

Worksheets

Elements of art – a brief review

For more detail or visual examples see:

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/atd-sac-artappreciation/chapter/oe-1-9/>

line: the path of a moving point; line defines edges of shapes and forms

shape: area enclosed by line; it is 2-dimensional and can be geometric or organic

form: are 3-dimensional and occupy space or give the illusion that they occupy space

color: most expressive element, is seen by the way light reflects off a surface, composed of / described in terms of value, hue, and saturation

texture: actual feel of a surface or the simulated appearance of that feel, such as roughness, smoothness, etc.

space: the illusion of objects having depth on a 2-dimensional surface; linear & arial perspective are used

A more detailed version of these definitions:

Color: Color is the visual perception seen by the human eye. The modern color wheel is designed to explain how color is arraigned and how colors interact with each other. In the center of the color wheel, are the three primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. The second circle is the secondary colors, which are the two primary colors mixed. Red and blue mixed together form purple, red, and yellow, form orange, and blue and yellow, create green. The outer circle is the tertiary colors, the mixture of a primary color with an adjacent secondary color.

Form: Form gives shape to a piece of art, whether it is the constraints of a line in a painting or the edge of the sculpture. The shape can be two-dimensional, three-dimensional restricted to height and weight, or it can be free-flowing. The form also is the expression of all the formal elements of art in a piece of work.

Line: A line in art is primarily a dot or series of dots. The dots form a line, which can vary in thickness, color, and shape. A line is a two-dimensional shape unless the artist gives it volume or mass. If an artist uses multiple lines, it develops into a drawing more recognizable than a line creating a form resembling the outside of its shape. Lines can also be implied as in an action of the hand pointing up, the viewer's eyes continue upwards without even a real line.

Shape: The shape of the artwork can have many meanings. The shape is defined as having some sort of outline or boundary, whether the shape is two or three dimensional. The shape can be

geometric (known shape) or organic (free form shape). Space and shape go together in most artworks.

Space: Space is the area around the focal point of the art piece and might be positive or negative, shallow or deep, open, or closed. Space is the area around the art form; in the case of a building, it is the area behind, over, inside, or next to the structure. The space around a structure or other artwork gives the object its shape. The children are spread across the picture, creating space between each of them, the figures become unique.

Texture: Texture can be rough or smooth to the touch, imitating a particular feel or sensation. The texture is also how your eye perceives a surface, whether it is flat with little texture or displays variations on the surface, imitating rock, wood, stone, fabric. Artists added texture to buildings, landscapes, and portraits with excellent brushwork and layers of paint, giving the illusion of reality.

Information in this handout sourced from:

[https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Art/A_World_Perspective_of_Art_Appreciation_\(Gustlin_and_Gustlin\)/01%3A_A_World_Perspective_of_Art_Appreciation/1.06%3A_What_Are_the_Elements_of_Art_and_the_Principles_of_Art](https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Art/A_World_Perspective_of_Art_Appreciation_(Gustlin_and_Gustlin)/01%3A_A_World_Perspective_of_Art_Appreciation/1.06%3A_What_Are_the_Elements_of_Art_and_the_Principles_of_Art)