

The Elements Of Art

the building blocks of art and design.

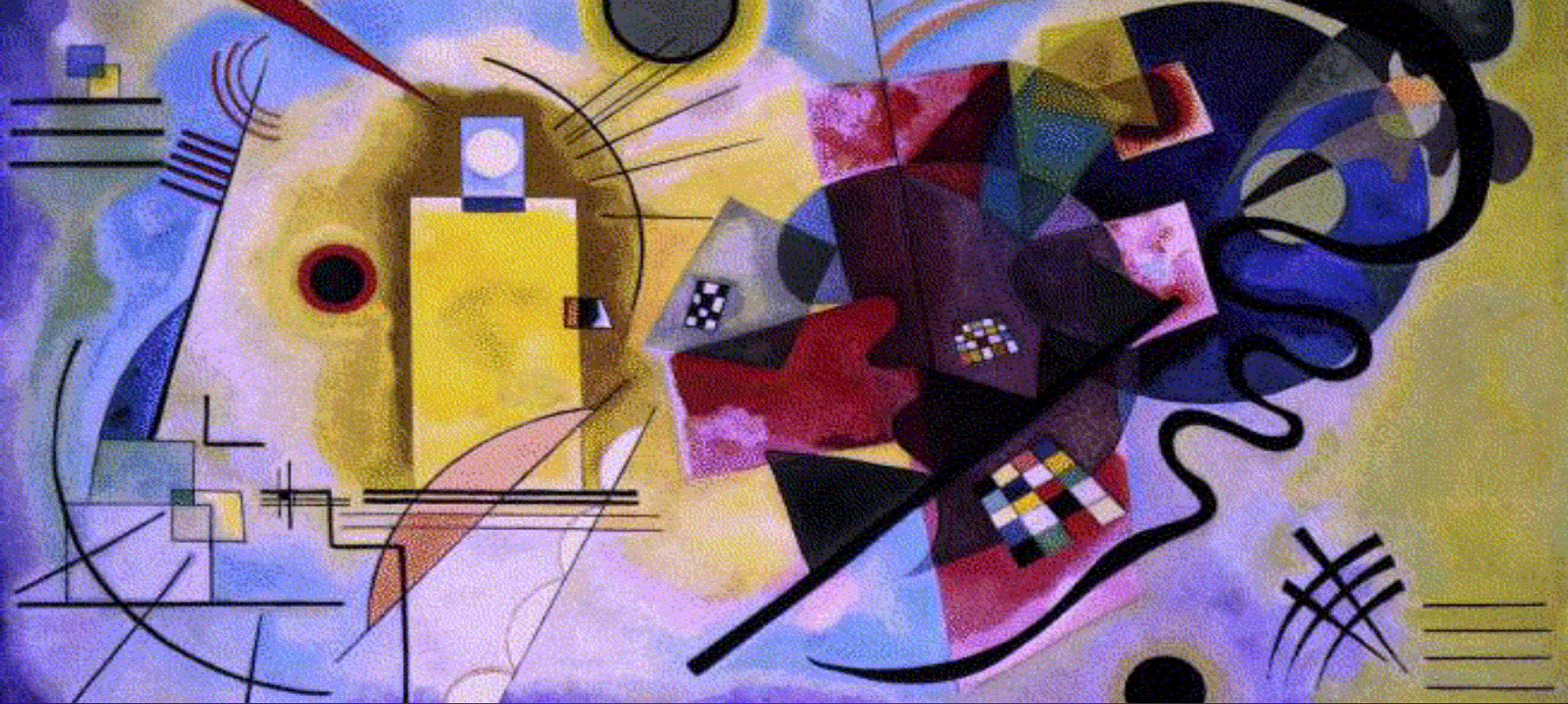
The Elements Of Art

An element of art is simply a **component**, like a tool, that the artist uses to accomplish what he/she sets out to create.

