Style Guide

Color / palette	• Soft colors: gentle, low-brightness tones. • Pastel colors: light, pale colors (like baby blue, mint, peach). • Bright colors: strong, intense colors that pop. • Opposite-color contrast: pairs like red/green, blue/orange, yellow/purple used together. • One-color look: mostly one color (with lighter/darker shades of it).
Brushwork / texture (how the surface looks)	• Smooth: you can't see brush marks; looks polished. • Visible strokes: you can see the lines of the brush. • Thick paint: chunky, raised paint you could almost feel. • Dotted look: made of small dots or tiny marks. • Flat areas: big, even patches of color with no texture.
Line / shapes / geometry	• Curvy, natural shapes: flowing lines like plants or waves. • Straight, boxy shapes: hard edges, rectangles, triangles. • Grid feel: arranged in rows/columns like a checkerboard. • Broken into pieces: forms look shattered or made of flat surfaces (like facets).
Composition / space (how things are arranged)	• Deep space: looks 3D; things in the distance look smaller. • Flat space: little depth; everything feels close to the surface. • Asymmetry: sides look different; off-balance on purpose. • Symmetry: both sides match or balance each other. • Centered focus: the main subject is in the middle. • Off-center focus ("thirds"): the subject sits near the edges or about one-third from the side/top.

Light / shadow	• Strong contrast: very bright lights next to very dark shadows. • Soft light: gentle, even light with smooth shadows. • Spotlight feel: a beam of light picks out the subject.
Subject matter (what it shows)	• Myths/history: famous stories, heroes, battles, gods. • Everyday life: people working, relaxing, street scenes. • Landscape/nature: land, sea, sky, weather. • Portrait/figure: a person or group is the main focus. • Abstract: not showing real objects; shapes, colors, and lines instead.
Mood / message	• Dreamlike: strange or magical, like from a dream. • Political/social message: aims to make a point or protest. • Playful: fun, joyful, humorous. • Anxious/tense: uneasy, stressful, intense. • Calm/peaceful: quiet, relaxed, soothing.
Technique / materials (how it's made)	• Oil paint on canvas: traditional painting with rich color. • Woodblock print: carved block inked and pressed onto paper; clear outlines, flat color areas. • Collage: cut-and-paste pieces from different materials. • Digital art: made on a computer or tablet. • Photography: film or digital camera (black-and-white or color).
Photographic choices (how a photo is taken)	• Lens look: wide (shows a lot, can bend edges) vs zoom (close-up, compresses - distance). • Motion: blur (shows movement) vs frozen (sharp action). • Camera angle: low (looking up, makes subject powerful) vs high (looking down, makes subject small). • Real vs staged: candid/documentary (unstaged) vs posed/arranged scenes. • Black-and-white vs color: mood and style choice; affects how we read light and shape.