

Elements of Design

The arrangement or way of organizing what the eye sees and the brain decodes—line, form, color, space, shape and texture (the tools) in an artwork.

Line is a continuous mark with greater length than width. Lines can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, straight, curved, zigzag, thick, thin, smooth or jagged.

Forms are three-dimensional shapes, expressing length, width, and depth like sphere, cube, pyramid, cone and cylinder. Forms can be seen from more than one side.

Color is light reflected off objects. Color has three main characteristics: hue (red, blue, yellow, green, etc.), value (light or dark), and intensity (bright or dull).

Shape is a closed line that can be geometric (squares, triangles and circles) or organic (free formed). Shapes are flat but can show length and width.

Space is the area between and around objects. Negative space is often around or behind the objects. Space can give the feeling or illusion of depth.

Texture is surface quality that can be seen with the eyes (visual) or felt by touch (tactile). Texture can be rough, smooth, soft or hard.

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Line



Form



Color



Shape



Space



Texture