The Elements Of Art

There are a variety of elements which work together to help the artist express an idea or feeling. The question is, **do you see them?**

When looking at works of art.....



you see different **COLORS,**

Kandinsky – Yellow Red
Blue, 1925. Place of
Creation: Dessau-alten,
Germany.



you see different **VALUES**,

Vincent van Gogh.
The Starry Night.
Saint Rémy, June 1889



you see different **LINES**,

Composition in Blue, Grey and Pink
by Piet Mondrian (1872-1944,
Netherlands



you see different **TEXTURES**

Monet, Claude : Waterlilies:
Morning. Impressionism.



and SHAPES.

Joan Miró,
figures on a red background, 1939

The Elements Of Art

You see countless ways artists combine and organize these elements so their ideas and feelings can be communicated and understood by viewers.

The Elements Of Art

To fully understand a painting, a sculpture, or a building, you need to understand a **visual vocabulary** and recognize how it is used to produce successful works of art, or in our case, designs.

The Elements Of Art

There are Seven
Elements of Art:

LINE

VALUE

SHAPE

FORM

SPACE

COLOR

TEXTURE

The Elements Of Art

1. LINE

The path of a point moving through space is a **LINE**.

A line is the most basic element of art, and is absolutely essential in creating art.

Lines may be explicit or implied.



Matisse 72/100

Line - explicit

Henri Matisse
Madonna and Child · 1950 - 1951



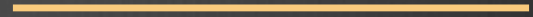
Line - implied

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Characteristics of a Line

WIDTH

Thick



Thin



Tapering

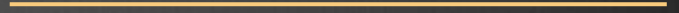


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Characteristics of a Line

LENGTH

Long



Short



Continuous



Broken

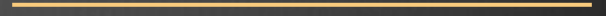


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Characteristics of a Line

DIRECTION

Horizontal



Vertical



Diagonal



Curvilinear



Perpendicular



Parallel



Zigzag





HORIZONTAL LINE suggests a feeling of rest or repose. Objects parallel to the earth are at rest in relation to gravity. Therefore compositions in which horizontal lines dominate tend to be quiet and restful in feeling. One of the hallmarks of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural style is its use of strong horizontal elements which stress the relationship of the structure to the land.



VERTICAL LINES communicate a feeling of loftiness and spirituality. Vertical lines seem to extend upwards beyond human reach, toward the sky. They often dominate public architecture, from cathedrals to corporate headquarters. Extended perpendicular lines suggest an overpowering grandeur, beyond ordinary human measure.



