

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



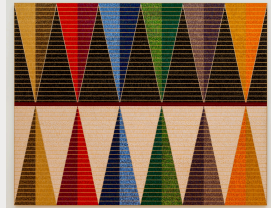
Shape is an element of art created when lines or color changes enclose a two-dimensional area. Shapes can be geometric, with defined edges, or organic, with free-flowing, natural forms.

FORM



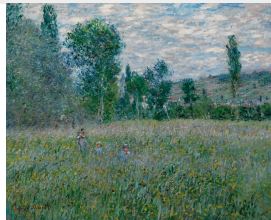
Form refers to three-dimensional objects with height, width, and depth. In sculpture, forms exist in real space, while in two-dimensional art they are suggested using value and perspective.

COLOR



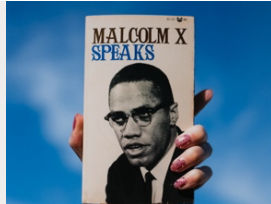
Color refers to the wavelengths of light we see. Colors have hue (name), value (lightness or darkness), intensity (brightness), and temperature, which can feel warm or cool.

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.

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.



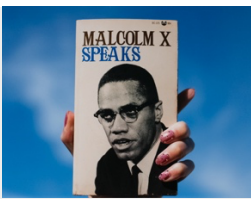
Mark di Suvero (American, b. China, 1933), *Bodacious*, 2001, welded and stainless steel, 147 × 228 × 204 in. (373.4 × 579.1 × 518.2 cm), Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, The Phillip G. Schrager Collection. Gift of Terri L. Schrager, 2021.12, © Mark di Suvero. Courtesy of the Artist and Spacetime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