

Art Elements Guide Sheet

The elements of art are the building blocks used by artists to create a work of art.

Line – the path made by a moving point; diagonal, vertical, horizontal, thick, thin, solid, broken, curved. Often define the edges of a form. Artists use line to express an emotion.

Shape - the general outline of something. Shape has height and width. Usually shape is defined using line.

Form - when a flat, two-dimensional shape is bent, a third dimension is created. The shape becomes a form. General forms are cubes, pyramids, and spheres. Form is seen in art like sculpture and architecture.

Color - In photography value is created by the amount of light and the range of tones, or light and dark areas, in a scene

Saturation: The intensity or purity of a color

Value: The lightness or darkness of a color

Tone - The quality of light and dark, both in terms of color and shades of gray in a composition. Light and dark values give you visual clues about the shapes and forms of objects. Black and white photos rely completely on tone because of their lack of color.

Space - Artist use space (like a canvas) to create a composition and they create relationships between objects. Artists create positive and negative space. The space occupied by the primary objects is the positive space while the area surrounding the objects is negative space. Artists use space to create an impact.

Texture - Appealing to the sense of touch in photography, a sense of texture can help to make a photograph look more realistic or to enhance a 3-D feel