seeming artificial. Realism has been prevalent in the arts at many periods and comes down to training and technique.

## Oil Paints

Oil paint is a versatile medium. Because oil paints dry very slowly, this allows time for blending and slight colour corrections. However, top layers must dry slower than bottom layers, to stop cracking. Two techniques which are used when oil painting are 'blocking in' (painting in simple blocks of colour – usually backgrounds) and 'layering' (applying one layer of paint over another to create depth).

blocking in



layering



## Key Vocabulary

composition	the arrangement of elements within a work of art
naturalism	representing things closer to the way we see them
technique	the skilled manner in which an artist works
pigments	colouring material / component of paint
hues	a colour or shade
harmonious colours	sit beside each other on the colour wheel and work well together to create an image which is pleasing to the eye
monochromatic colours	a colour palette in which a single colour tint is used as the basis for all shades and hues found within the image

## Famous examples:



Gustave Courbet – A burial at Ornans



Jean-Francois Millet – The Cleaners



Cynthia Poole is a realism artist, who examines the forms, surfaces, and signage of everyday objects in their normal contexts and environments. She seeks out brands, which are contemporary and iconic, and recreates realistic paintings of them.

Hue refers to a colour family. For instance, all those yellow tubes of paint in your art box are yellow hues and all the blues are blue hues. Monochromatic colours are all shades of the same hue for example, cadmium yellow, yellow ochre or Naples yellow. In this sense, the word hue refers to colour, but it does not distinguish if it's cadmium yellow, yellow ochre or Naples yellow. They are all yellow hues because they appear in the yellow family of colour on the colour wheel.

