

# Elements of Art

By Monica Galvan

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Artist Teacher Partnership



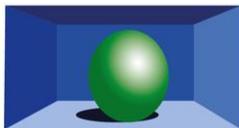
Grades: 6-12

Time: different for every student

Materials to use with all projects:

- Pencil
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- Printer paper
- Colored pencils
- Black ballpoint pen
- Ruler

There are 7 elements of art they are line, shape, color, form, value, texture and space. Artists use these elements to create visually compelling artworks. In this packet we will be exploring each of these elements a little more in depth. See image bellow for some extra info on 6 of the 7 elements.



## SPACE

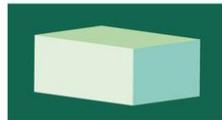
Space is the area between and around objects. The space around objects is often called negative space; negative space has shape. Space can also refer to the feeling of depth. Real space is three dimensional; in visual art, when we create the feeling or illusion of depth, we call it space.

## ELEMENTS OF ART

The elements of art are the building blocks used by artists to create a work of art.

## FORM

Forms are three-dimensional shapes expressing length, width, and depth. Balls, cylinders, boxes, and pyramids are forms.



## SHAPE

Shape is a closed line. Shapes can be geometric, like squares and circles; or organic, like free-form or natural shapes. Shapes are flat and can express length and width.



## COLOR

Color is light reflected off of objects. Color has three main characteristics: *hue* (the main property of color, what differentiates colors), *value* (how light or dark it is), and *intensity* (how bright or dull it is).

- White is pure light; black is the absence of light.

- *Primary colors* are the only true colors (red, blue, and yellow). All other colors are mixes of primary colors.

- *Secondary colors* are two primary colors mixed together (green, orange, violet).

- *Complementary colors* are located directly across from each other on the color wheel. Complementary pairs contrast because they share no common colors. For example, red and green are complements, because green is made of blue and yellow. When complementary colors are mixed together, they neutralize each other to make brown.



## LINE

A line is a mark with greater length than width. Lines can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal; straight or curved; thick or thin.

Texture is the surface quality that can be seen and felt. Textures can be rough or smooth, soft or hard. Textures do not always feel the way they look; for example, a drawing of a porcupine may look prickly, but if you touch the drawing, the paper is still smooth.

## TEXTURE



*\*Value can also be categorized as an element of art.*

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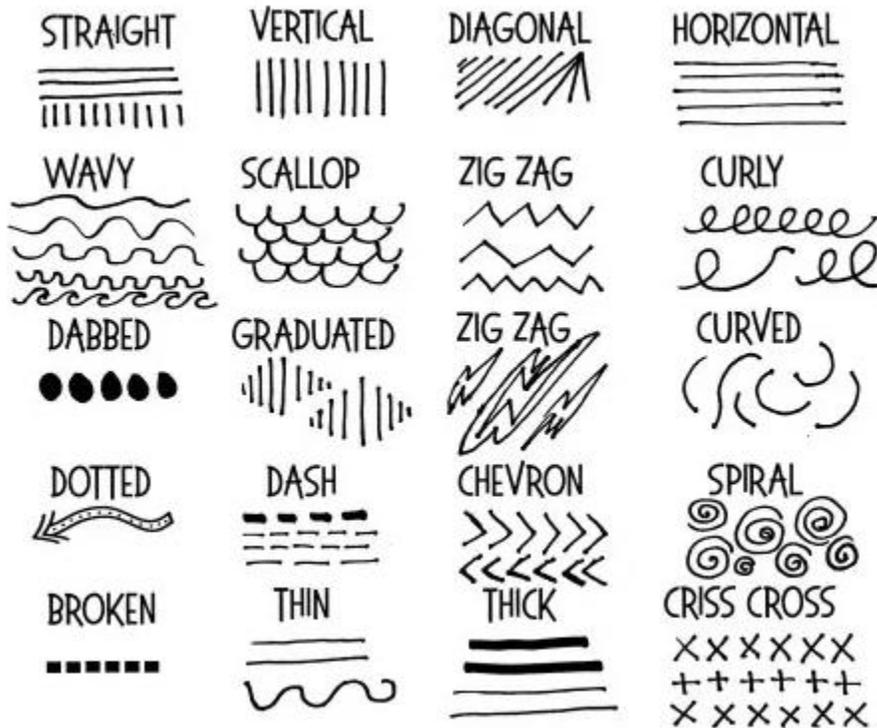
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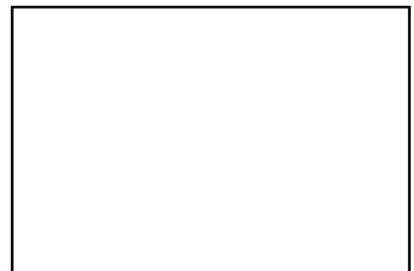
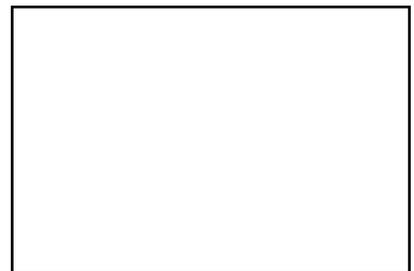
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**Line** is the connection of two points. How you connect those points depicts what type of line you are creating. Refer to the types of line bellow and create your own line combinations in the rectangles bellow. You can create a design or just practice creating line.



