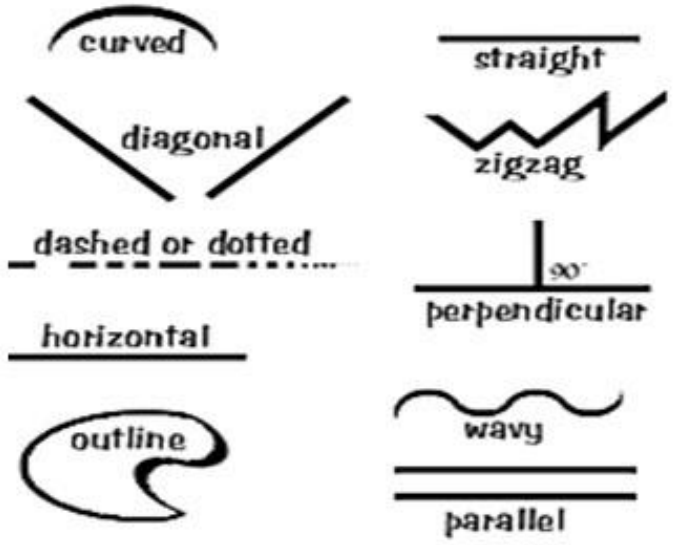
Elements of Art and Principles of Design

Elements of Art

- There are 7 elements of art
  - Line
  - Shape
  - Form
  - Texture
  - Color
  - Space
  - Value
- The elements of art are the foundation for any successful composition

Line

- A line is the path of a moving point through space.
- Lines can vary in length, width and direction.
- Lines often define the edges of a form.
- Lines can express emotion and mood.
- There are many different kinds of lines.



- Long
- Short
- Thick
- Thin
- Curved
- Diagonal
- Straight
- Wavy
- Blurry
- Jagged
- Zigzag

Line: direction

- **Horizontal** lines suggest a calmness when used in a composition. An example would be a horizon line where the sky meets the ocean.

Andrew Wyeth - Baleen, 1982

Line: direction

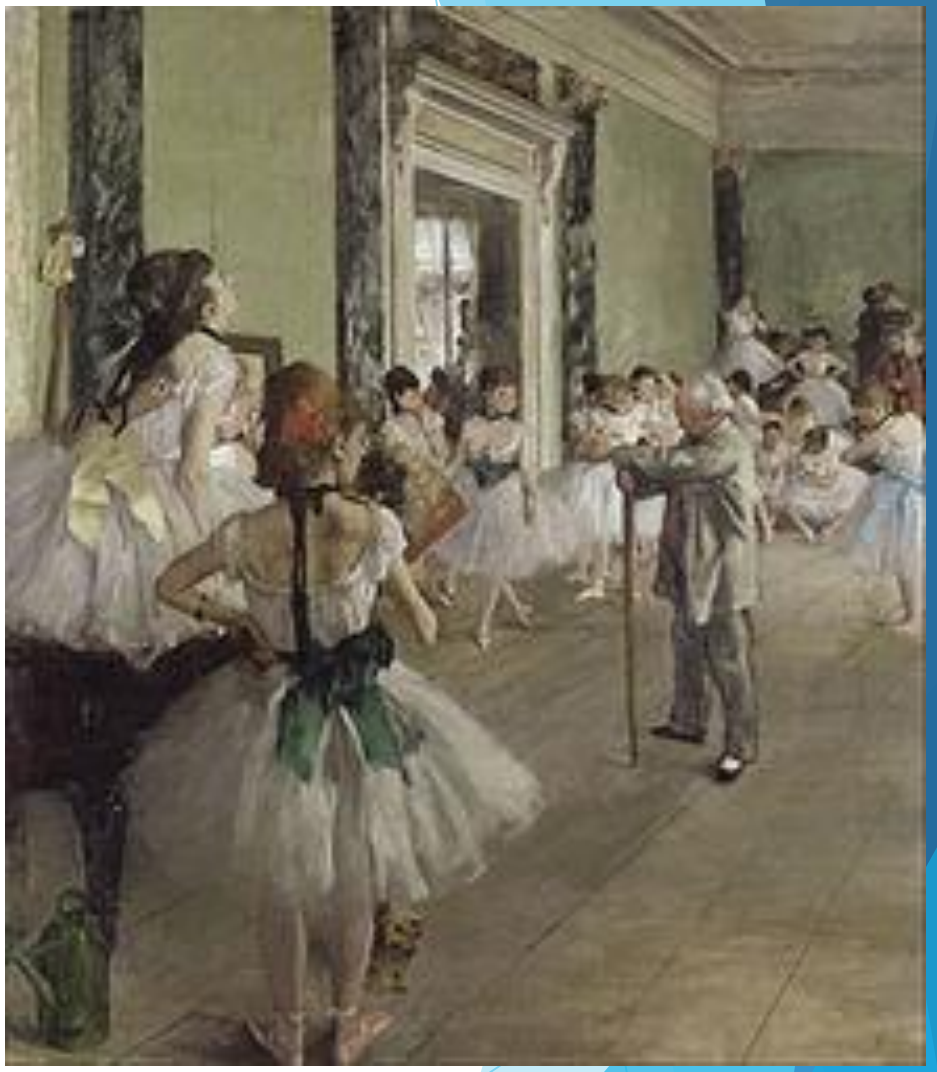
- **Vertical** lines seem to be reaching toward the sky suggesting growth and inspiration.

