

The 7 Elements of Art

The elements of art are the components used to create, or build, a work of art

Line – is a mark, or hatch mark, made on a surface.

Shape – A shape has two dimensions, both length and width, and is represented as an enclosed area defined by line, color, value, texture, space, or form.

Form – Appears 3 dimensional and encloses volume. Form has 3 dimensions; length, width, and height (cube, sphere, pyramid, and cylinder)

Value – Refers to changes of a base color, and includes light, medium, and dark areas. Value is determined by how much light a surface reflects or absorbs. Highlights, midtones, shadows, and cast shadows may all show up as different intensities of the same color.

Texture -- The tactile quality of a surface or its representation, what a surface appears to feel like. The three basic types of texture are *actual*, *simulated*, and *invented* texture.

Color – Derived from reflected light, the sensation of color is aroused in the brain by response of the eyes to different wavelengths of light. A color has 3 parts: hue (color name), intensity (strength/purity), and value (lightness and darkness).

Space - The creation of visual perspective, and the illusion of depth; the distance around, between, above, below, and within an object or group of objects

The 7 Principles of Art

The way the elements of art are organized, or arranged, in a work of art

Balance or Visual Weight – Elements are arranged to create a sense of stability.

Focal Point or Area of Emphasis – Combines elements to point out their differences. The area of greatest difference gets our attention.

Gradation – Elements are combined using a series of gradual changes.

Movement – How the viewer's eye moves throughout the work of art. Some artist combine elements to create the illusion of action, others create a sense of perspective and space

Proportion – Elements are combined to create size relationships

Rhythm – Elements are repeated to create a visual tempo, our eye moves throughout the piece gathering similar elements. Rhythm creates visual **unity**, it is what holds the work together.

Variety – Contrasting elements are combined to create visual interest. These are the parts of the image that stand out, to establish a figure ground relationship, the subject and a background.