The Elements of Art



Principles of Design

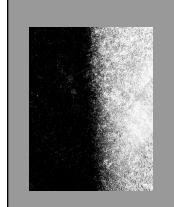


A **line** is a path made by a moving point through space. It is one-dimensional and can vary in width, direction, and length.





Balance is the distribution of visual weight in an artwork. The three types of balance are symmetrical (two sides are the same), asymmetrical (two sides are different but visually weighted equally) and radial (design emerges from center point).

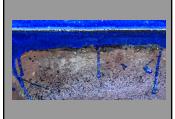




Shapes are flat, enclosed areas that are two-dimensional (length and height). Artists use both geometric and organic shapes.



Contrast is the difference between elements in a composition. This can happen through a variety of elements such as value change, size difference, etc.





Color is perceived by the way light reflects off a surface. There are three properties of color: hue (color name), intensity (strength/purity), and value (lightness and darkness).



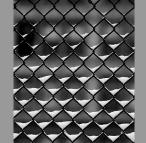
Emphasis is the creation of a focal point in an artwork. Emphasis draws the viewer's eye to particular areas of the artwork first.





Value describes the lightness or darkness of a surface.





Pattern decorates the artwork with regularly repeated elements such as shapes or color.





Texture describes the surface quality of an object. Artists use both actual texture (how things feel) and implied texture (how things look like they feel).





Unity means that all elements within the artwork are in harmony. Variety within elements adds interest to the composition.





Space is used to create the illusion of depth within an artwork. It can also refer to the positive and negative space between, around, or within objects.





Movement is how the eye travels through an artwork. Movement can lead the viewer from one aspect to another within the composition.





Forms are three-dimensional (length, width, height) and can be viewed from many angles. Forms have volume and take up space.





Rhythm is the regular repetition of elements such as line, shape and forms to create interest and consistency.