Claude Monet Poplar Series-1891

Line: direction

- **Diagonal** lines suggest depth or space in a composition.

Artist unknown, The Bridge

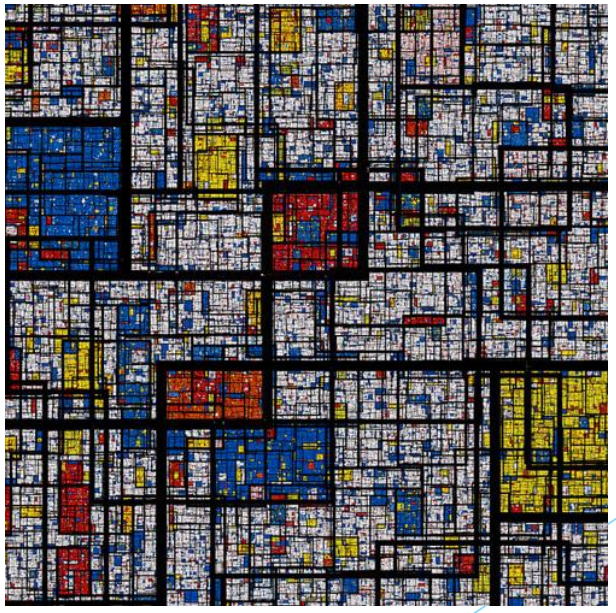


Degas, The Dance Class

Shape

- Shapes have height and width
- Shapes are flat or 2-D
- Can be geometric or organic

Henri Matisse



Piet Mondrian

Form

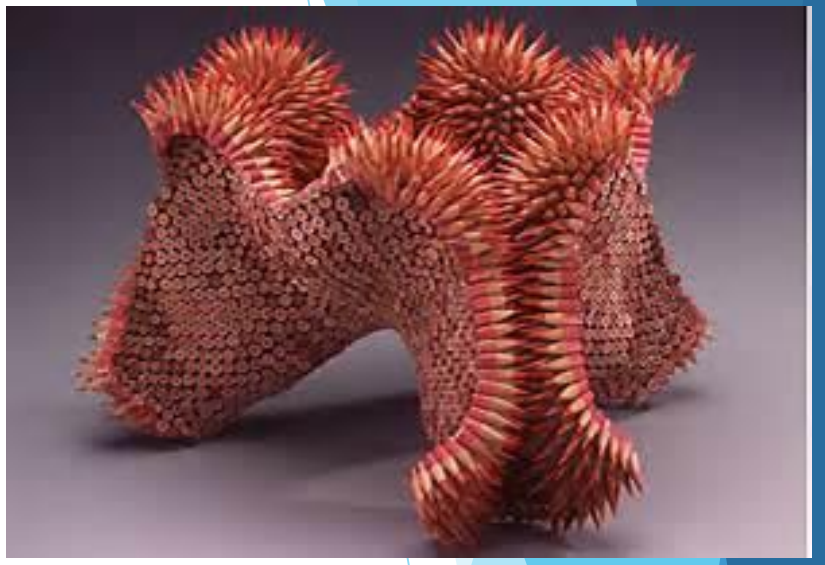
- Form has height, width, and depth
- Forms are 3-dimentional

