

## **Composition**

Composition – the arrangement of elements such as line, value, and form within an artwork; principles of design are considered in order to achieve a successful composition.

Picture plane – the flat surface of a composition

Negative space – the areas of an artwork not occupied by subject matter, but which contribute to the composition. In two-dimensional art, the negative space is usually the background.

Positive space – the areas containing the subject matter in an artwork; the objects depicted, as opposed to the background or space around those objects.

Center of interest – the area of artwork toward which the eye is directed; the visual focal point of the work.

Dynamic – in a state of imbalance or tension

Perspective – an artist's representation of a three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional surface.

## **The Elements of Design**

- Line

Contour lines – lines that describe a shape of a figure or an object and also include interior detail.

Implied line – a suggested line – one that was not actually drawn or incorporated – in a work of art.

- Shape – It is two-dimensional and encloses area; can be geometric or organic
- Form – three-dimensional and encloses volume (or appears to be three-dimensional and appears to enclose volume)
- Value – refers to the lightness or darkness of grays and colors
- Color – different aspects of color are hue, saturation (intensity), value, temperature
- Space / Depth – the illusion of distance
- Texture – an artwork's actual or implied surface quality, such as rough, smooth, or soft

## **The Principles of Design**

Balance – the organization of the parts of a composition such that the sides of a vertical axis are approximately equal; it can be symmetrical, asymmetrical, or radial.

Contrast – refers to differences in elements such as color, texture, value, and shape. Contrasts usually add excitement, drama, and interest to artworks.

Value contrast – dark and light values placed close together. Black in proximity to white creates the greatest value contrast.

### **Emphasis**

Dominance – a concept that one primary element attracts more attention than anything else in a composition. The dominant element is usually a focal point in the composition

Unity – the sense of oneness or wholeness in a work of art.

Pattern – the repetition of elements or combination of elements forms a recognizable organization.

Movement – a path that the viewer's gaze is directed to follow because of the arrangements of elements in an artwork.

Rhythm – the result of pattern combined with implied movement. Elements or motifs are combined to create a series of regular pauses (stops and starts) for the viewer's eyes, similar to the way a drumbeat creates a series of pauses for the listener's ears.

Proportion – the relative size of one dimension of a shape or form to another dimension of the same shape or form

Scale – the relative size of a figure or object, compared to others of its kind, its environment, or humans