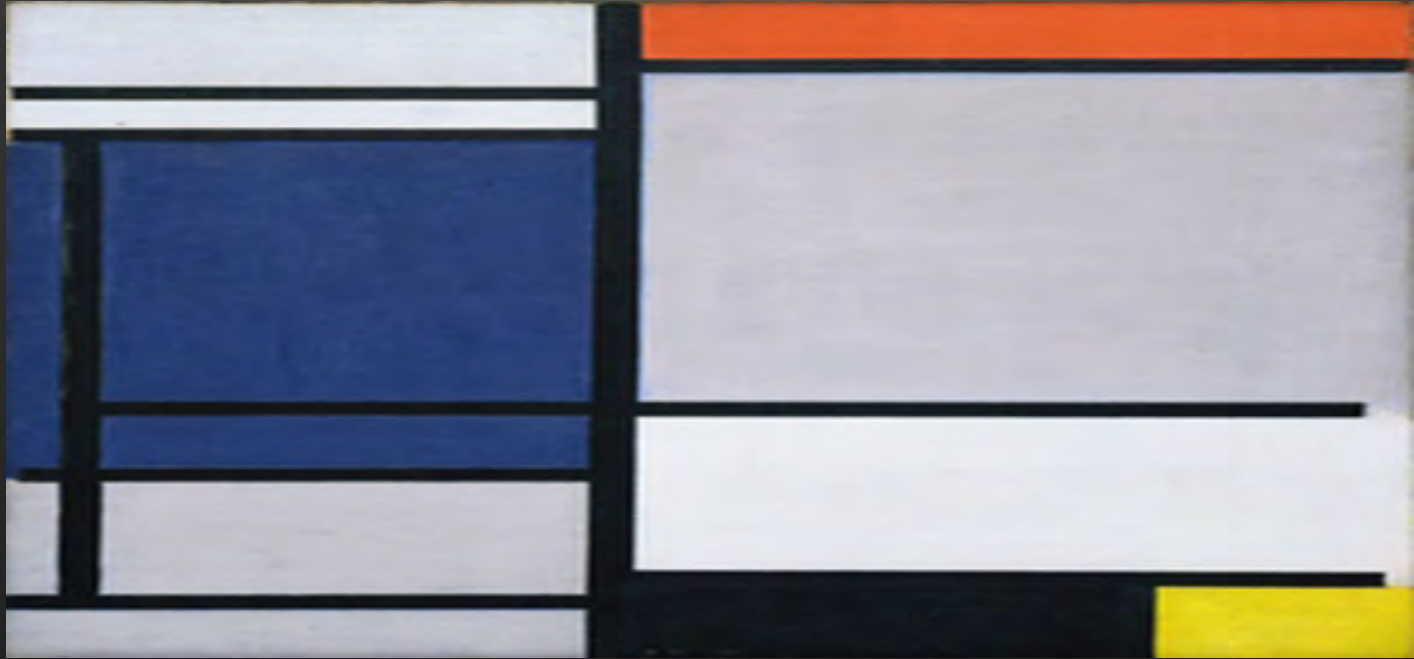
DIAGONAL LINE

Eduard Munch used the diagonal line in “The Scream” to bring our eye to the subject.



CURVILINEAR LINE

Curvilinear line create a flowing movement which creates a sense of movement.



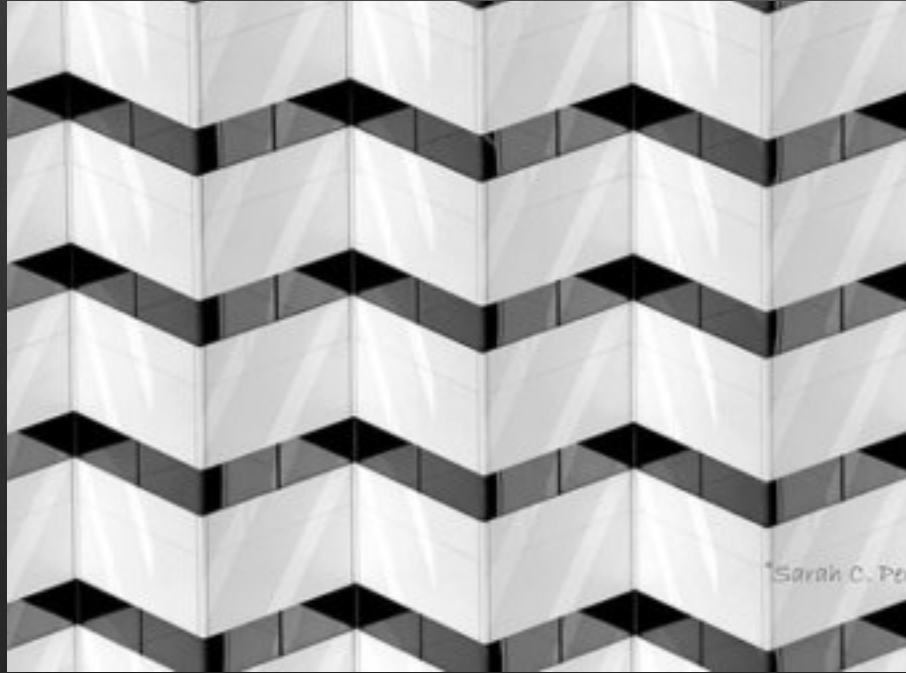
PERPENDICULAR LINE

Lines that are intersecting at 90° to each other.
Perpendicular lines create tension in the design.



