

Elements of Art

These are the basic elements that are used by Artists in creating Art; they are what you use to create an aesthetically pleasing work. When we make Art, we need to understand and apply these seven Elements of Art.

Line

A mark made by a pointed tool such as a brush, pen or stick; a moving point.

Shape

A flat, enclosed area that has two dimensions, length and width. Artists use both geometric and organic shapes.

Color

Is one of the most dominant elements. It is 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 three-dimensional having length, width and height. They can be viewed from many sides. Forms take up space and volume.

Texture

Describes the feel of an actual surface. The surface quality of an object; can be real or implied.

Space

Is used to create the illusion of depth. Space can be two-dimensional, three-dimensional, negative and/or positive.

Principles of Design

These are the standards or rules to be observed by Artists in creating works of Art; they are how to create and organize Artwork. When elements are utilized with the principles in mind, outstanding Artwork is created.

Balance

A distribution of visual weight on either side of the vertical axis. Symmetrical balance uses the same characteristics. Asymmetrical uses different but equally weighted features.

Contrast

The arrangement of opposite elements (light vs. dark, rough vs. smooth, small vs large, etc...) in a composition so as to create visual interest.

Emphasis

Used to make certain parts of an Artwork stand out. It creates the center of interest or focal point. It is the place in which an Artist draws your eye to first.

Movement

How the eye moves through the composition; leading the attention of the viewer from one aspect of the work to another. Can create the illusion of action.

Pattern

The repetition of specific visual elements such as a unit of shape or form. A method used to organize surfaces in a consistent regular manner.

Rhythm

Regular repetition of, or alternation in elements to create cohesiveness and interest.

Unity

Visually pleasing agreement among the elements in a design; It is the feeling that everything in the work of Art works together and looks like it fits.