Elements of Art



Line: A line is made by moving a point through space. It is one dimensional, and can vary in width, direction and length



Shape: A flat, enclosed area that has two dimensions: length and width. Shapes can be organic or geometric



Color: Created by light. There are three properties of color: hue (name), value (shades and tints) and intensity (brightness)



Value: Degrees of lightness or darkness. The difference between values is called value contrast



Form: Objects that are dimensional, having length, width, and height. Forms take up space and volume



Texture: Describes the surface quality or feel of a surface; texture can be real or implied



Space: Used to create the illusion of depth. Space can be two-dimensional, negative and/or positive

Principles of Design



Balance: A distribution of visual weight in an artwork. Balance can be symmetrical, asymmetrical, or radial



Contrast: The arrangement of opposite elements in a composition so as to create visual interest



Emphasis: An area or object within artwork that draws attention and becomes a focal point



Movement: How the eye moves through the composition, leading the attention of the viewer from one aspect of the artwork to the other



Pattern: The repetition of specific visual elements; a method used to organize surfaces in a consistent and regular manner



Rhythm: Regular repetition of, or alternation in, elements to create cohesion and interest



Unity: Visually pleasing agreement among the elements in a design