Fill in rectangles with designs using the types of line above as reference. Try using different drawing tools and notice their different line qualities. Colored pencils, graphite pencil or ballpoint pen can be used here.





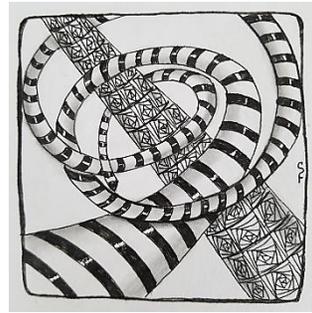
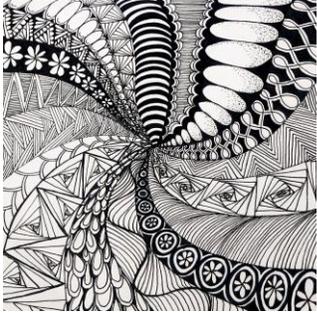
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A **Zentangle** is created by drawing structured patterns. We call these patterns, tangles. Creating these patterns are believed to create a sense of Zen (or relaxation) within their artists. In this exercise you will be filling in the square below with your own patterns using your new knowledge of line. There are a couple ways to start these; one is to create a line drawing of an object then filling that in with patterns; a second is to divide the square in some way (refer to the examples above) then adding patterns; the third is to start in a corner or the center and work your way out to all edges.



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**Shape** is defined as a flat, enclosed area of an artwork created through lines, textures, and colors. The artist Paul Klee (1879-1940) was a Swiss painter who lived in Germany. He was a pioneer of abstract art and used both line and shape to create compelling artworks. Look at Klee's work below, notice how he breaks down his subjects into its basic shapes. It is thought that all things found in nature can be reduced to shapes. In the

rectangle below create an artwork based on a photo (family photo, magazine photo, or image from the web) that is representative of Klee's style—created using basic shapes like circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, and ovals along with vibrant colors. Materials: Pencil and Colored Pencil



For Example, from ordinary cat to Paul Klee Cat



Use the rectangle on the next page to create your artwork!



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**Create your image horizontally or vertically. Don't forget to sign your artworks on the bottom right!**

