



ELEMENTS OF ART: TEXTURE

Texture is the tactile quality of a surface.



Meret Oppenheim

Object

Fur-covered cup, saucer, and
spoon, 1936.

Actual texture is intrinsic to sculptural works of art, but is also present in some two-dimensional works of art, such as in impasto paintings, in which paint has been thickly applied to the surface.



A close-up photograph of a teacup covered in light brown, shaggy gazelle fur. The fur is thick and textured, covering the entire surface of the cup and its handle. The cup is positioned in the center-left of the frame, with the handle curving to the left. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

Actual texture is important in Meret Oppenheim's Surrealist teacup, entitled *Object*. The beauty of the gazelle fur both attracts and repels the viewer while also rendering the object useless.



Here, in the detail of Elias Sime's *Tightrope: Noiseless 4*, you can see the use of **Actual texture** on a flat plane. The texture of the circuit boards add 3-dimensionality to the work.



Faith Ringgold, *Matisse's
Model: The French
Collection Part I, #5*, 1991.



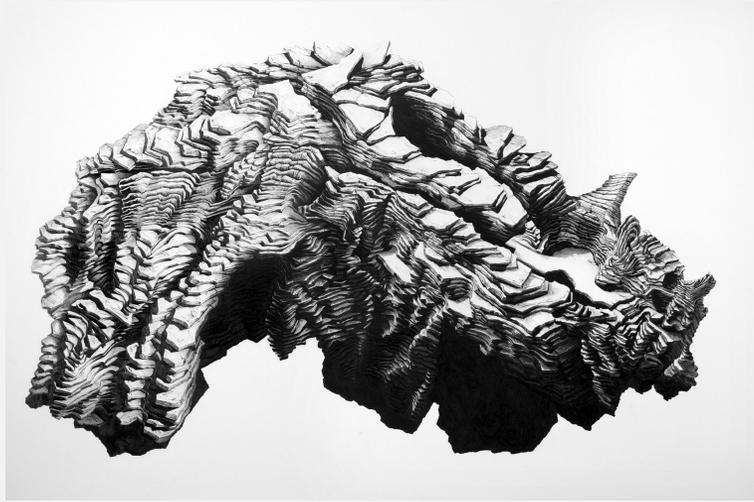


Anselm Kiefer, *Margarete*.
1981. Oil, acrylic, shellac,
straw.



Kate Atkin
4 Points
Pencil on Paper, 2008

Kate Atkin
Head
Pencil on Paper, 2010



Simulated texture is the visual representation, or illusion, of a tactile surface, and is common in 2-dimensional works of art.





Albrecht Dürer
Young Hare
Watercolor and gouache, 1502.

Simulated texture is the visual representation, or illusion, of a tactile surface.





Albrecht Dürer masterfully captures the texture of the fur of this hare as well as the smooth reflective surface of the eye. The **simulated textures** in the painting solidify the remarkably lifelike image of the hare.



Chuck Close
Lyle,
Oil on Canvas, 1999

