

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

LINE - A mark or path that may be two-dimensional (pencil on paper), three-dimensional (wire or string), or implied by the edge of a shape or form.

COLOR - An element that identifies natural and manufactured things as being red, blue, yellow, etc. Color in art and in everything we see is derived from light. Our eyes perceive different colors due to different wavelengths of light.

VALUE - An element that relates to the lightness or darkness of a color or tone.

SHAPE - An element that is two-dimensional and encloses area. Shape can be divided into two basic classes: **GEOMETRIC** and **ORGANIC**.

FORM - An element that is three-dimensional and encloses volume - cube, sphere, cylinder, etc.

SPACE - **Actual Space** - The area that actually exists in and around a work of art, such as the space inside and around a sculpture or a building.

Pictorial Space - The illusionary space that we see in a two-dimensional work. It may vary from a flat, patterned surface to the illusion of deep space.

TEXTURE - An element that refers to the surface - whether it is rough, smooth, or soft, for example. Texture may be real (feathers) or simulated (creating the appearance of feathers).

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

BALANCE - A principle that refers to the equalization of elements in a work of art. The three kinds of balance are: **Symmetrical** - A design in which both sides are identical (mirror image).

Asymmetrical - A design in which one side of the composition appears different from the other but is balanced with it.

Radial - A design based on a circle, with elements radiating from the center.

UNITY - A principle that relates to the sense of oneness or wholeness in a work of art.

CONTRAST - Refers to differences in values, colors, textures, and other elements in a work of art, to achieve emphasis and interest.

EMPHASIS - Refers to the way an artist may use opposing shapes, lines, contrasting colors, or other means to place greater attention on certain areas, objects, or ideas.

PATTERN - Repetition of shape, line, color, or other elements. Natural and human-made.

MOVEMENT - Refers to the arrangement of elements in a work of art to create a slow to fast movement of the viewer's eye through the work.

RHYTHM - A type of movement produced by repeating one or several visual elements.