

THE ELEMENTS OF ART

(The Ingredients of Art)

LINE



Line is the simplest element of art. It is the path created by a moving point and can vary in length, thickness, direction, and quality to express movement, emotion, or structure.

SHAPE



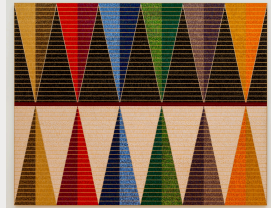
Shape is an element of art created when lines or color changes enclose a two-dimensional area. Shapes can be geometric, with defined edges, or organic, with free-flowing, natural forms.

FORM



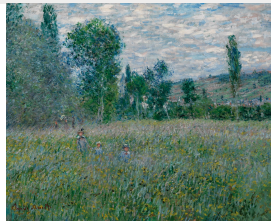
Form refers to three-dimensional objects with height, width, and depth. In sculpture, forms exist in real space, while in two-dimensional art they are suggested using value and perspective.

COLOR



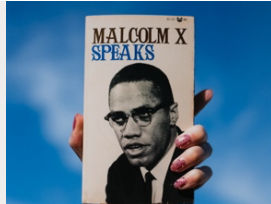
Color refers to the wavelengths of light we see. Colors have hue (name), value (lightness or darkness), intensity (brightness), and temperature, which can feel warm or cool.

TEXTURE



Texture refers to the surface quality of an artwork. It can be actual, meaning it can be physically felt, or implied, meaning it is visually suggested through lines, shapes, and shading.

SPACE



Space refers to the area around, between, above, below, or within objects. Artists use space to create depth, distance, and a sense of three-dimensionality on flat surfaces.

VALUE



Value is the element of art that describes the lightness or darkness of a color. Changes in value help create contrast, emphasis, and the illusion of depth and form.

ART START: LINE

Line is the simplest element of art. It is the path that a moving point makes on a surface in one continuous mark.

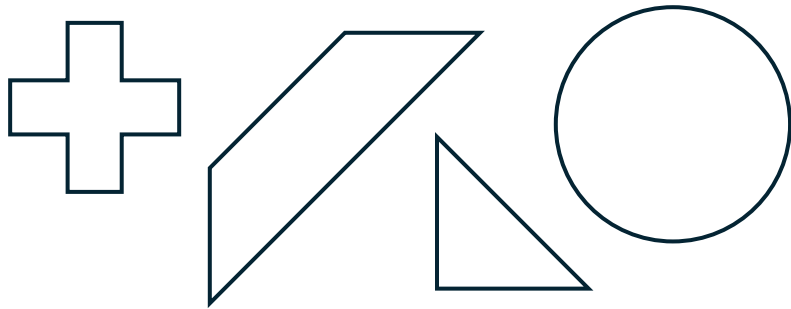
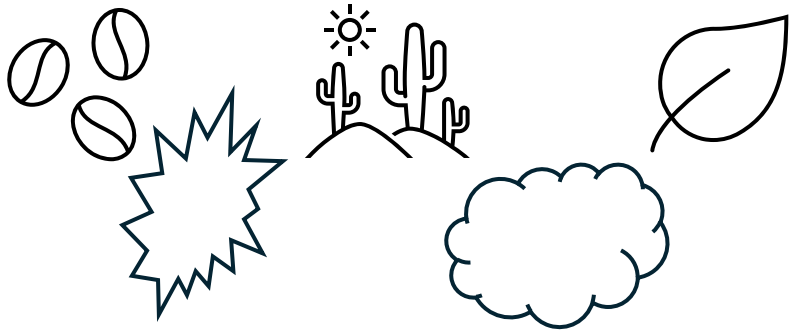
Qualities of lines: lines can be long or short, thick or thin, straight or squiggly, sharp or soft, and anything in between!