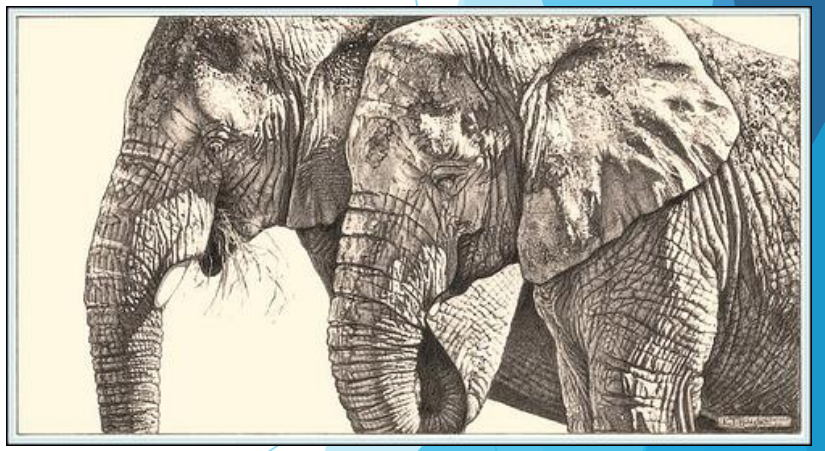
Paul Cezanne

Texture

There are two types of texture:

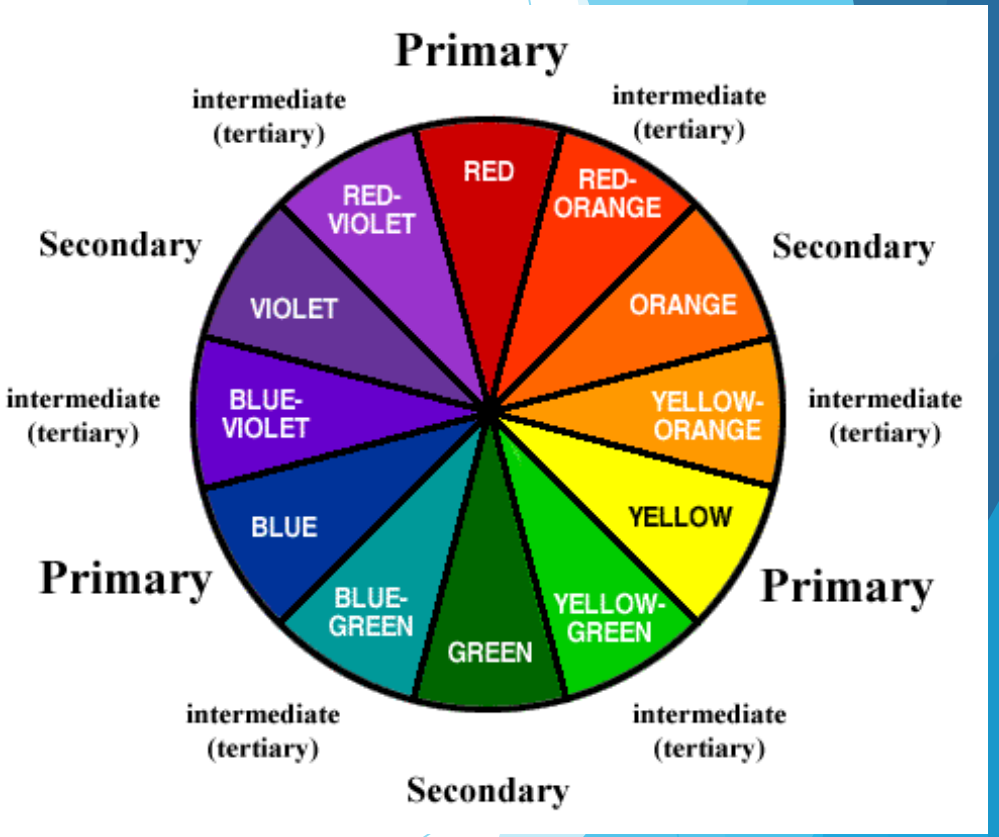
- **Tactile texture** (real texture) is the way the surface of an object actually feels. Examples of this include sandpaper, cotton balls, tree bark, etc.
- **Implied texture** is the way the surface of an object looks like it feels. The texture may look rough, fizzy, gritty, but cannot actually be felt. This type of texture is used by artists when drawing or painting.