PARALLEL LINE

Parallel lines create a synergy or unity in the design.



ZIGZAG LINE

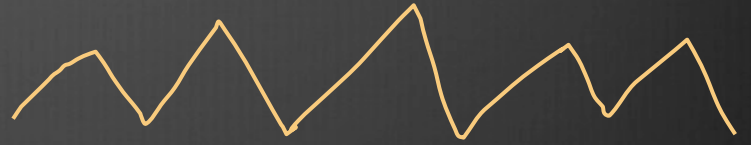
An angular shape characterized by sharp turns in alternating directions. In this example we get a sense of depth or dimension

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Characteristics of a Line

TEXTURE

Jagged



Graceful





JAGGED LINE

A line with a sharply uneven surface or outline



GRACEFUL LINE

The graceful line creates a soft, gentle, elegant feeling.

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Characteristics of a Line

EMOTION

Anger, Joy, Sad, Excitement





This artist used an uneven outline with thick and thin, curved and jagged lines to suggest the nervous energy of his subject.

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Types of Line

Outlines- Lines made by the edge of an object or its silhouette.

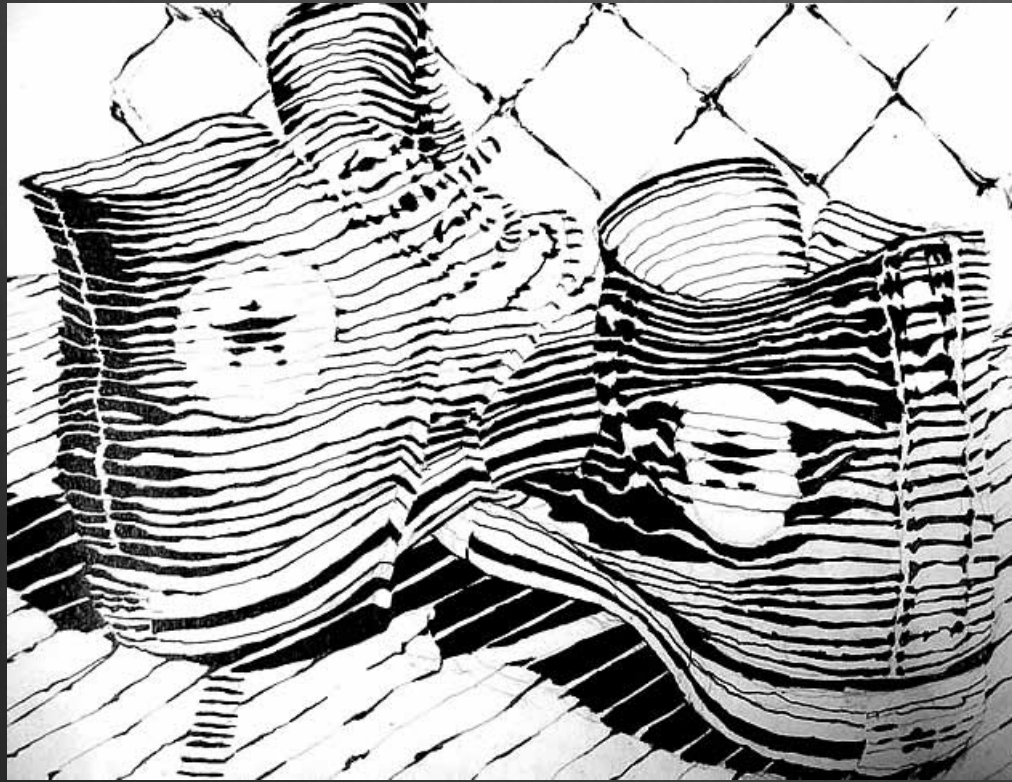
Contour Lines- Lines that describe the shape of an object and the interior detail.

