

Elements of Art

Line

A line is the track made by a point moving in space. It can be where a drawing starts, or lines can tie everything together in a work of art and can vary in width, length, color and direction.

Types of Line

- Straight
- Curved
- Thin
- Thick
- Dashed



Elements of Art

Shape

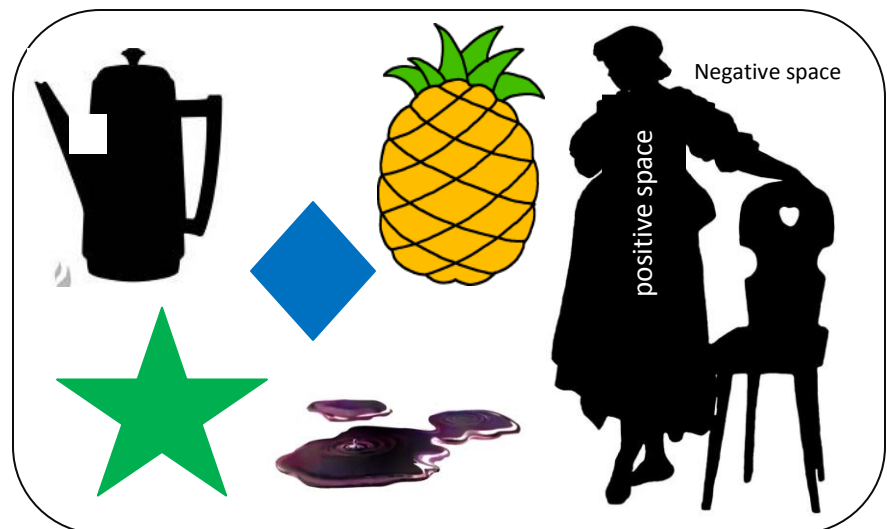
A two-dimensional area or plane that may be open or closed, free form or geometric, found in nature or made by humans.

Positive Space

Shapes, form, or lines that stand out from the background in an art work.

Negative Space

The empty space around forms or shapes in an art work.



Elements of Art

Form

The particular characteristics of an artwork's visual elements as distinguished from its subject matter or content; a three-dimensional volume with the same qualities as shape. The attributes of form are:

Mass

Bulk, weight and density of 3-dimensional forms, either actual or implied.

Volume

Any 3-dimensional quality that is bound or enclosed, whether solid or void.



Elements of Art

Color

The visual sensation dependent on the reflection or absorption of light from a given surface. We can find: Primary Color, Secondary Colors and Tertiary Colors. The attributes of color are:

Intensity or Saturation

The brightness or dullness of color. It refers to the “purity” of the color. A pure color is at its highest saturation, if a color is added its saturation decreases as its intensity.

Value

The lightness or darkness of the color; the graduations of light and dark in a 2-dimensional artwork and on the surface of the 3-dimensional objects.

Mood

Colors are often associated with moods. Certain colors also look cool, such as blue, green and violet; and others look warm, like red, orange and yellow.

Elements of Art

Space

Artists overlap things to create the illusion of space. As in the real world, those things nearest to us can partially overlap objects that are farther away.