Color

- Color is perceived when light hits and reflects off an object. Three properties of color are **Hue** (name of a color), **intensity** (strength of a color), and **value** (lightness or darkness of a color).



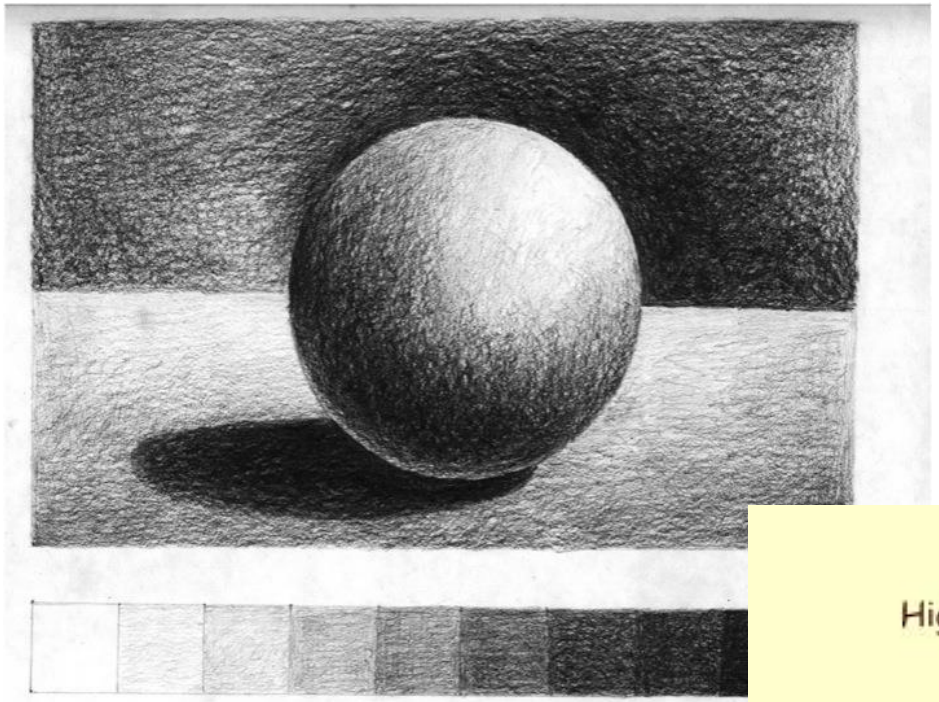
Space

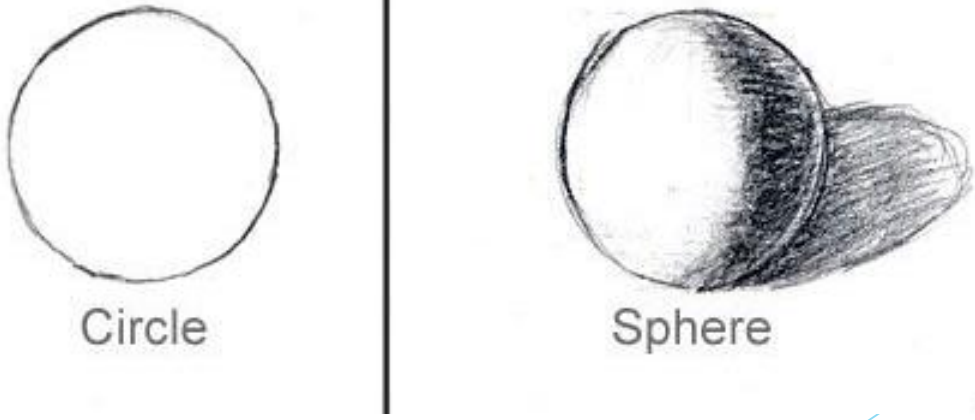
- The illusion of space is created through light and shadow.
- There are two types of space: positive and negative space.
- Positive space refers to the actual subject matter in a work of art.
- Negative space refers to the space around and between the subject matter.