Expressive Lines- Line that are energetic and catches the movement and gestures of an active figure.



OUTLINE

Lines made by the edge of an object or its silhouette.
Defines the general shape



CONTOUR LINE

Define or create the dramatic changes of plane within a form



GESTURE LINE

Line that are energetic and catches the movement and gestures of an active figure.

2. SHAPE

A **SHAPE** is an element of art.

Specifically, it is an *enclosed space*

Shapes are limited to two dimensions:
height and width.

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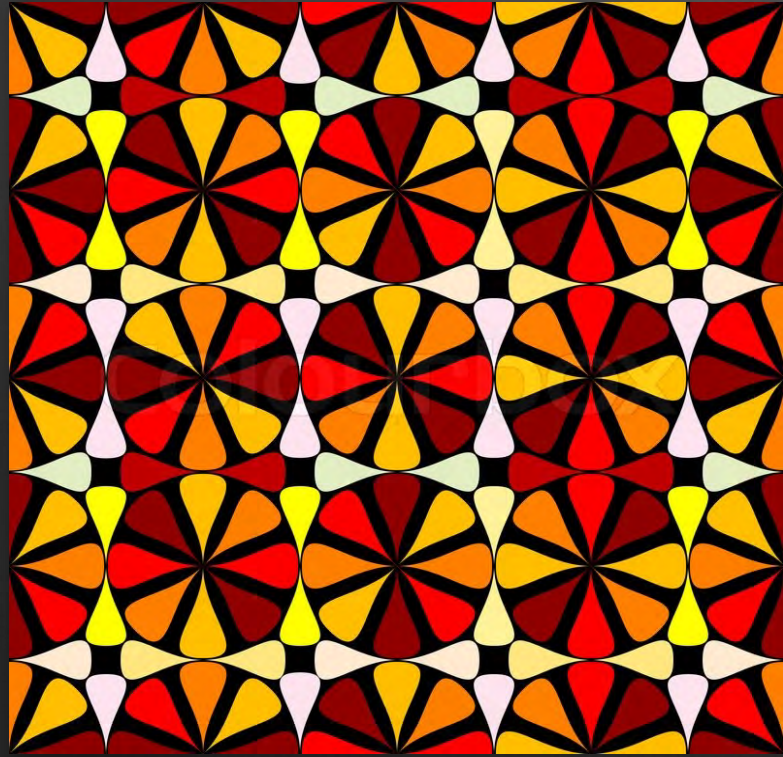
Categories of Shape

GEOMETRIC Shapes

Are man-made.

You must use a tool such as a ruler, straight edge or compass to make this type of shape.

We see them in architecture and manufactured items.



Geometric Shape

Circles, Squares, rectangles and triangles are examples of geometric shapes



Geometric Shape

Wassily Kandinski (1866 – 1944)
'Concentric Circles'



