

The Elements & Principles of Art

The Elements of Art

- Form** **Form** appears three-dimensional and has volume. There are two types of Form:
- Line** 1) **Actual Form** (3D, has LxWxH)
2) **Implied Form** (2D, Created on a flat surface using value).
- Shape** **Line** is a continuous mark made on a surface by a moving point. It may be two dimensional (a pencil mark on paper), three dimensional (wire), implied (the edge of a shape), an outline, contour or silhouette.
- Color** **Shape** is an enclosed space defined by lines and/or edges. There are positive and negative shapes that are based on the positive and negative space areas in an artwork.
- Texture** **Color** has three properties: **Hue, Intensity & Value.**
- Space** 1) **Hue** is the name of the color such as red, blue or yellow.
2) **Intensity** is the purity and strength of a color such as brightness or dullness.
3) **Value** is the lightness or darkness of the color.
- Value** **Texture** refers to the surface quality or "feel" of an object, such as roughness, smoothness, or softness. Actual textures can be felt while implied textures are created by the way areas of the picture are rendered.
- Value** **Space** refers to the positive and negative areas in an image. Positive space is usually the subject and negative space is the area around the subject.
- Value** **Value** describes the lightness or darkness. Value is needed to express volume and to create implied form with a 2D shape. (example: a shaded circle becomes a sphere).

The Principles of Art

- Emphasis** **Emphasis** refers to developing points of interest to pull the viewer's eye to important parts of an artwork.
- Balance** **Balance** is a sense of stability in the work. Balance can be created by creating a feeling of equal weight. There are two types of balance:
1) **Formal balance**: symmetrical
2) **Informal balance**: asymmetrical
- Harmony** **Harmony** is achieved by using similar elements throughout an artwork. Harmony gives an uncomplicated look to your work.
- Variety** **Variety** refers to the differences in an artwork. You can achieve variety by using difference shapes, textures, colors and values. **Gradation** is a type of variety where different values are being used more to less or less to more.
- Movement** **Movement** adds excitement to a work by creating action and directing the viewer's eye throughout the picture.
- Rhythm** **Rhythm** is a type of movement in an artwork that uses repetition. **Pattern** is a structured type of rhythm.
- Proportion** **Proportion** refers to size relationships in a work of art. Proportion gives a sense of smallness or largeness. It is the relationships of part to part and part to whole.
- Unity** **Unity** is seen in an artwork when all the parts equal a whole. If artwork lacks unity it will appear disjointed or confusing.