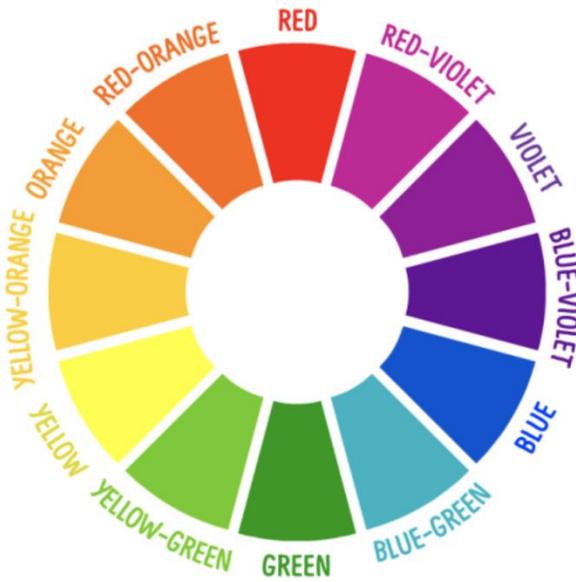
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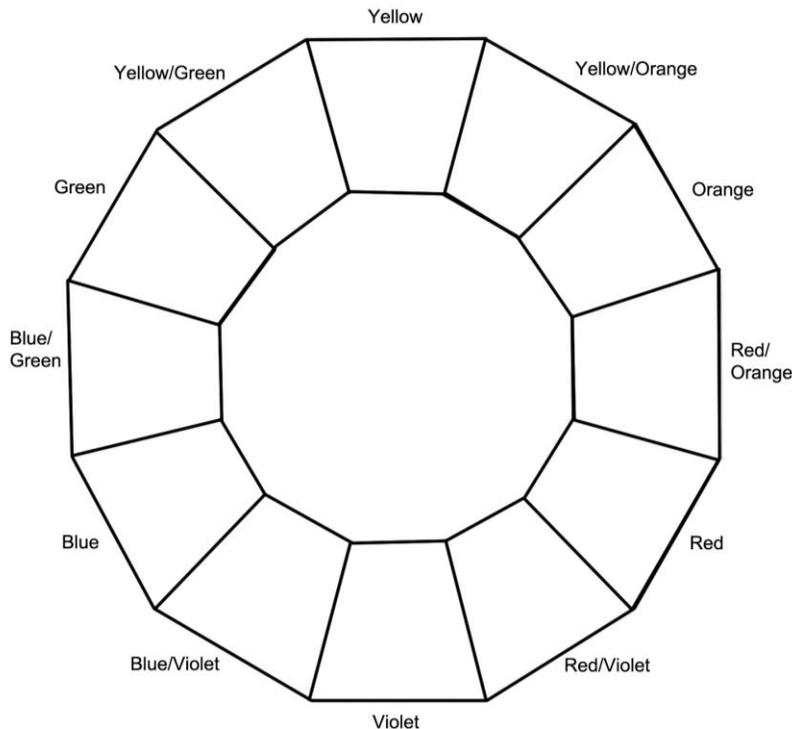
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**Color** is a great way to bring an artwork to life. The scientific definition of color is the property possessed by an object producing different sensations upon the eye as a result of the way the object reflects or emits light. The color wheel is an artist's best tool when it comes to deciding what colors to use in their artworks. As you may know Red, Blue and Yellow are primary colors. The primary colors are used to mix the secondary colors orange, green, and purple. Tertiary colors are combinations of primary and secondary colors. Refer to the color wheel image and create your own color wheel in the blank color wheel below. Layering colored pencils by shading lightly can create the color variation desired. Materials Colored Pencils.

Blank Color Wheel



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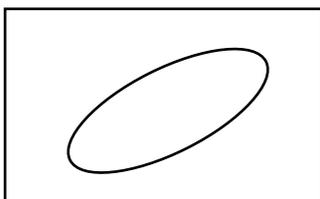
*Impressionists* use color in impeccable ways. Impressionism is a 19th-century art movement characterized by relatively small, thin, yet visible brush strokes, open compositions, use of complementary colors and emphasis on accurate depictions of light. Some well-known impressionists are Claude Monet, Renoir, Edward Manet, Edgar Degas, Paul Cezanne, Henri Matisse, and Marry Cassatt.



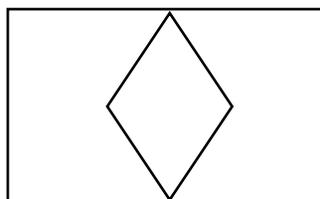
**Complementary colors** are colors opposite to one another on the color wheel. A colors complement can make it seem more brilliant by creating contrast. Look at the impressionist paintings above, do you see how the use of a colors complement can emphasize/ define the different elements in the paintings?

Now using the most common complimentary colors fill in the inner shapes below with one of the colors listed above each rectangle and the background should then be filled in with the other.

