Elements of Art: The visual components of **color, form, line, shape, space, texture, and value**

**Line:** A continuous mark made on a surface with a tool or art material. Lines can vary in appearance (thick, thin, long, short, and curved, etc.). A line is also considered the path of a dot through space and is used to control the viewer's eye movement.

![Line examples](image)

**Shape:** A 2-D object with the two end points of a line meeting together makes a shape; shapes can be geometric or organic and positive or negative.

![Shape examples](image)

**Form:** 3-D and takes up space. Like shape, form has length and width, but it also has depth. You can also shade (or use value) on 2D shapes to make them “look like” real 3D objects.

![Form examples](image)

**Value:** The lightness or darkness of tones or colors. White is the lightest value; black is the darkest. The value halfway between these extremes is called middle gray.

![Value examples](image)
Space: Element of art that has distance around, between, above, and/or below an object, and then which can use positive and negative areas to define or give a sense of depth in a work of art.

Color: The sensation of color is different wavelengths of light. Color has three properties; Hue, Value, and Intensity

![Color Wheel](image)

- **Hue**: Name of the color
- **Value**: The colors lightness or its darkness
- **Intensity**: The color is either strong and bright, or faint and dull
- **Primaries** – red, blue, yellow
- **Secondary** – primary + primary = green, violet, orange
- **Intermediates/Tertiaries** – primary + secondary = example: red-orange

Texture: Referring to how things physically feel or how the objects look like it would feel. Texture is perceived by touch and sight. Objects can have rough or smooth surfaces and matte or shiny surfaces.
**Principles of Design:** The different ways the Elements of Art may be used in art work. Artists “design” their works by controlling and ordering the Elements of Art.

**Balance:** Elements in the piece of art that are arranged in a way that keeps the stability. Balance can be Symmetrical (formal), Asymmetrical (informal), or Radial (circular or converging from a middle point). Balance can be portrayed through color and/or shape.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radial</th>
<th>Symmetry</th>
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<tr>
<td>![Radial Symmetry Image]</td>
<td>![Symmetry and Asymmetry Images]</td>
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**Emphasis:** Making an object or color stand out in the whole piece of artwork. The artist attracts the viewer’s eye to a specific area, also known as a focal point in the artwork.

![Emphasis Images]

**Variety:** The use of diversity through the colors and shapes; to make the project more appealing and interesting to the viewer’s eye.

![Variety Images]

**Proportion:** The relationship of elements to the whole and to each other. Proportion is commonly referring to size relationships.

![Proportion Images]
**Pattern:** Combining art elements so that the same elements are used over and over again, repeating.

**Contrast:** the conflict of two elements of art; refers to the difference in art elements, for example, using complimentary colors, or sizes of objects; creates excitement in an artwork.

**Rhythm/Movement:** Combining art elements to produce the look and feel of movement, especially with a visual aspect. Invites the viewer’s eye to jump rapidly or glide smoothly from one thing to the next.

**UNITY and Harmony:** the quality of wholeness that is achieved through the effective use of the elements and principles of art. Combining elements to accent their similarities and bind the picture parts into a whole. It is often achieved through the use of repetition and simplicity. Also it is often it is realized through a deliberate balancing of harmony or variety.