

7 Key elements of Art

| Element | Definition/Explanation |
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| Line | A line is an element of art. It is a mark made upon a surface. In order to be a line, the mark's length must be longer than its width. |
| Shape | Shapes are areas of enclosed space that are two-dimensional. Shapes are flat, and can only have height and width. The two different categories of shapes are: geometric and organic. Geometric shapes are mathematical, like circles and squares. Organic shapes come from nature, like clouds and leaves. |
| Colour | Colours have three main characteristics— hue (blue, red, green, etc.), value (spectrum of light and dark) and intensity (spectrum of bright and dark) — all contributing to what the colour communicates and how it is used. |
| Form | A form is a shape in three dimensions, and, like shapes, can be geometric or organic. Geometric forms are forms that are mathematical, precise, and can be named, as in the basic geometric forms: sphere, cube, pyramid, cone, and cylinder. Organic forms are those that are free-flowing, curvy, sinewy, and are not symmetrical or easily measurable or named. They most often occur in nature, as in the shapes of flowers, branches, leaves, puddles, clouds and animals. |
| Value | Value refers to the visible lightness or darkness of a colour. |
| Texture | There are many ways to categorise texture, but the main two forms are actual and visual. Actual, or physical texture, refers to the real planned properties of a design. Thickness, weight, embellishments (wedding invitations are great one to explore). |
| Space | In art, space refers to how a piece of artwork is organised – the area above, below, and within components of a piece. |