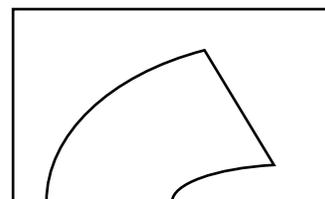
Red & Green



Orange & Blue



Purple & Yellow





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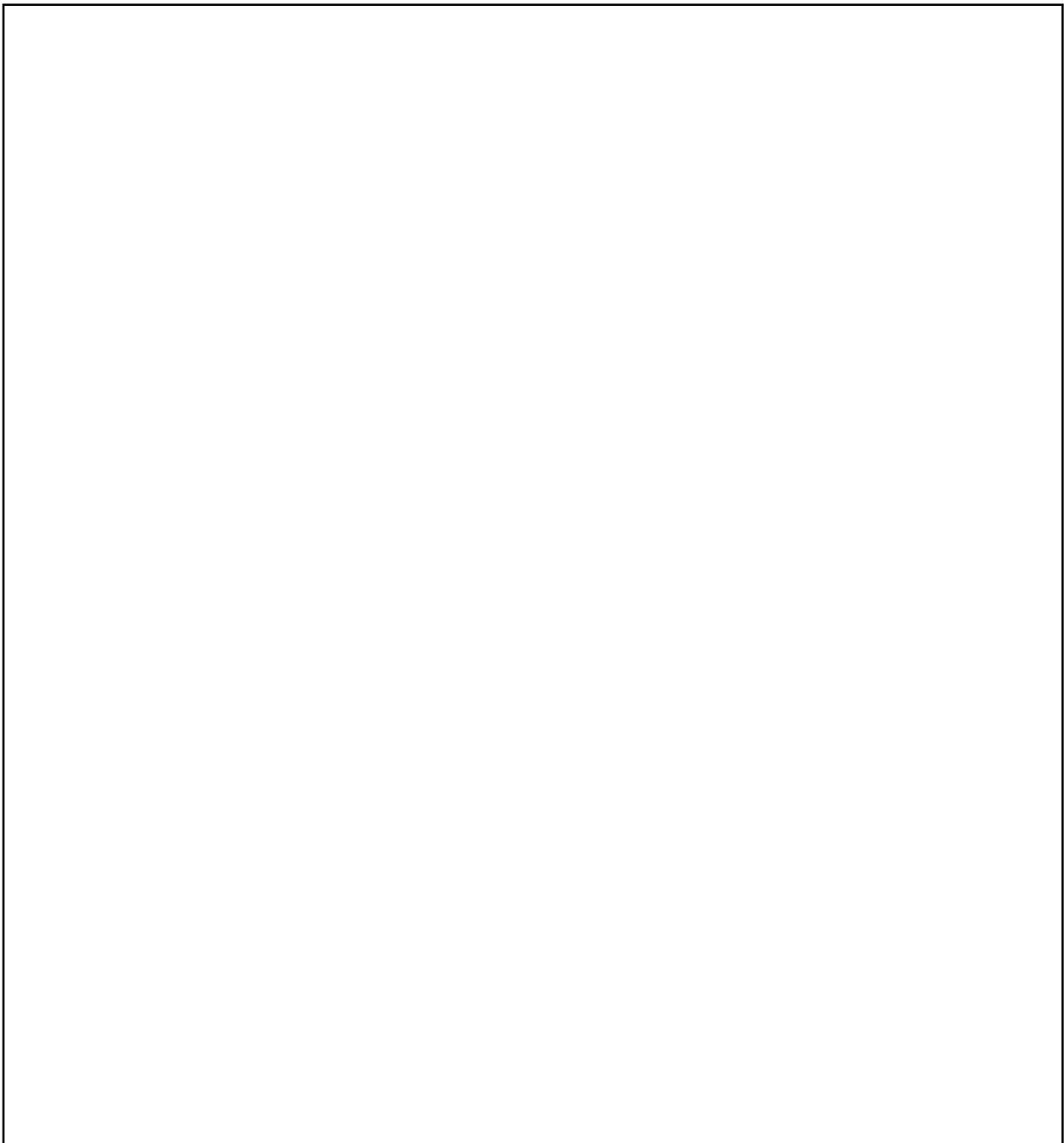
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Now that you have an idea of how color can act its magic in an art piece, create a work of art of your own using complementary colors. Remember you can use complementary colors with all intensities and mixed with other colors like the artists in the examples on the previous page. I recommend you set up a still life (an arrangement of items that are photographed, drawn, painted or sculpted) this can be of one object or many. Feel free to continue to work abstractly like in your previous artwork or try the depict the still life as best you can. Use the rectangle below to recreate your work of art using colored pencil and pencil.



