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# The Elements of Design

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# The Elements of Design

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# -Elements of Design -

The basic components used by the artist when producing works of art.

Those elements are **shape, form, value, line, color, texture, and space**. The elements of art are among the literal qualities found in any artwork.

# Shape

An enclosed space defined and determined by other art elements such as line, color, value, and texture. Shapes can be categorized into two different types, **Geometric**, and **Organic**.

## Organic

An irregular shape, or one that might be found in nature, rather than a regular mechanical shape



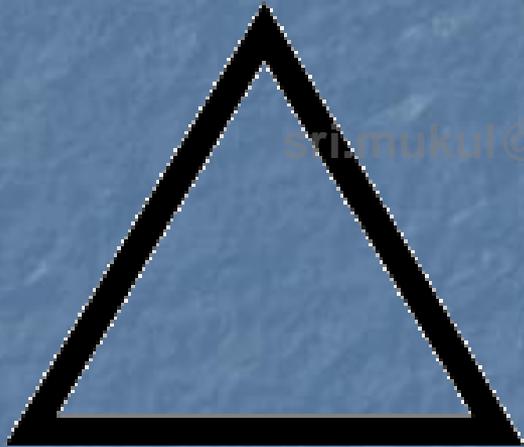
## Geometric

Shapes that are created through use of mathematics. These shapes include **Circle**, **Oval**, **Triangle**, **Square**, **Rectangle**, **Hexagon**, **Octagon** and **Pentagon**.



# Form

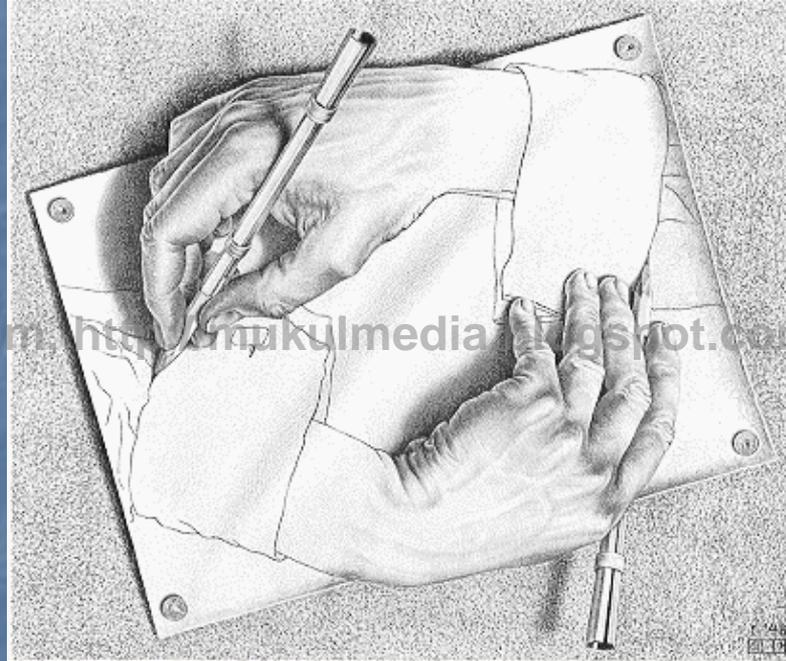
An element of art that is three dimensional (height, width, and depth) and encloses volume. For example a triangle, which is two dimensional, is a shape, and a pyramid, which is three dimensional is a form.



Examples of forms include; Cubes, Spheres, Ovoids, Pyramids, Cones, and Cylinders.

# Value

An element of art that refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. Value is an especially important element in works of art when color is absent. This is particularly likely with drawings, lithographs, photographs, and sculpture.



