

# ART ELEMENTS



Information sourced from [Leesburg Arts](https://www.leesburgarts.com/).

There are seven elements of art that are considered the building blocks of art as a whole. The seven elements are line, colour, value, shape, form, space, and texture.

## Line

Line is defined as a point moving in space where its length is greater than its width. Lines can be two or three dimensional, implied or abstract. Different types of lines include continuous, broken, jagged, vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Lines are the foundation of drawing.

## Colour

There are three different components to colour, there is hue which is the name we give the colour (red, yellow, blue, etc.), intensity, which refers to the vividness of the colour (intensity can also be referred to as saturation or purity), and value meaning how dark or light a colour is. Colour can be used symbolically or to produce a pattern or to show contrast in a piece.

## Value

Value is the lightness or darkness in colour. The lightest value is white and the darkest value is black. The difference between values is contrast. You can study the use of value in monochromatic or black and white pieces of art.

## Shape

Shape is the result of closed lines, they are two dimensional and flat. Shapes can be geometric, such as squares or triangles or they can be organic and not have defined parameters and are more curved and abstract. Shapes in art can be used to control how the viewer perceives a piece.

## Form

When shape acquires depth and becomes three dimensional, it takes on form. Three-dimensional art has an actual form (like in architecture) while two-dimensional pieces can have the illusion of form when the artist uses perspective or shading. Some common forms are cones, pyramids, spheres, and cubes.

## Space

Space is any area an artist creates for a specific purpose. Space can be positive or negative. Positive space is an area occupied by an object or form. Negative space is the area that runs between, through, and around or within objects. This includes background,

foreground, and middle ground. Space that can be manipulated in art based on how an artist uses lines, shape, form, and colour.

**Texture**

Texture is how an object looks or feels. Sometimes texture can actually be felt, such as in sculpture or the texture of work can be implied such as if you were to sketch a sheep's wool. Some words to describe texture include soft, hard, rough, brittle, fluffy, or smooth.