Geometric Shape

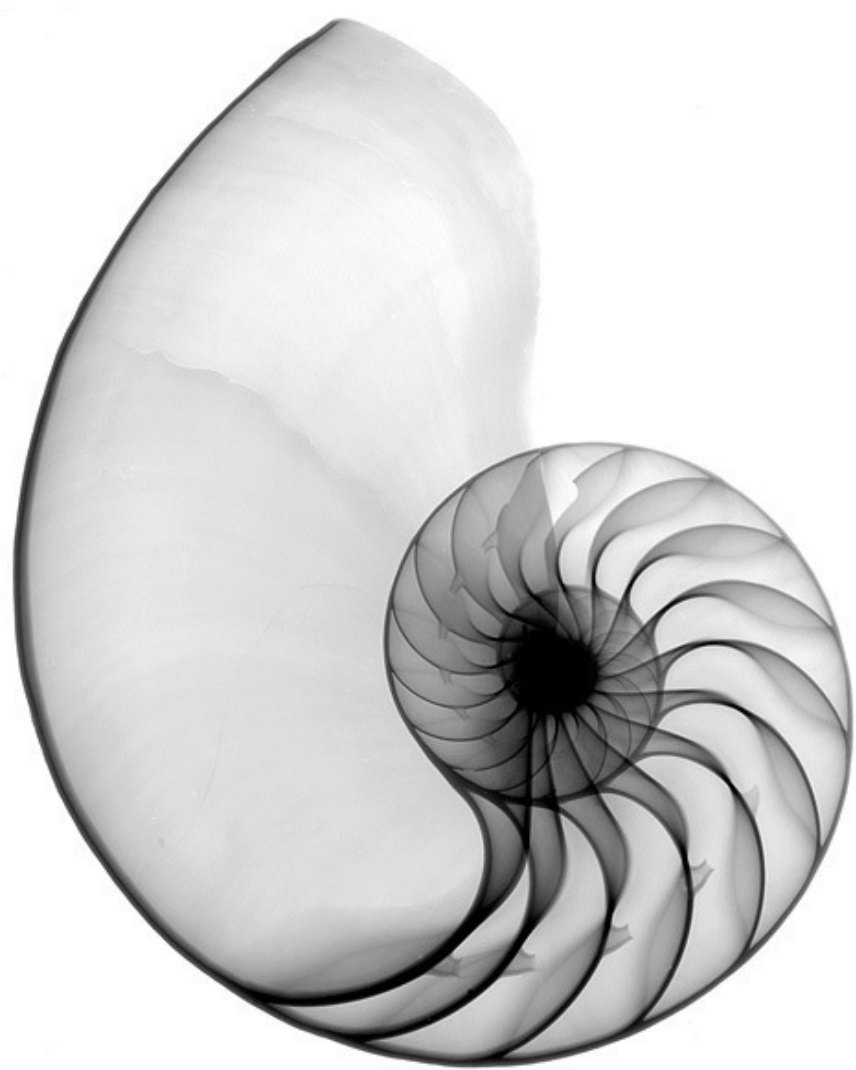
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Categories of Shape

ORGANIC Shapes

Are nature-made

We see them in nature and with characteristics that are free flowing, informal and irregular.



Organic Shape

organic shapes found under water-shaped, sculpted and cultivated. These are perfect natural beauties.



Organic Shape

Organic shapes are natural looking and flowing shapes. They are more rounded and curved in appearance.



Organic Shape

Georgia O'Keeffe. Completion Date: 1927.

Style: Precisionism.

3. FORM

All forms first begin with a shape.

On a flat surface, an artist will create the illusion of a 3 dimensional form through the use of value (shading) and space.

3. FORM

A shape is 2-dimensional; it has only height and width

A form is 3-dimensional: it has height, width and DEPTH

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Form



Square



Cube



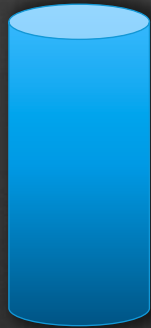
Triangle



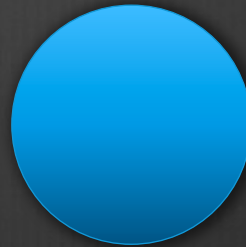
Pyramid



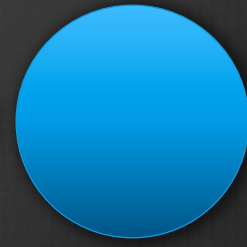
Rectangle



Cylinder



Circle



Sphere



FORM

The Easter Island statues may have been created in the image of various paramount chiefs. They were not individualized portrait sculptures, but standardized representations of powerful individuals.



FORM

PAGE by Erik Deckers - Sculpture outside the IU Art Museum.

4. SPACE

SPACE refers to distances or areas around, between or within components of a piece.

Space can be *positive* (white or light) or *negative* (black or dark), *open* or *closed*, *shallow* or *deep* and *two-dimensional* or *three-dimensional*.