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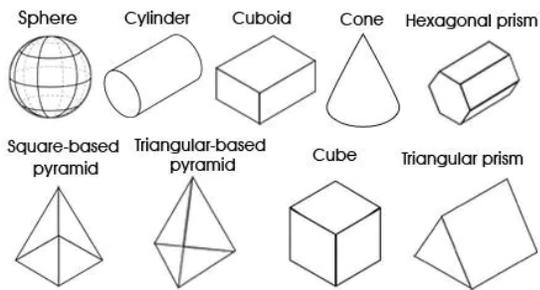
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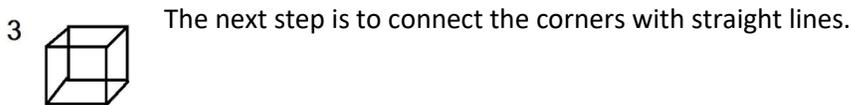
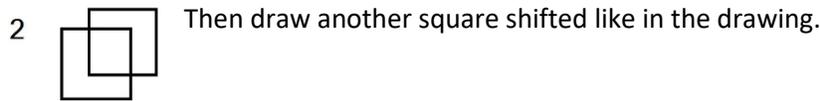
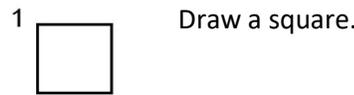
**Form** is a depiction of something that is three-dimensional and encloses volume, having length, width, and height, versus shape, which is two-dimensional, or flat. I like to think of form as a 3D shape. When drawing a form you are in essence drawing a series of connected shapes. A shape is a drawing of a single surface while a form depicts all surfaces (sides of an object) in view. Your angle of view is what determines what surfaces you draw when it comes to drawing from life or imagining a scene. Some common forms are cylinders, spheres, cubes, cuboids and pyramids.

## 3D Shapes



Now forms aren't complete until they are defined by **Value**. Before we get to value let's go over some quick ways to create 3D shapes by using the techniques shown below.

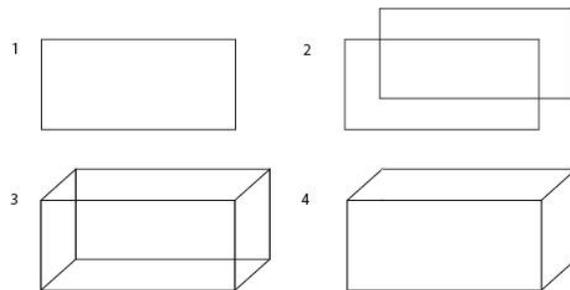
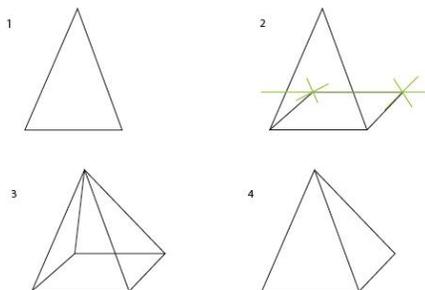
Let's start with a cube:



As you can see the cube looks see-through at this point. The final step is to determine the outside of the shape from the inside. Erase all inside view lines. For example:



After reviewing the steps for the other shapes below, it's your turn to try drawing a couple 3D shapes of your own.



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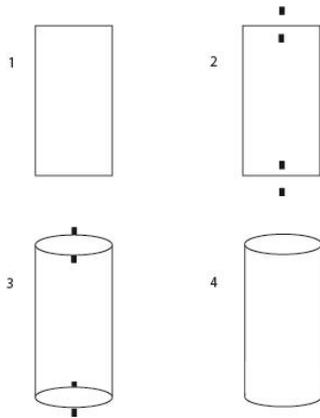
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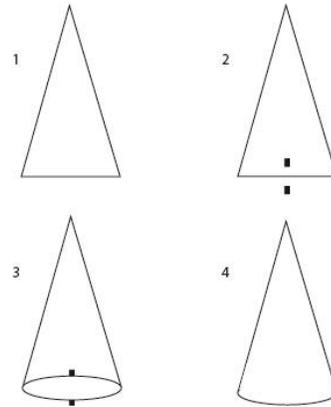
Pyramid



Cylinder

Now you try!

