

The Elements of Art and Principles of Design



Elements of Art

The building blocks of an artistic creation.

1. Color What is perceived when light hits and reflects off an object. Three properties of color are Hue (name of a color), Intensity (strength of a color) and Value (lightness or darkness of a color)
2. Line A continuous mark made on a surface
3. Shape Two-dimensional objects (circle, square, rectangle, triangle) that enclose space.
4. Form Three-dimensional objects that encloses and takes up space
5. Space Distances or areas around, between or within components of a piece. *Space can be positive (created by objects) or negative (space around the objects), open or closed, shallow or deep, two-dimensional or three-dimensional or just an illusion created through light and shadow*
6. Texture The surface quality or feel of an object: Smooth, bumpy, etc. Visual Texture is the illusion of a three-dimensional surface.

Principles of Design

The ways in which the elements of art are organized are referred to as the principles of design.

1. Balance Visual weight in a picture and how it is divided; symmetry and asymmetry
2. Emphasis Used to make something stand out, like dark next to light
3. Proportion The size of objects; large next to small
4. Movement The visual flow that creates a sense of motion and guides the viewers' eyes and includes repetitive elements.
5. Variety The use of different or contrasting elements to add interest
6. Unity How all the aspects of a design work together