4. SPACE

There are six ways to create the illusion of space on a 2-dimensional surface.

Overlapping

Size

Placement on the surface

Detail

Color and Value

Linear Perspective



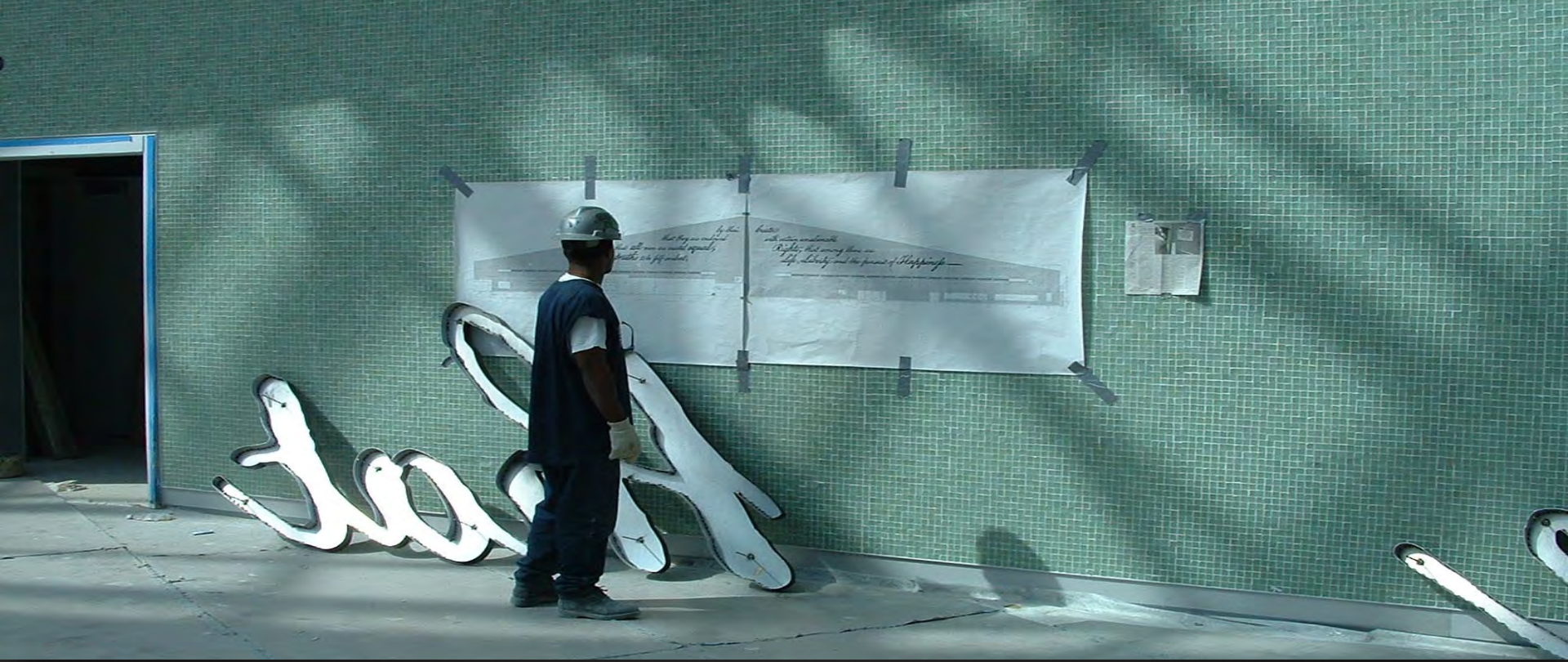
POSITIVE SPACE

is the actual sculpture or building.



NEGATIVE SPACE

is the space inside and around the sculpture or building.



COMPOSITION

is the organization and placement of the elements on your picture plane.



