If you look around you, you will notice that almost everything we see is made up of a Shape or combination of Shapes. Some of the more common ones we have given names to, i.e.: circle, square and rectangle. Others are so unique we call them freeform shapes. Lines are used to draw Shapes. Artists draw Shapes when they are making preliminary sketches for a drawing, painting or sculpture. In the art room it is often said "if you can draw the shapes, you can draw anything". Shapes are categorized as Geometric or Organic. Geometric shapes are usually angular and appear frequently in man-made objects. Organic shapes are usually more rounded and appear most often in nature. Now we'll see why Shape is an important Element Of Art.
How many types of lines can you make? How important are lines to our environment? The artist recognizes the power of the "Line" when he/she creates a work of art.

Many people would argue that the Element of "Color" has the most effect on a work of art. Consider what our world would look like if everything was black, white and shades of gray? The effects of "Color" on humans has been studied many times. Artists have known that "Color" has a powerful effect on their works and on the impressions of the viewers.

An element of art which refers to the surface quality or "feel" of an object, its smoothness, roughness, softness, etc. Textures may be actual or simulated. Actual textures can be felt with the fingers, while simulated textures are suggested by the way the artist has painted certain areas of a picture.

Shapes are everywhere. More common ones are given names such as circle or square. There are an infinite amount of shape possibilities and combinations.

Forms are often called the "three-dimensional shapes". Unlike flat, two-dimensional areas, Forms are represented as "three-dimensional". The great illustrators and sculptors of the world of art have mastered the Element Form.

Often we do not consider Space when we create a work of art. It often just seems to happen.

Value refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. It also refers to how artists use other Elements Of Art to create a sense of light or dark.
Shapes are everywhere. More common ones are given names such as circle or square. There are an infinite amount of shape possibilities and combinations.

Forms are often called the "three-dimensional shapes". Unlike flat, two-dimensional areas, Forms are represented as "three-dimensional". The great illustrators and sculptors of the world of art have mastered the Element Form.

Often we do not consider Space when we create a work of art. It often just seems to happen.
Why does great art endure?

Unity
From Russia,
with love…
Kiev, Russia

Born Louise Berliawsky on September 23, 1900.
St. Sophia Cathedral in 1900, Kiev, Russia (now the Ukraine)
Her father, a Jewish timber merchant, immigrated to Maine in 1902. The family missed him so much, they saved the money he sent them so they could join him in Maine.
Growing Up

Louise (Leah) was taller than most of her classmates which made her feel awkward and shy.
Art Instruction

In 1920, Louise married Charles Nevelson and moved to NYC to study painting. In 1931, she studied in Germany with Hans Hoffman, then back to NYC where she worked with muralist Diego Rivera through the Works Progress Administration.
Louise became part of a growing group of innovative artists. Her first exhibitions featured small pieces derived from Cubism and fashioned from wood, stone, plaster, clay and occasionally metal.
She created a group of wooden circus figures but, dissatisfied, she burned them after the exhibit.
It was during this time that she began fabricating abstract ASSEMBLAGES from ordinary scraps of wood.

“Untitled” by Louise Nevelson, 1950s
During this time, her works were beginning to mature. Her sculptures were made from wood and painted entirely black. The Whitney Museum in NYC purchased “Black Majesty” and other museums began to follow suit.
During the 60s, Louise began experimenting with other materials (formica, aluminum, plexiglas) and her sculptures grew considerably larger.
In 1962, Louise became the first woman artist to represent the United States in the Venice Biennale.
“Royal Tide V” was one of the few “gold wall” works shown in the Venice Biennale. It was constructed out of 21 units filled with found objects such as chair legs, bed posts, and lumberyard scraps. Louise arranged the units and painted them a monochromatic gold in order to form a cohesive composition.
The emphasis in Royal Tide V is on order, control and precise placement of its parts to achieve balance and structure.
Unity through Color

Though Louise used a variety of forms, she created unity by painting it all in a brilliant gold color.

“Art is everywhere, except it has to pass through a creative mind.”
Louise Nevelson

“Royal Tide II” by Louise Nevelson
Artistic Pioneer

Louise was a pioneer in the world of sculpture. She forged new and exciting limits for her art and paved the way for artists of the future.

“I think all great innovations are built on rejections.”

Louise Nevelson
The Art of Louise Nevelson

“Dawn Shadows”
by Louise Nevelson, 1983
“Sky Cathedral”
by Louise Nevelson, 1958
"Gold Box" by Louise Nevelson, 1960
“Royal Tide I” by Louise Nevelson, 1960
“Royal Game I”  
by Louise Nevelson, 1961
"Atmosphere and Environment XI"
by Louise Nevelson, 1969
"#41082"
by Louise Nevelson, 1970
“Luminous Zag: Night”  
by Louise Nevelson, 1971
“Night Zag III” by Louise Nevelson, 1971
“White Vertical Water”
by Louise Nevelson, 1972
“Open Zag VIII” by Louise Nevelson, 1974
"Atmosphere and Environment XII" by Louise Nevelson, 1974
“Transparent Horizon”
by Louise Nevelson, 1975
“Drum” by Louise Nevelson, 1976
“Rain Garden II” by Louise Nevelson, 1977
“Moontide II”
by Louise Nevelson, 1978
“Morning Haze” by Louise Nevelson, 1978
“Night Star” by Louise Nevelson, 1981
“Sky Gate I” by Louise Nevelson, 1982
“City on the High Mountain”
by Louise Nevelson, 1983
“Mirror Shadow XVIII” by Louise Nevelson, 1985
“Dawn’s Wedding Chapel I” by Louise Nevelson
“At Pace Columbus, Gold”
by Louise Nevelson
Erol Beker Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Manhattan
designed by Louise Nevelson
“When you put together things that other people have thrown out, you’re really bringing them to life – a spiritual life that surpasses the life for which they were originally created.”

Louise Nevelson
Our Masterpiece

“Royal Tide V” by Louise Nevelson
NOW YOU DO IT!

Write your name on the outside of the shoebox.

Susan Smith
• Flip the shoebox around so the open part faces you.
• Collect some “found” objects and begin to arrange them into a balanced composition inside the box.
• When you are satisfied with the composition, glue the objects in place.
• I will spray paint all the assemblage sculptures after the glued objects are secure.
• Set your composition on a shelf to dry.
• Return art supplies/throw away newspaper.
• Take an activity page and work quietly so others may finish.
ANY QUESTIONS?
READY?
SET?
CREATE!
“Every possibility begins with the courage to imagine.”

Mary Anne Radmacher