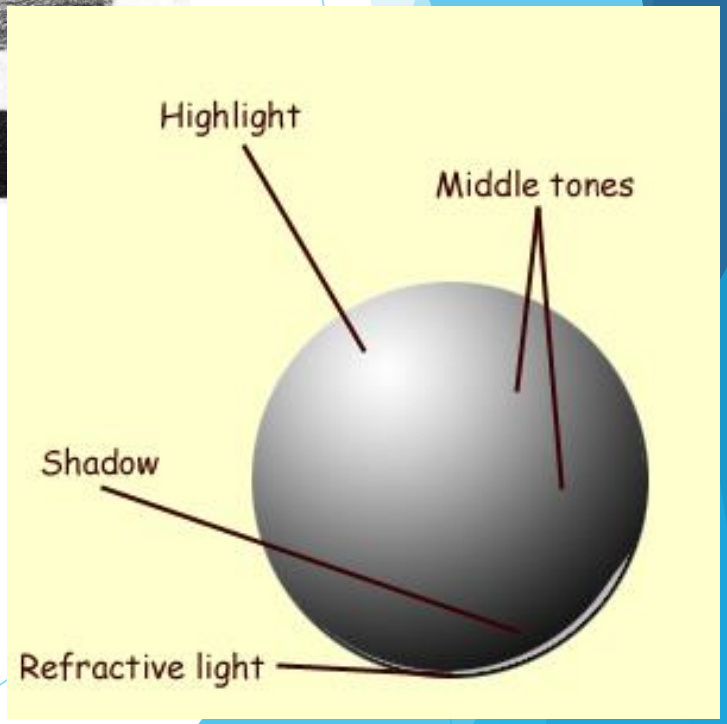
M.C. Escher

Value

- **Refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. It gives objects depth and perception.**
- It is often referred to when shading but value is also important in the study of color.







Principles of Design

- The **Principles of Design** are rules or guidelines that govern the way in which the **Art Elements** go together.

These include:

- EMPHASIS (Focal Point)
- UNITY (Harmony)
- BALANCE
- CONTRAST
- PATTERN (Repetition)
- RHYTHM
- MOVEMENT

Emphasis

- **EMPHASIS** is used by an artist to make an element or object stand out in a work of art.
- **EMPHASIS** is used by the artist to control what part of the artwork the viewer sees first or most often.
- **EMPHASIS** is also used by the artist to control how long a viewer spends looking at each of the different parts.

Emphasis

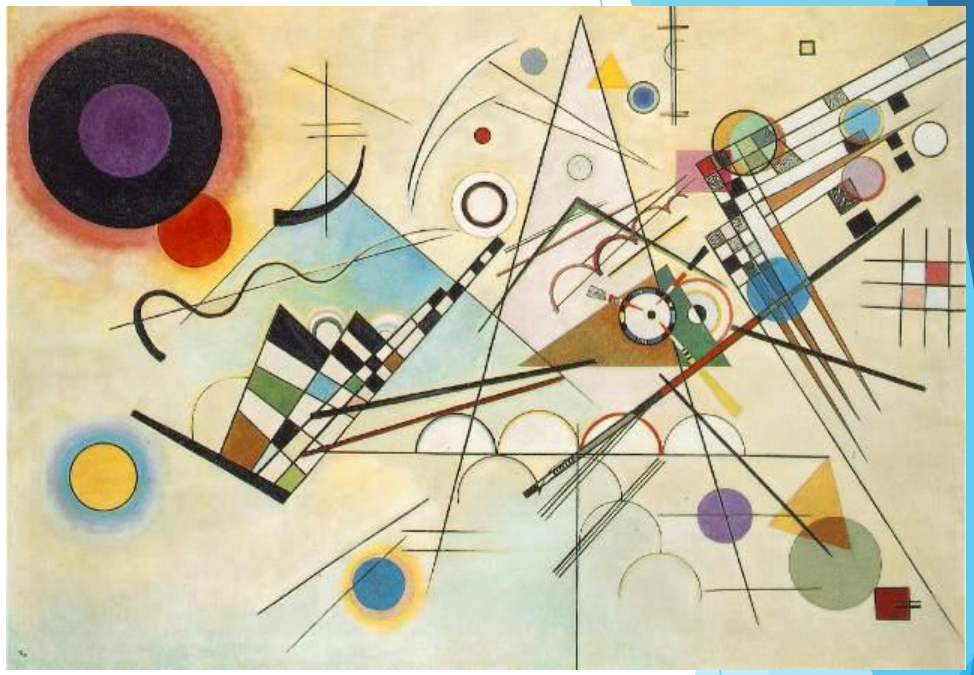
- To make an element or object in a work of art stand out…..artists use emphasis.

