

THE ELEMENTS OF ART

LINE: Line is the most basic element of art that refers to the continuous movement of a point along a surface by any mark-making tool, such as by a pencil or brush. Every line has length, thickness, and direction. There are two basic types of line:

1. **Actual Line** is a line that has been created by making a real mark.
2. **Implied Line** is a line that is denoted by the edge of one shape against the edge of another shape.

SHAPE: Shape is an area that stands out from the space next to or around it due to a defined or implied boundary, or because of differences of value, color, or texture. A shape can be geometric or organic. A shape is always 2-dimensional.

FORM: Form is a three-dimensional shape.

VALUE: Value is the relative lightness or darkness of an object or shape. The lighter the color, the higher the value. The darker the color, the lower the value. Adding white to any color creates a **TINT**. Adding black to any color creates a **SHADE**.

SPACE: Space is the area defined by a shape or form. There are two types of space:

1. **Positive Space** is the area where shapes and forms exist.
2. **Negative Space** is the empty area around shapes and forms.

TEXTURE: Texture is the perceived surface quality of a work of art. There are two types of texture in art:

1. **Actual Texture** is the way the surface of an object actually feels.
2. **Visual Texture** is the way the surface of an object appears to feel, without having any Actual Texture

COLOR: Color is the visible wavelength of light that is reflected off of a surface. Color is divided into three categories:

1. **Primary colors** (red, yellow, blue) are colors that cannot be created by mixing other colors. They are the basis for all other colors.
2. **Secondary colors** (orange, green, purple) are colors that are made by mixing equal amounts of two primary colors.
3. **Tertiary colors** are colors on the color wheel that are made by mixing Primary and Secondary colors (blue-green, yellow-orange, yellow-green, etc)

Color has three different properties:

1. **Hue** is the name of the color (blue, maroon, pink, etc)
2. **Value** is the relative lightness or darkness of a color. (Value is both its own Element of Art, as well as being a property of color)
3. **Intensity** is the degree of saturation of a color.

THE PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

UNITY: Unity is the wholeness that is achieved in a piece of art through the effective use of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design, to create a feeling of completeness. It can also be referred to as **Harmony**.

BALANCE: Balance is the arrangement of elements so that no one part of a work overpowers, or seems heavier than any other part. There are two types of Balance:

1. **Linear Balance** uses a single axis which serves as the dividing point for symmetry. There are two types of Linear Balance:

A. **Symmetrical** (or formal) **Balance** is when both sides of an artwork, if split down the middle, appear to be the same. Symmetrical balance can be further divided into two types:

1. **Strict Symmetry** has precisely the same distribution of elements on each side of the axis.
2. **Approximate Symmetry** has a similar, although not exact, distribution of elements on each side of the axis.

B. **Asymmetrical** (or informal) **Balance** is an uneven distribution on elements that nonetheless still manages to create an overall sense of balance.

2. **Radial Balance** is balance that is the result of components that are distributed around a center point.

EMPHASIS: Emphasis is the point of attraction in a piece of art that draws the viewer's eye to it. It is the dominant feature in the work. It is also known as the **FOCAL POINT**.

RHYTHM: Rhythm is the pattern of regular or irregular instances of an element, or group of elements, in a work of art.

Pattern is a form of rhythm involving the repetition of an element, or group of elements.

Repetition is the use of an element, or elements, over and over and over and over and...

Gradation is the use of an element, or elements, over and over again with a slight variation in each step.

PROPORTION: Proportion is a measurement of the relative size and quantity of elements within an artwork.

Scale is similar to **Size**. Size is how large or small an item is, while Scale is the relationship, or comparison, of the size of two or more items in an artwork.