Principles of Art

The principles constitute the broader structural aspects of the composition.

Composition is the placement or arrangement of visual elements or ingredients in a work of art.

It can also be thought of as the organization of the elements of art according to the principles of art.

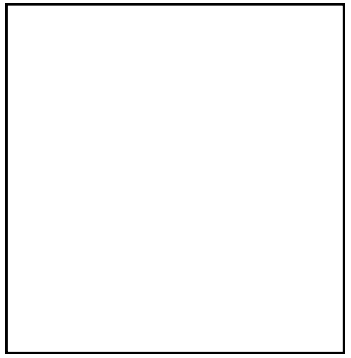
Proportion:

Proportion describes the relationship in size between elements.

Unity:

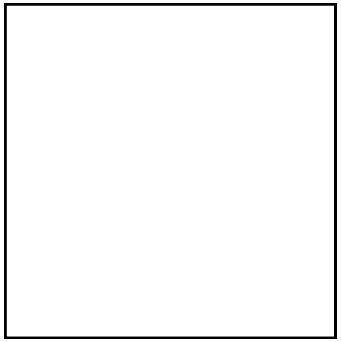
Unity describes a sense of oneness within an image where all qualities work together in a cohesive fashion. Lack of unity can be used to imply dissonance or chaos.

Balance:



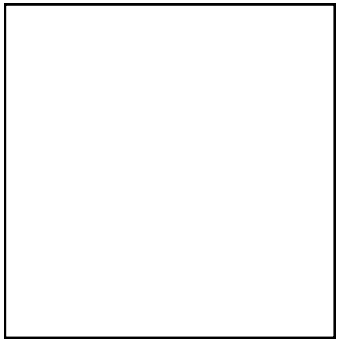
Balance refers to the equilibrium of various elements and involves a sense of order. Balance can be achieved through either symmetrical or asymmetrical composition.

Contrast:



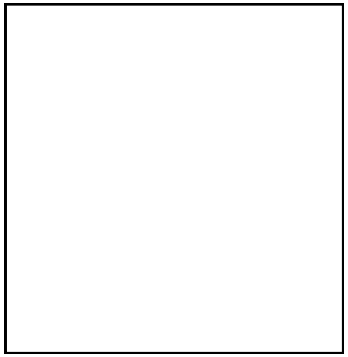
Contrast involves opposition and results from the juxtaposition of qualities that are unlike one another. High contrast creates excitement and drama, low contrast creates harmony.

Movement:



Movement refers to the way the eye travels around an artwork. The artist arranges elements in a way to guide the eye of the viewer.

Pattern/Repetition:



Pattern involves the repetition of similar motifs on a surface, which creates rhythm. Pattern can be used to organize or unify an object.