Cuboid



Cone

Cube	Cuboid	Pyramid
Cylinder	Cone	

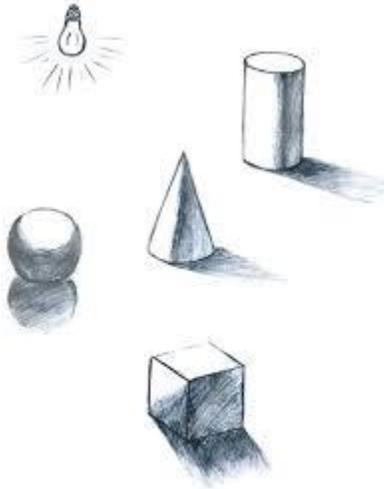
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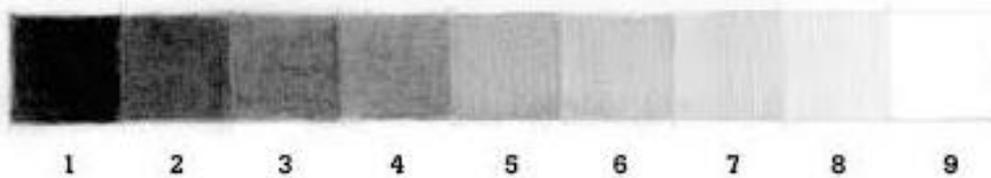
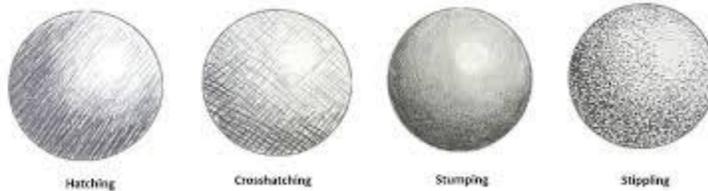
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Now that we have an idea of how to draw 3D shapes let's dive deeper into creating a realized form. **Value** refers to the gradual change of lightness or darkness of a color. It is created when a light source shines upon an object creating highlights, forming and casting shadows. Let's look at the shapes in the image to the left, see how adding shaded areas where light does not reach can create a recognizable form.

Value ranges from light to dark. A number 2 pencil can be used to create a range of values by hatching, crosshatching, stumping, or stippling.

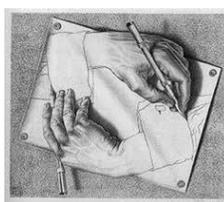
Graphite Shading Techniques



Use the Value scale to the left to guide you as you create your own below.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

See examples of artwork below!