Practice drawing unique lines.				
Jagged	Wavy	Thick	Straight	Spiral

Lines can make us convey different feelings. Practice expressing emotions through lines!		
Calm	Anxious	Happy

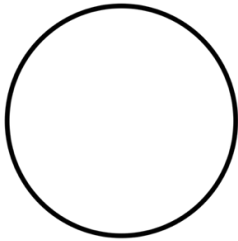
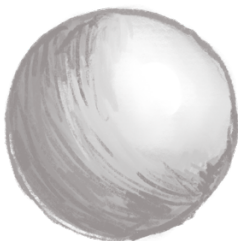
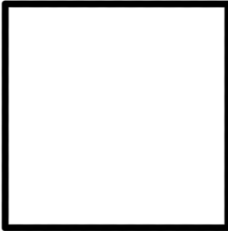
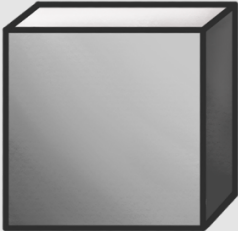
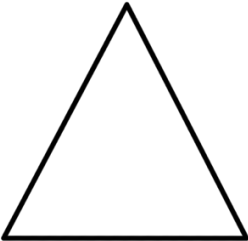
ART START: SHAPE

Shape is an element of art where a line or change of color defines a two-dimensional area. There are two primary types of shapes; geometric and organic.

Geometric Shapes vs. Organic Shapes	
Geometric shapes have precise, uniform measurements and do not often appear in nature.	Organic shapes are free-flowing, asymmetrical shapes often associated with things in nature.
	
Create some geometric and organic shapes of your own!	

ART START: FORM

Form is the element of art that refers to a three-dimensional object with height, width, and depth. In sculpture, form is critical and features shapes that can be seen from all sides. In two-dimensional art, three-dimensional form is shown by using value and perspective.

Shape	Form	Try It	Name It
			Shape: Circle Form: Sphere
			Shape: Form:
			Shape: Form:
			Shape: Form:

ART START: COLOR

Color refers to the wavelengths of light we see. Colors have hue (name), value (lightness or darkness), intensity (brightness or dullness), and temperature (warm or cool). The primary colors (red, yellow, blue) are the colors that make secondary colors (orange, green, purple.)

How would you make orange?

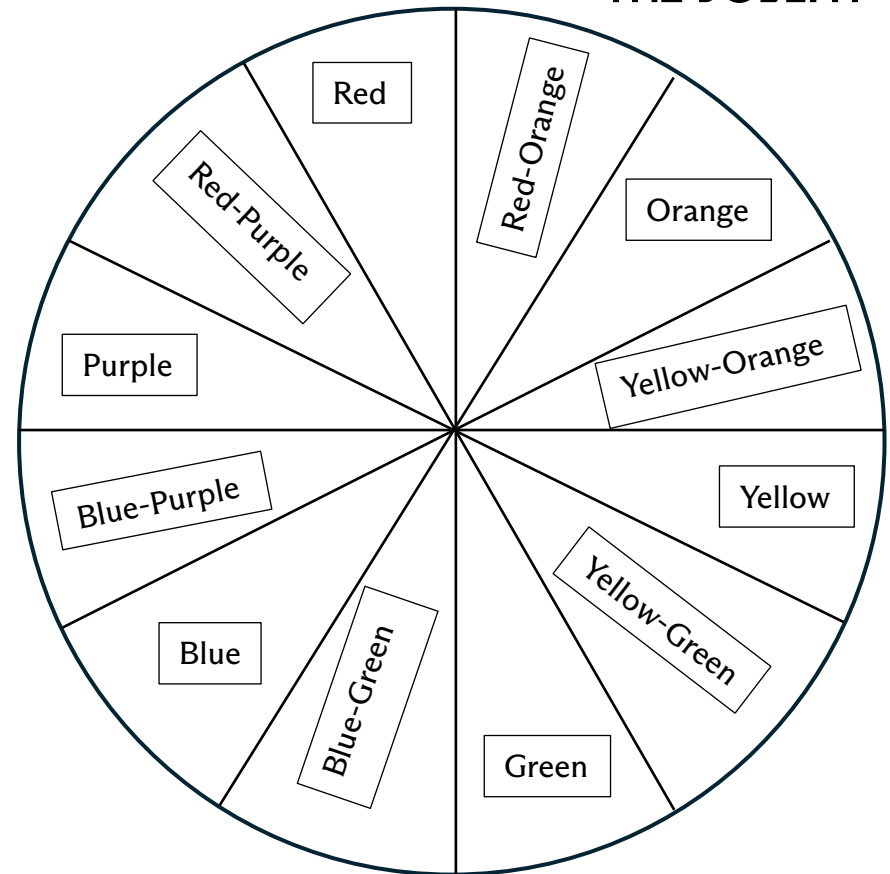
+ **=**

How would you make green?

+ **=**

How would you make purple?

