

Elements of Art

Line



Line is a mark on a surface that describes a shape or outline. It can create texture and can be thick and thin. Types of line can include actual, implied, vertical, horizontal, diagonal and contour lines.

Shape



Shape is a 2-dimensional line with no form or thickness. Shapes are flat and can be grouped into two categories, geometric and organic.

Form



Form is a 3-dimensional object having volume and thickness. It is the illusion of a 3-D effect that can be implied with the use of light.

Value



Value is the degree of light and dark in a design. It is the contrast between black and white and all the tones in between. Value can be used with color as well as black and white.

Color



Color is made up of three properties: hue, value, and intensity. Hue is the name's color. Value is the hue's lightness and darkness (black and white added). Intensity is the quality of brightness and purity.

Space



Space is the area around, within, or between images or elements.

Texture



The surface quality of an object that we sense through touch. All objects have a physical texture. Artists can also convey texture visually in two dimensions.

Principles of Design

These are the standards or rules to be observed by Artists in creating works of Art; they are how to create and organize Artwork. When elements are utilized with the principles in mind, outstanding Artwork is created.



Balance

A distribution of visual weight on either side of the vertical axis. Symmetrical balance uses the same characteristics. Asymmetrical uses different but equally weighted features.



Contrast

The arrangement of opposite elements (light vs. dark, rough vs. smooth, small vs large, etc...) in a composition so as to create visual interest.



Emphasis

Used to make certain parts of an Artwork stand out. It creates the center of interest or focal point. It is the place in which an Artist draws your eye to first.



Movement

How the eye moves through the composition; leading the attention of the viewer from one aspect of the work to another. Can create the illusion of action.



Pattern

The repetition of specific visual elements such as a unit of shape or form. A method used to organize surfaces in a consistent regular manner.



Rhythm

Regular repetition of, or alternation in elements to create cohesiveness and interest.



Unity

Visually pleasing agreement among the elements in a design; It is the feeling that everything in the work of Art works together and looks like it fits.