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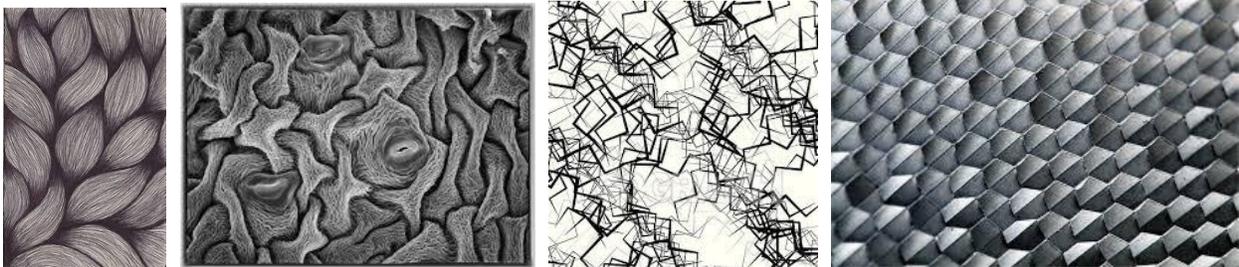
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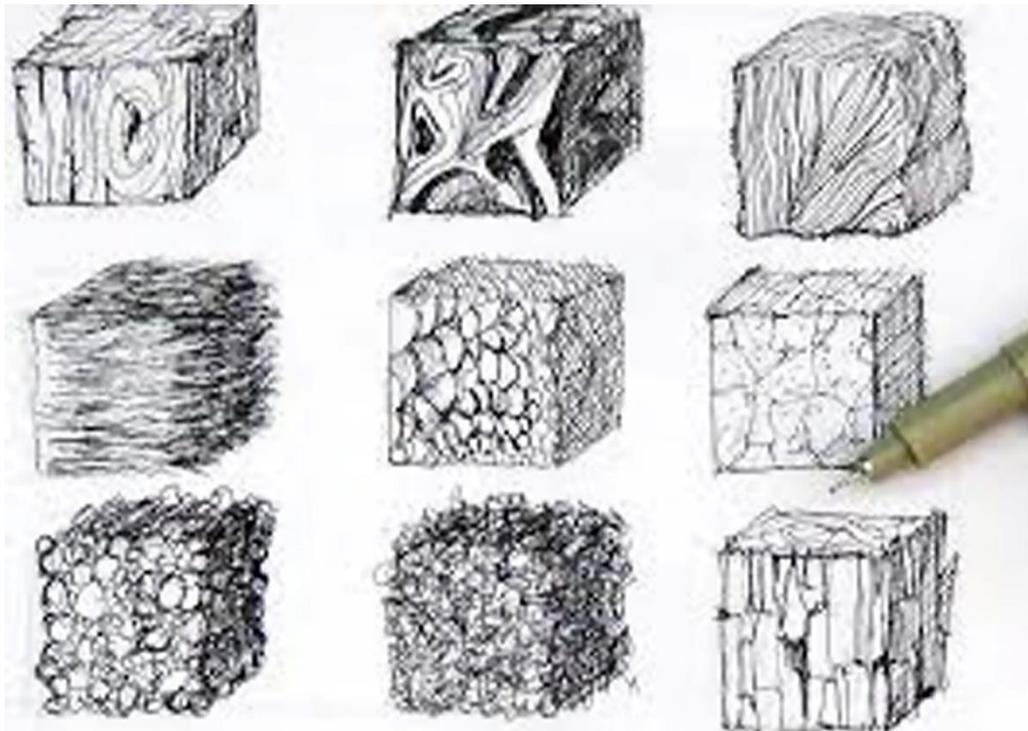
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**Texture** refers to the way an object feels to the touch or looks as it may feel if it were touched. Actual texture or real texture is when something feels as they appear. Implied texture is texture created to look like something but does not feel like that thing. Refer to the examples below of implied texture.



Look around you and notice any textures you may see close by, create 6 to 9 equal sized cubes on the next page and fill them in with your take on those textures! Use your pencil and colored pencils here. Remember to darken the surfaces of the cubes that do not have light shining on them. The yellow circle on the left can be used as the light source, it's a fact that as light goes out into space its intensity dissipates. Refer to the example below.





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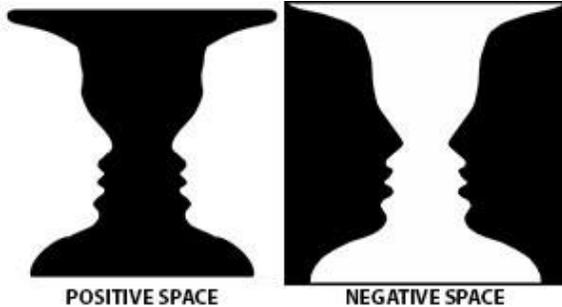
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The 7<sup>th</sup> element we will be covering here is space. **Space** refers to the distance between or the area around and within shapes, forms, colors and lines. Space can be positive or negative. It includes the background, foreground and middle ground.



Positive space is the area of an artwork that contains shapes and forms. Negative space is the area of an artwork that is empty of shapes or forms. See example to the left.



The foreground of a composition is the visual plane that appears closest to the viewer, while the background is the plane in a composition perceived furthest from the viewer. The middle ground is the visual plane located between both the foreground and background.

The image on the left contains an example of foreground, middle ground, and background.

Now that you have a handle on the 7 elements of art, create an art piece on the next page that contains all 7 elements. This can be of a scene in reality or from your imagination. Make sure to make use of a foreground, middle ground, and background. I have selected some art pieces for you to view below for some inspiration.