+ **=**



What colors do you think are warm?

Think about a sunset!

What colors do you think are cool?

Think about the ocean!

ART START: TEXTURE

IMPLIED TEXTURE: An illusion of what an object might feel like.

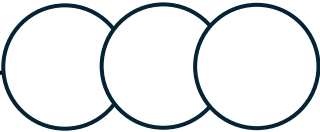
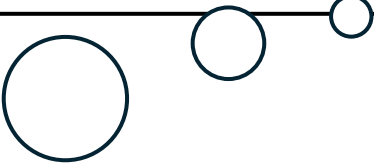
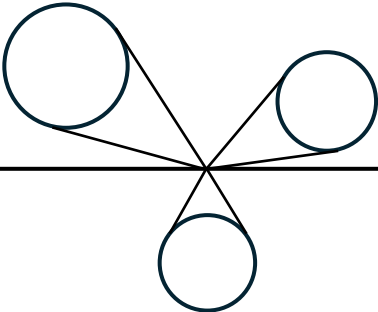
ACTUAL TEXTURE: Using the sense of touch to feel something.

Words that describe texture: _____

Draw unique types of implied texture with a pencil.		

ART START: SPACE

Space is an element of art and refers to the emptiness or area between, around, above, below, or within objects. These areas create a three-dimensional feeling on a two-dimensional surface.

Overlap	Size	Perspective
		

Try using overlap to draw a bowl of fruit.	Try using size to show cups on a table.

ART START: VALUE

Value is an element of art that refers to the lightness or darkness of a color.

Value Scale								
Light			Medium			Dark		

Try creating your own value scales using the suggested techniques!

Value Scale (Cross Hatching)								
Light			Medium			Dark		

Value Scale (Stippling)								
Light			Medium			Dark		

IMAGE CREDITS



Donald Judd (American, 1928–1994), *Untitled*, 1982, brass and blue anodized aluminum, 40 1/2 × 84 × 6 3/4 in. (102.9 × 213.4 × 17.1 cm), Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, Museum purchase, 1984.16, © Donald Judd



Carroll Dunham (American, b. 1949), *Mound C*, 1992, mixed media on linen, 64 3/4 × 90 in. (164.5 × 228.6 cm), Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, The Phillip G. Schrager Collection. Promised gift of Terri L. Schrager, L-2021.3.8, © Carroll Dunham. Courtesy of the artist, Photograph courtesy Bill Ganzel, Ganzel Group Communications, Inc.



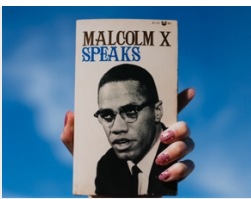
Mark di Suvero (American, b. China, 1933), *Bodacious*, 2001, welded and stainless steel, 147 × 228 × 204 in. (373.4 × 579.1 × 518.2 cm), Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, The Phillip G. Schrager Collection. Gift of Terri L. Schrager, 2021.12, © Mark di Suvero. Courtesy of the Artist and Spacetime C.C., Photograph courtesy of Bill Ganzel, Ganzel Group Communications, Inc.



Dyani White Hawk (Sičǎŋǵu Lakota, b. 1976), *Wopila / Lineage III*, 2024, acrylic, glass bugle beads, synthetic sinew on aluminum panel, 96 × 120 in. (243.8 × 304.8 cm), Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, Museum purchase, gift of The Sherwood Foundation, 2024.10, © Dyani White Hawk, Photograph courtesy Bill Ganzel, Ganzel Group Communications, Inc.



Claude Monet (French, 1840–1926), *The Meadow*, 1879, oil on canvas, 32 × 39 1/4 in. (81.3 × 99.7 cm), Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, Gift of Mr. William Averell Harriman, 1944.79, Photograph © Bruce M. White, 2019



Sadie Barnette (American, b. 1984), *Malcolm X Speaks*, 2018/22, archival pigment print and rhinestones, 30 × 40 in. (76.2 × 101.6 cm), Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, Gift of the artist and Jessica Silverman, San Francisco, 2022.16, © Sadie Barnette, Courtesy of the artist and Jessica Silverman, San Francisco



Alfred Jacob Miller (American, 1810–1874), *Bull Boating Across the Platte*, c. 1837, graphite, ink, and wash on paper, 5 1/8 × 9 1/4 in. (13 × 23.5 cm), Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, Museum purchase, 1988.10.102