Examples include…

- Em_{pahsis} Emphasis of size
- Emphasis Emphasis of color

Unity

- Unity (harmony) is achieved when all parts of an artwork look as though they belong together.
- An artist creates unity by stressing the similarities of separate but related parts.



Kandinsky

Unity

Van Gogh created unity by using a consistent texture throughout *Starry Night*, and by using primarily cool colors (blues, blue-greens, black).

Nevelson created unity in this assemblage sculpture by using one color and by incorporating mostly vertical elements. She kept it from becoming monotonous or boring, by adding variety (various sizes, a few horizontal elements, etc.).

Balance

- Balance in an artwork is the arrangement of art elements so that no one part of a work overpowers, or seems heavier than, any other part.
- There are three basic types of balance. They are:
  - Symmetrical or Formal Balance
  - Asymmetrical or Informal Balance
  - Radial Balance

Balance

- Symmetrical or Formal Balance is created when one half of a work of art mirrors the other half.
- Symmetrical or Formal Balance is predictable, thus, sometimes less interesting.

Leonardo da Vinci

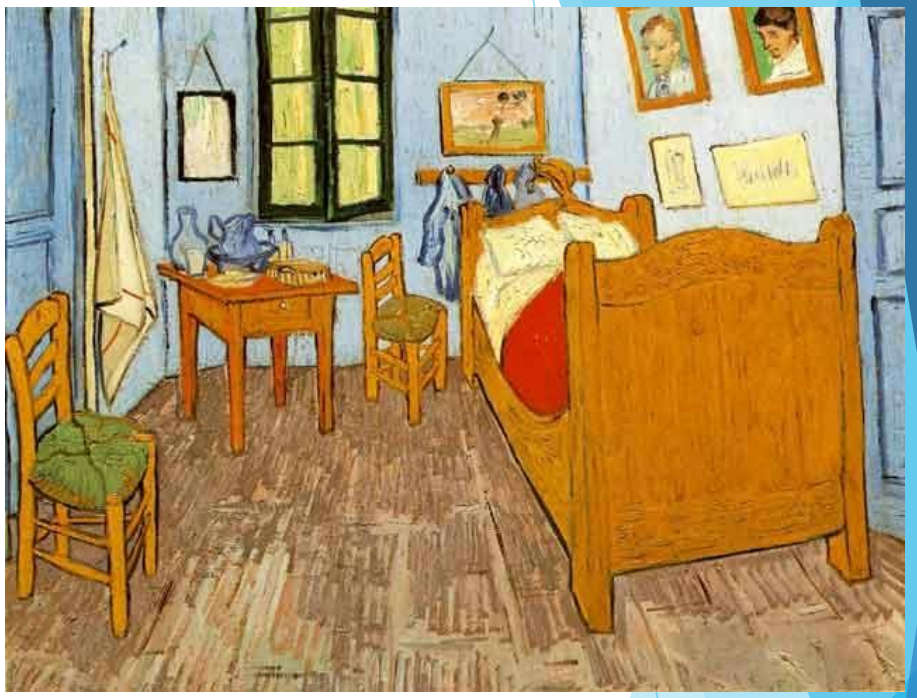
Balance

- Asymmetrical or Informal

Balance is evident when

two unlike objects appear to have equal weight.

- When used skillfully, it can create more interesting compositions.



Vincent van Gogh

Balance

- **Radial** Balance in an artwork occurs when the elements or objects are positioned around a central point.

Aztec Calendar

Georgia O'Keefe

Contrast

- Contrast in an artwork is created-when the artist makes a difference in value, color, texture, shape, line, form, or space.