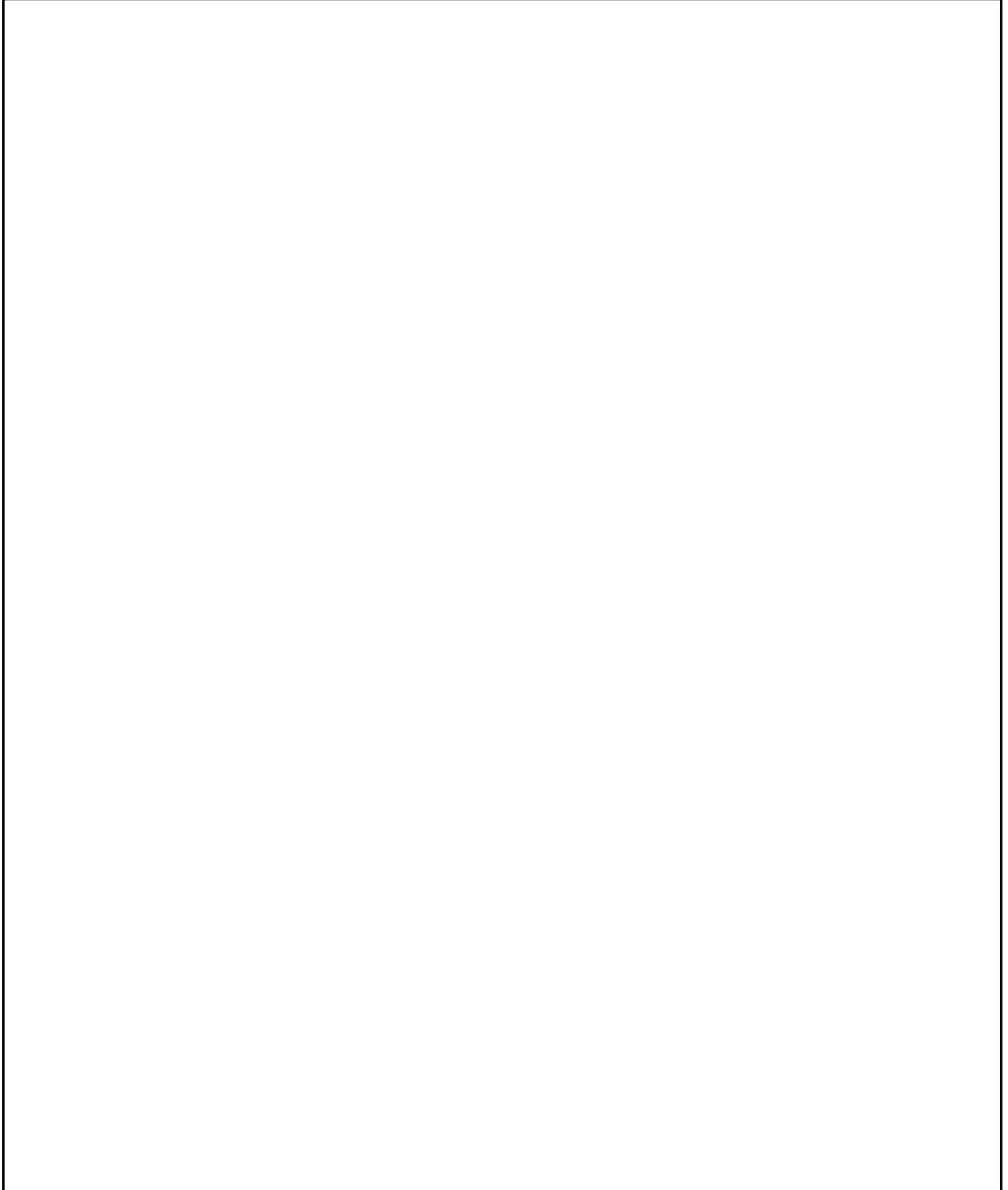
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I'd love to see what you came up with in this packet, send a picture of any or all of your artworks to my email [monicagalvanart@gmail.com](mailto:monicagalvanart@gmail.com)

Stay tuned for a packet on the principles of design coming soon!