Linear Perspective

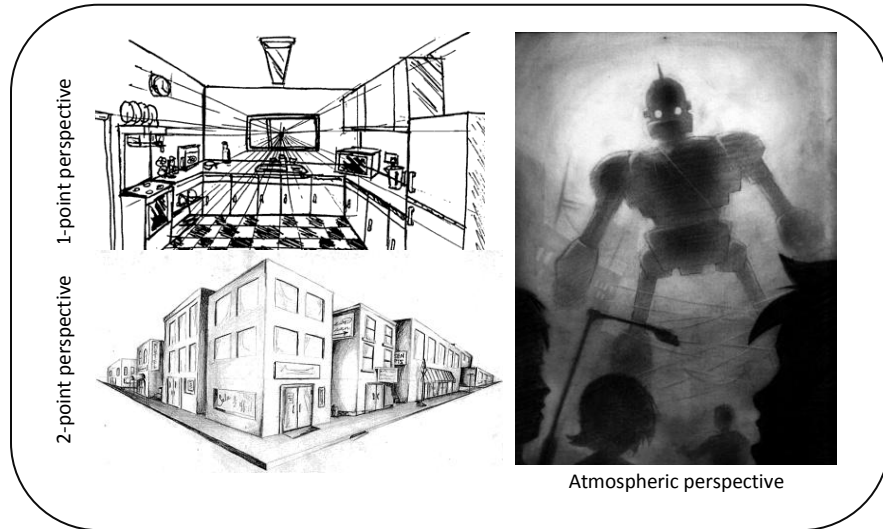
is a term used to describe the fact that lines which are parallel in nature seem to converge (come together) in the distance.

1-point perspective & 2-point perspective

Lines converge on the horizon at a “vanishing point.”

Atmospheric Perspective

Colors and values are grayed, and details are less distinct in the distance.



Elements of Art

Texture

Works of art have a variety of actual textures created by the artist's choice of materials and how they are handled. Everything, including works of art, has a texture or surface. Texture can be rough, bumpy, slick, scratchy, smooth, silky, soft, prickly, the list is endless.

Visual Texture

Painters and sculptors who work in the Realist style imitate natural surfaces and textures. The actual texture of a painting or sculpture may not be at all the same as the "visual texture" that the artist is imitating.

Illusion of Space

An artist who is trying to create the illusion of space sharply defines texture in the foreground and paints less defined and softened textures in the background.



Principles of Design

Balance

The arrangement of visual arts elements to create a feeling of equilibrium in a work of art. There are three different types of balance:

Symmetrical

The same on the left and right sides of a central axis

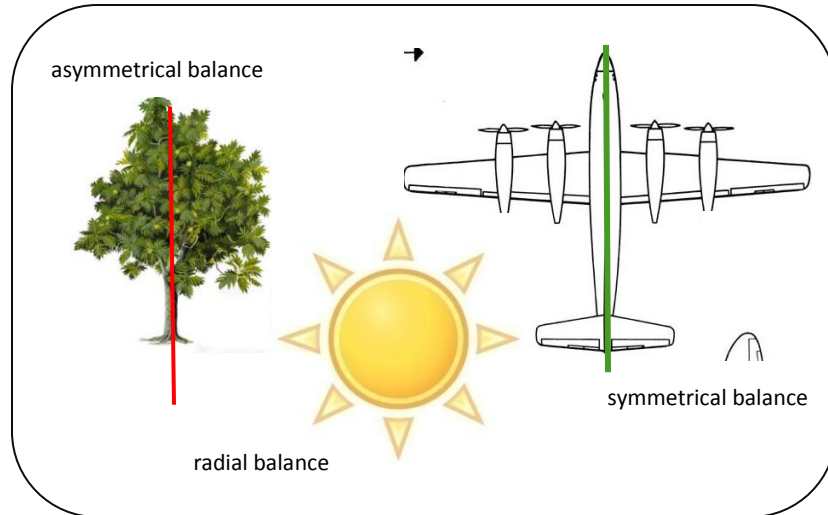
Asymmetrical

Not distributed equally on each side but their total weight is balanced left and right.

Radial

Emanating from the center, equal in length from the center.

Balance can be achieved with just color values alone.



Principles of Design

Emphasis

Special stress given to an element to make it stand out. As a composition is developed an artist may stress some elements of the design over others. The eye of the viewer will focus on the area of emphasis or center of interest first, then take in the rest of the composition.



Principles of Design

Movement / Rhythm

Artists repeat shapes, colors, lines, spaces and/or textures to create movement and rhythm in a composition.

Movement:

The principle of design dealing with the creation of action.

Rhythm:

Intentional, regular repetition of design elements to achieve a specific repetitious effect or pattern.

