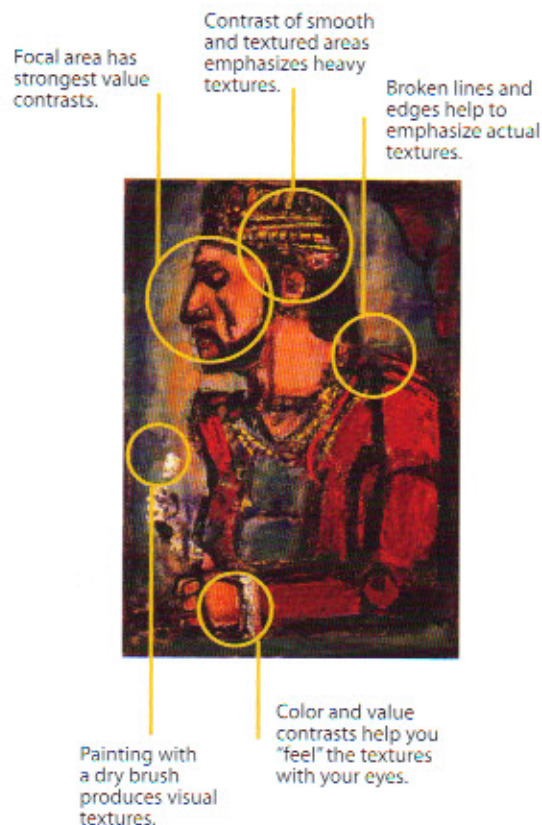


# Texture

Texture refers to the surface quality, both simulated and actual, of artwork. Techniques used in painting serve to show texture, i.e. the dry brush technique produces a rough *simulated* quality and heavy application of pigment with brush or other implement produces a rough *actual* quality.

Georges Rouault (Roo-oh) painted *The Old King* in oil paint with heavy textures. The painting technique that emphasizes *actual* textures is called impasto. Such textures can be applied with a stiff brush or spread on the canvas with a painting knife.



Georges Rouault, *King, 1871-1933, The Old King, 1916-1933. Oil on canvas, 30 1/2 x 24 1/2 in. (77 x 62 cm). Patrons Art Fund, 401 Carnegie Museum of Art. © 2012 Art & Rights Society (ARS), NY / ADAGP, Paris*



**Actual texture** (also known as tactile texture) describes the surface quality we can feel with our fingers. Impasto paintings, such as the Rouault work above, have such actual textures.



Textures abound in nature. Think of a gravel path, tree bark, or a cat's fur.



**Simulated textures** (also known as visual textures) occur when smooth painting surfaces appear to be textured.



Textural variety is important to interior designers and architects who work with fabrics, wood, plaster, metal, glass, paper, plastic, and paint.



The collage above shows contrasts of rough surfaces with smooth. The collage at right is built of various fabrics that have actual textures, and the work has a surface that is rough to the touch.

Collages often emphasize textures and the textural contrasts of materials such as papers, fabrics, fibers, wood, paint, and natural objects.



Betty Schabach, *Mountain Goat*



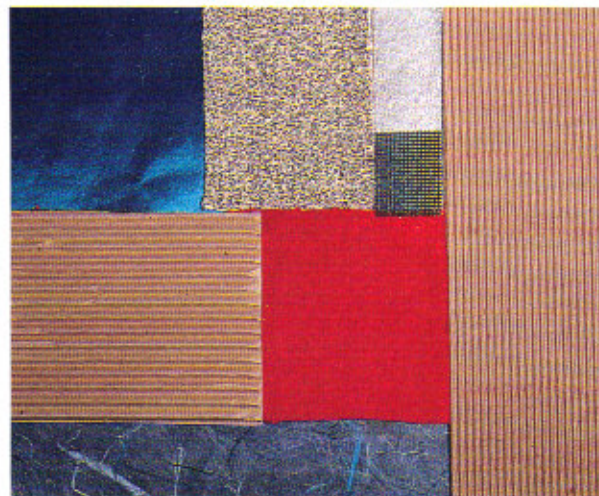
### 1. Actual and Simulated Textures

Make a rubbing with a piece of paper and a crayon on a textured surface such as a piece of wood, a brick, a screen, or other object with texture. The paper rubbing is an example of simulated or visual texture and the object is an example of actual or tactile texture.



### 2. Actual Texture in a Collage

Make a collage of actual textures using different textured materials such as corrugated paper, foil, sandpaper, fabric, screen, leaves, and other textured materials.



### 3. Simulated Textures in a Collage

Create simulated textures by making rubbings with a crayon or different colored papers such as brick, cement block, or screen, plus smooth papers painted to look like textures. Cut the papers into shapes to make a landscape collage.



Jim Burns

### 4. Textured Clay

Cut an animal shape from a slab of clay and add texture with clay tools or a fork or spoon to add interest to the surface.



# ILLUSTRATIONS / CREDITS

## Texture

Georges Rouault, French, 1871–1958.

*The Old King*, c. 1916–1936. Oil on canvas, 30¼ x 21¼ in. (77 x 54 cm). Patrons Art Fund, 40.1. Carnegie Museum of Art. © 2012 Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY / ADAGP, Paris.

Lou Rankin, *Owl*. Cement, sand, and steel, 14-in. high.

Gerald Brommer, *Mykonos Textures*. Watercolor, 22 x 30 in.

Interior by Steve Chase and Associates, Palm Springs.

Stanley Grosse, *Fuji Series*. Mixed media collage, 42 x 30 in.

Betty Schabacker, *Mountain Goats*. Fabric collage, 72 x 56 in.