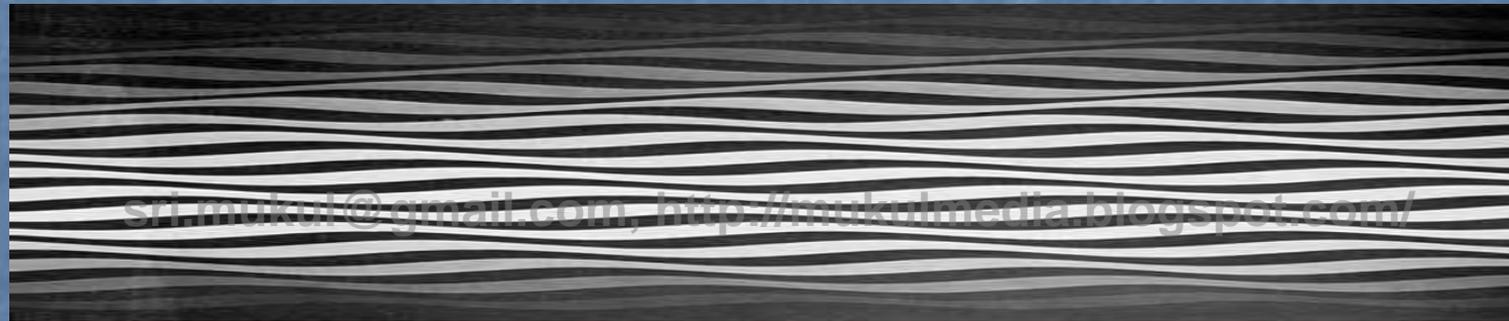
## Value Scale

A gray scale, a series of spaces filled with the tints and shades of one color starting with white or the lightest tint on one end, and gradually changing into the darkest shade or black on the other.



# Line

A mark made by a moving point that has length and direction. Often it defines a space, and may create an outline or contour, define a silhouette; create patterns, or movement, and the illusion of mass or volume. It may be two-dimensional (as with pencil and paper), three-dimensional (as with wire) or implied (the edge of a shape or form)



Types of lines include; vertical, horizontal, diagonal, straight or ruled, curved, bent, points, angular, thin, thick, or wide, interrupted (dotted, dashed, broken) blurred or fuzzy, controlled, freehand, parallel, hatching, cross-hatching, meandering, and spiraling.



# Color

Produced by light of various wavelengths, and when light strikes an object and reflects back to the eyes.



An element of art with three properties:

- (1) hue or tint, the color name, e.g. red, yellow, blue, etc.:
- (2) intensity, the purity and strength of a color, e.g., bright red or dull red; and
- (3) value, the lightness or darkness of a color.

# Texture

An element of art, texture is the surface quality or "feel" of an object,, its smoothness, roughness, softness, etc. Textures may be **Actual** or **Implied**.



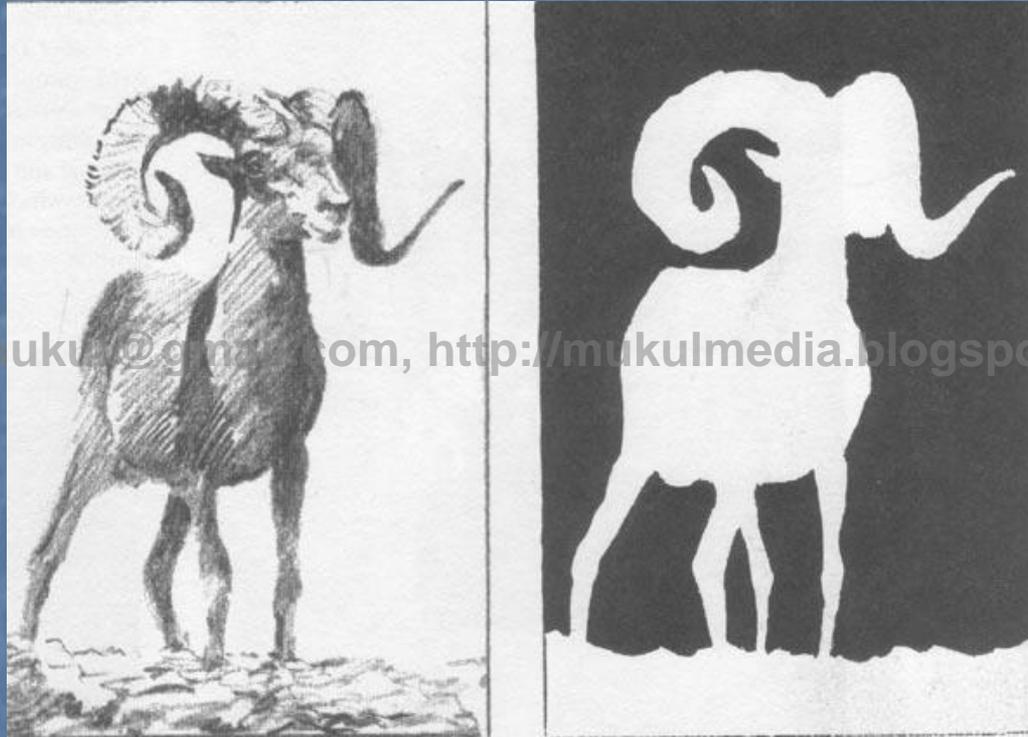
Actual textures can be felt with the fingers



While simulated textures are suggested by an artist in the painting of different areas of a picture — often in representing drapery, metals, rocks, hair, etc.

# Space

An element of art that refers to the distance or area between, around, above, below, or within things. It can be described as two-dimensional or three-dimensional; as flat, shallow, or deep; as positive or negative; and as actual, or illusory.



**The positive or negative area inside or outside your subject.**