

ELEMENTS OF ART

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF ART?

- There are **seven main elements of art** that artists can use to create their work. An element is an aspect of an artwork that, taken with other elements, makes up the whole of a work. No art can be created without the use of at least one of these elements, and most artists use many or all of them when completing a piece.

The seven elements of art are:

- Line
- Shape
- Space
- Value
- Form
- Texture
- Color

The **7 elements of art** are crucial for artistic creation, with various definitions assigning different values to each element. However, not all elements are equally important, as not all pieces will utilize all of them. Artists use these elements to create **rhythm, balance, mood, and atmosphere**. Here are a few elements of art examples that show how each one can be used in a work of art:

- A **painting** is likely to use **space, color, and line**, but may be less concerned with **form** and **texture**.
- A **sculpture** uses **form, space, and texture**, and sometimes other elements as well.
- A **pencil drawing** uses **line, value, and shape**, but probably does not use **color** or **form**.

THE 7 ELEMENTS OF ART

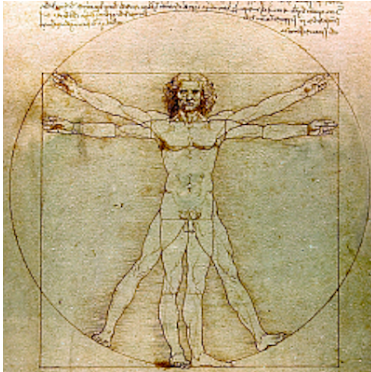
1. Elements of Art: Line

Lines are fundamental elements in art, representing marks on paper or canvas in various shapes. They are used in various forms like **drawings, paintings, and two-dimensional art**. Artists like **Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, and Degas** have utilized lines to create expressive graphite drawings, making them a significant practice for many.

Lines can be:

- Long or short
- Thick or thin
- Straight
- Curved
- Zigzag
- Diagonal
- Horizontal
- Vertical
- Imaginary

Example:



Da Vinci used lines to create simple but effective drawings



Vitruvian Man by **Leonardo da Vinci** and Virgin of the Rocks also by **Leonardo da Vinci**.

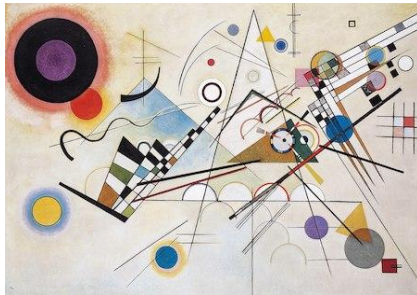
2. Elements of Art: Shape

Shape refers to the **connection of lines to form areas**, often organic and irregular. Some artists use geometric shapes, similar to those found in mathematics textbooks. Most drawings use lines, with notable artists like **Wassily Kandinsky**, **Henri Matisse**, and **Piet Mondrian** using distinctive **geometric shapes**.

Shapes can be:

- Geometric
- Organic.

Example:



Kandinsky used **both lines** and **shapes** in his geometric paintings

3. Elements of Art: Space

Space in art is a crucial element, varying in size and shape to **create depth and illusion of depth** on a flat canvas. Some artists, like **JMW Turner** and **Gustave Caillebotte**, use space to create depth of field or alter viewer perception. **Hieronymus Bosch** also uses space to confuse the eye and alter the scale of an image.

Example:



This painting by **JMW Turner** shows **different perspectives** when observed from **different angles**

5. Elements of Art: Value

Value in art refers to the **lightness or darkness** of a color or tone, used to create **contrast, depth, and emphasis** in an artwork. It's crucial for conveying mood and

atmosphere, and **Rembrandt van Rijn**, a master of chiaroscuro, is known for emphasizing value in his paintings like **The Night Watch**.

Example:



The Night Watch by Rembrandt van Rijn



The Calling of Saint Matthew emphasizes stark contrasts between **light and dark** to create intensity and focus created by an Italian Baroque painter, **Caravaggio** famous for his dramatic use of light and shadow (tenebrism).

6. Elements of Art: Form

Form is a three-dimensional element in art, encompassing **height, width, and depth**. It can be **real** or **implied**, and can be **geometric** or **organic**. **Michelangelo Buonarroti**, a renowned artist, is known for his mastery of realistic and dynamic three-dimensional forms in sculptures like *David* and *Pietà*. His ability to create lifelike depth and detail is a testament to his expertise in form, making him one of the greatest artists in history.

Example:



Pietà by Michelangelo Buonarroti



Gian Lorenzo Bernini, an Italian Baroque sculptor and architect famous for his dramatic and intricate forms, as seen in **The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa**.

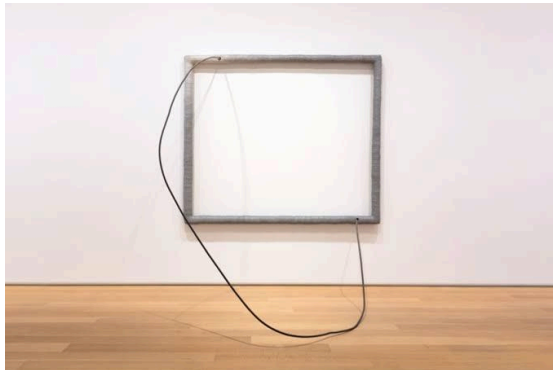
6. Elements of Art: Texture

Texture in art refers to the **surface quality of an object**, either **actual** or **implied**. It enhances realism and emotional effects, adding depth and interest to a composition, like the roughness of a sculpture.

Actual texture refers to the real, tactile surface you can feel, like rough or smooth, found in sculptures and materials.

Implied texture is the visual illusion of texture in flat artwork, created through techniques like shading or brushstrokes.

Example:



Eva Hesse, known for her use of unconventional materials like latex, fiberglass, and rubber, creates sculptures with palpable texture, often evoking fragility and vulnerability, seen in works like **Hang Up**.



Anselm Kiefer, known for his mixed media works, utilizes materials like straw, lead, and ash to create heavy textures in pieces like **The Seven Heavenly Palace**.

6. Elements of Art: Color

Color is an element of art that refers to the **hue**, **value**, and **intensity of light** reflected from surfaces. It can be used to create **emphasis**, **mood**, and **contrast** in a composition. Color consists of three main components:

1. **Hue:** The name of the color, such as red, blue, or yellow.
2. **Value:** The lightness or darkness of a color, which helps to create contrast and depth.

3. **Intensity:** The brightness or dullness of a color, often determined by how much gray is mixed with it.

Example:



Claude Monet, a renowned French Impressionist painter, utilized vibrant colors in his works like **Water Lilies** and **Impression, Sunrise** to create atmospheric and mood-enhancing landscapes.



Van Gogh is renowned for his expressive and emotional use of color, which helped convey the intensity of his feelings. Famous works like **Starry Night** and **Sunflowers** showcase his bold color palette.