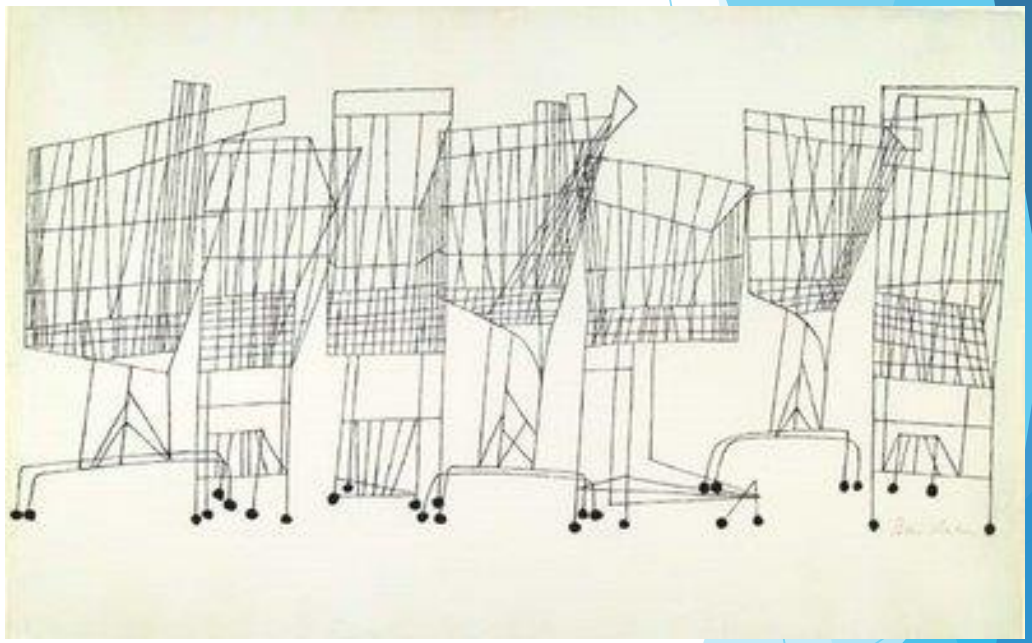
Don Lawler, Embrace

Andy Warhol

Ashleigh Popplewell, High Contrast Painting

Pattern and Repetition

- Pattern (Repetition) is the repeating of shapes, lines, color, or other art elements in planned or random order to create interest or make the artwork more exciting.



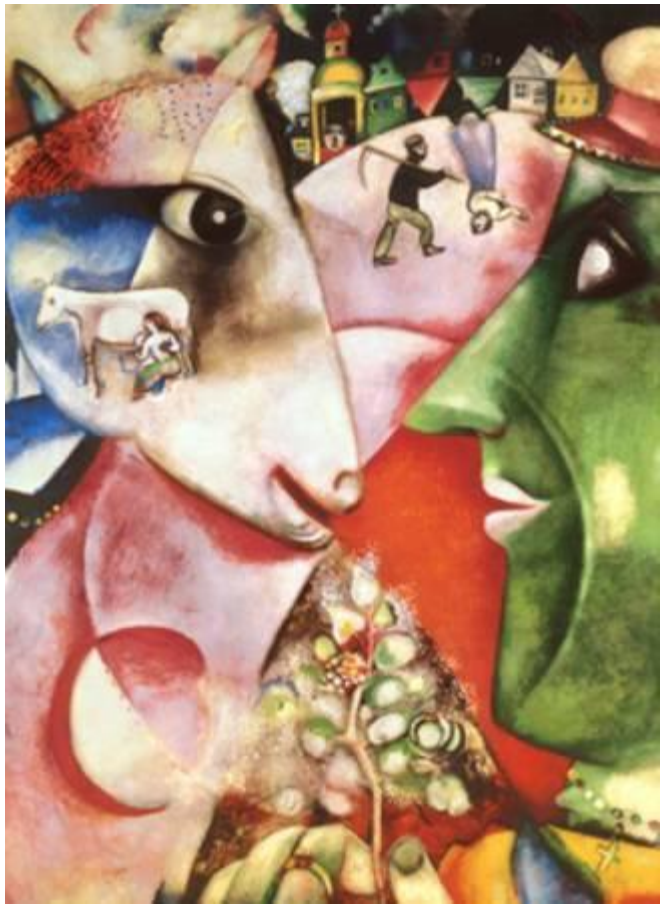
Ben Shahn

Rhythm

- Rhythm in art can be described as “timed movement through space”
- The eye follows a path of a regular arrangement of motifs. The “beat” is sensed by the eyes, rather than the ears.
- The presence of rhythm creates predictability and order in a composition.
- Rhythm works with pattern and movement.

