

# **B B C BITESIZE**

For three-dimensional art and design, like sculpture, ceramics and architecture space refers to an object and the area around it.

Space can be described as positive or negative. A solid object takes up positive space and the surroundings are the negative space.

With 2D work the illusion of space is created through composition. Overlapping means one object appears to be behind another so we know it's further away.

Placement suggests the higher object is in the distance. We recognise distance through size - so an object that appears smaller looks further away.

Colour value can tell us where things are - cool colours recede whilst warm colours appear closer.

Linear perspective is an illusion that makes objects appear smaller in the distance as they get closer to a vanishing point.

In this painting of Venice, Canaletto achieved depth through his use of perspective, overlapping, size, colour and negative space - the sky. The white clouds against the blue sky draws your eye towards the vanishing point in the centre. Atmospheric perspective is the final touch. Objects in the background have less detail - lines become soft and colours muted.

Three dimensional artworks exist in real space. In this sculpture by Barbara Hepworth, the metal form is the positive space and through it, Hepworth has created hollow negative spaces within the outline. The sculpture becomes less about its physical form and more about the relationship between positive and negative spaces and how they change as we move around it.

'Another Place' by Antony Gormley is a series of cast-iron, life-size figures dotted along Crosby Beach looking out to sea. It's an example of environmental art. The figures inhabit the positive space and the negative space is everything else - the beach, the ever-changing weather and the tide which submerges the figures. It evokes the relationship between the human body, space and the natural elements.

Space is always part of art. Positive and negative space can describe where the art is displayed and how it interacts with its surrounding environment.

Or space can be an illusion created through visual tricks like linear perspective, overlapping, value and size.