

Elements of Art

The sensory components used to create and talk about works of art are line, shape, form, color, and texture.

Line:

A point moving in space. It can vary in width, length, and direction.

Shape:

A two-dimensional area or plane that may be open or closed, free form or geometric, found in nature or made by humans.

Positive Space: Shapes, form, or lines that stand out from the background in an art work.

Negative Space: The empty space around forms or shapes in an artwork.

Form:

The particular characteristics of an artwork's visual elements as distinguished from its subject matter or content; a three-dimensional volume with the same qualities as shape.

The attributes of form are:

Mass: Bulk, weight, and density of three-dimensional forms, either actual or implied.

Volume: Any three-dimensional quantity that is bound or enclosed, whether solid or void.

Color:

The visual sensation dependent on the reflection or absorption of light from a given surface.

The attributes of color are:

Hue: The characteristic of color that gives it its name. The spectrum is usually divided into six basic hues: violet, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red.

Intensity: The brightness or dullness of color.

Value: The lightness or darkness of a hue or neutral color; the gradations of light and dark in a two-dimensional artwork and on the surface of three-dimensional objects.

Texture:

The surface quality of materials either actual (tactile) or implied (visual).