

The Definitions of the Seven Elements of Art

Line – A line is a distance between two points and can be straight or curved continuous, broken, vertical, horizontal or jagged. They can be 2-Dimensional or 3-Dimensional and can be used to create shape and form, as well as give a sense of depth and structure. Lines are the foundation of drawing.

Shape – Shape is 2-Dimensional flat enclosed space such as geometric shapes like triangles, squares and circles.

Space - Space includes the background, foreground and middle ground, and refers to the distances or area around, between, and within things. There are two kinds of space: negative space and positive space. Negative space is the area in between, around, through or within an object that is not being used/no purpose. Positive spaces are the areas that are occupied by an object and/or form and have purpose/function.

Colour- There are three properties to colour. The first is hue, which simply means the name we give to a colour (red, yellow, blue, green, etc). The second property is intensity, which refers to the vividness of the colour- bold bright/ vivid. The third property of colour is its value, meaning how light or dark it is.

Texture – Texture is how something feels or looks. For example; furry, bumpy, brittle, smooth, rough, soft or hard.

Form - The form of a piece is its 3-Dimensional shape, its volume or perceived volume. Form has depth as well as width and height.

Tone – Tone is how light or dark something is. Adding white/lighter colours or black/darker colours.