Movement

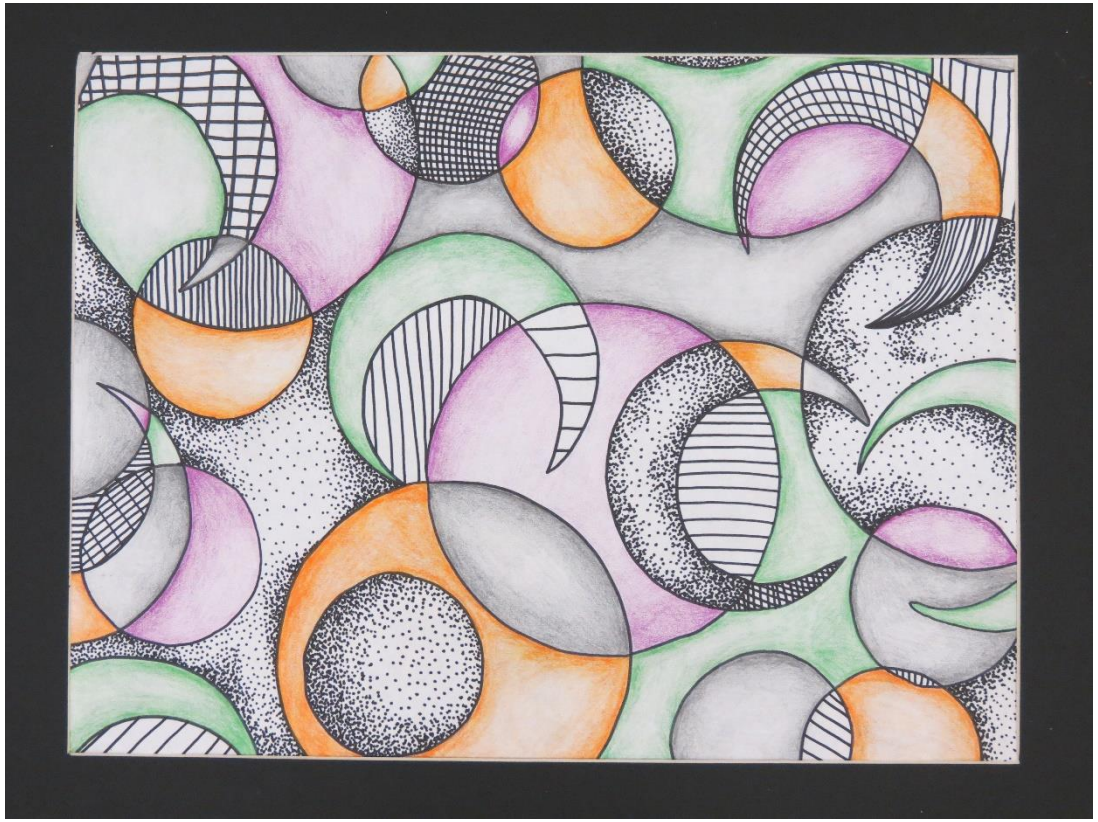
- Movement in a work of art directs the viewer through the art piece – often to the focal area. MOVING THE VIEWER'S EYE AROUND THE ARTWORK.
- It also encourages the viewer to sense action within the work. SUGGESTING MOVEMENT OF FIGURES, ETC. IN THE PAINTING.



Marc Chagall,
I and the Village, 1911

Vincent van Gogh

Giacomo Balla, Dynamism Of A Dog On Leash,1912.

1st project: Textured/Shaded Shapes

- 1. Begin by picking one shape to repeat (cannot be a circle, square, rectangle, triangle, or diamond).
- 2. Trace this shape all over your paper (make sure to overlap it, flip it, and go off the page).
- 3. Add a second shape or lines.
- 4. To fill the page, use different drawing techniques; include: shading, stippling, cross hatching, and hatching.
- 5. Pick 3 colors to use; use black sharpie, regular pencil and 3 colored pencils
- *****No color or technique can touch.