

“ABCs” of Art: The Ingredients

Knows about the Elements of Art and
Principles of Design.

Elements of Art:

A LINE is “a dot that went for a walk.” They can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, straight, curved, zig-zag, thick or thin.

SHAPES are closed lines. They can be geometric (like squares or circles) or organic (natural shapes). Shapes are flat.

FORMS are 3-dimensional shapes with length, width and depth.

COLOR is the light reflected off of objects. Hue is the name of the color. Intensity describes the brightness or dullness of the color.

SPACE is the area between or around objects (positive or negative). Space is also the illusion or feeling of depth.

TEXTURE is the surface quality of the artwork. Textures can be rough, smooth, soft, hard, spiky, etc. Textures can be real or visual.

VALUE describes the lightness or darkness of the color.

Principles of Design:

BALANCE is the arrangement of objects, colors, textures or space. Balance can be symmetrical, asymmetrical or radial.

EMPHASIS is the part of the work that catches the viewers attention. Emphasis can be created by difference in size, color, texture, shape, etc.

MOVEMENT is the path the viewer’s eye takes around the work of art. Movement can also refer to the look of action in the art.

PATTERN is the regular repetition of visual elements (shapes, lines or colors). Pattern is usually predictable.

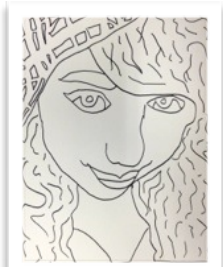
REPETITION is multiples of similar elements in the work. Repetition is not necessarily predictable.

PROPORTION is the size relationship between elements of the artwork. Proportion can show depth of space. It can be used accurately to show realism or altered to portray emphasis or humor.

RHYTHM is how the visual elements create a visual tempo or “beat” as your eye moves around the artwork.

VARIETY is the use of difference in the artwork to create interest.

UNITY is the feeling of harmony between all the elements of the artwork which creates a sense of completeness.



LINE

"a dot that went for a walk"



SHAPE

closed lines, flat



FORM

3-D



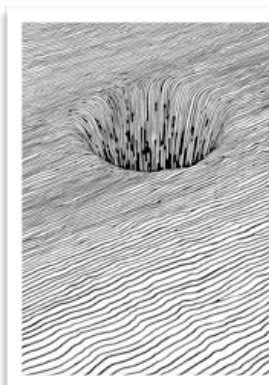
COLOR

bright colors



SPACE

(positive / negative)



SPACE

sense of depth



TEXTURE

shiny and bumpy

ELEMENTS OF ART



VALUE

lights and darks



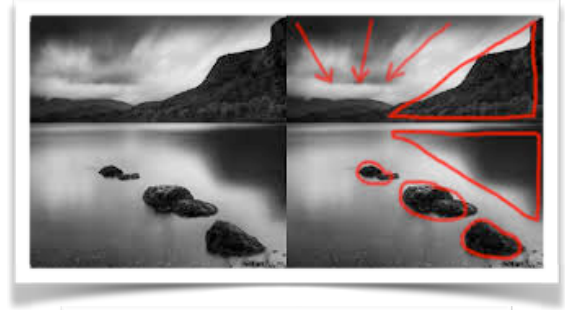
BALANCE

radial, symmetrical, asymmetrical



EMPHASIS

the focal point



MOVEMENT

the path your eye takes
OR
the sense of motion



PATTERN

predictable repeating shapes & colors



REPETITION

use of a shape or color over and over again



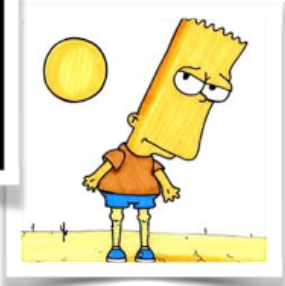
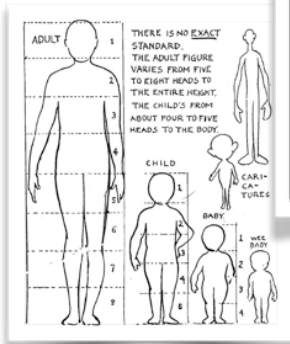
RHYTHM

how your eye bounces along the image



VARIETY

repeated circles but they are all different sizes and colors



PROPORTION

accurate, to show space, altered to show humor

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN



UNITY

the puzzle piece shapes tie the work together