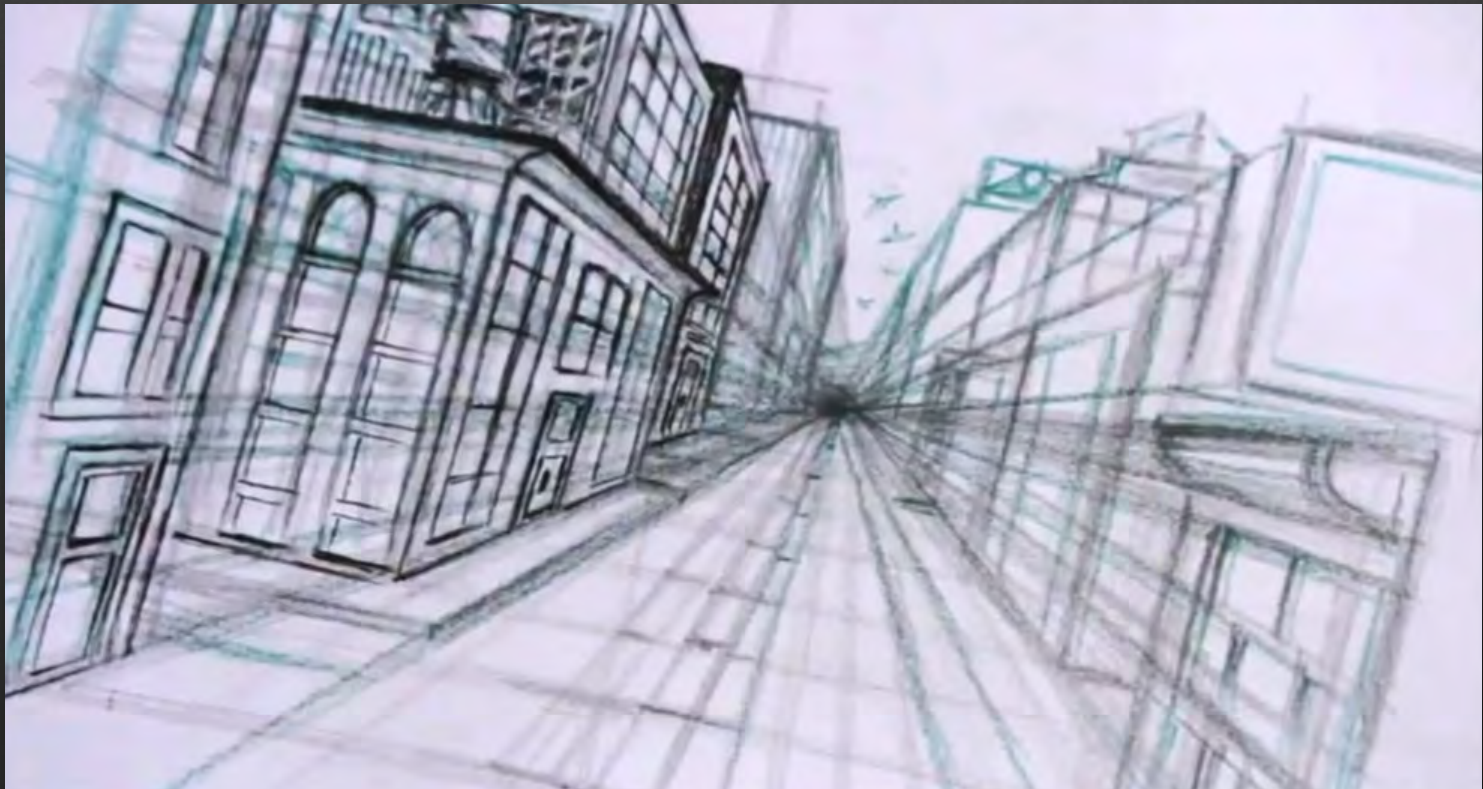
FOCAL POINT

is the object or area you want the viewer to look at first.



LINEAR PERSPECTIVE

is the method of using lines to show the illusion of depth in a picture. The following are types of linear perspective.

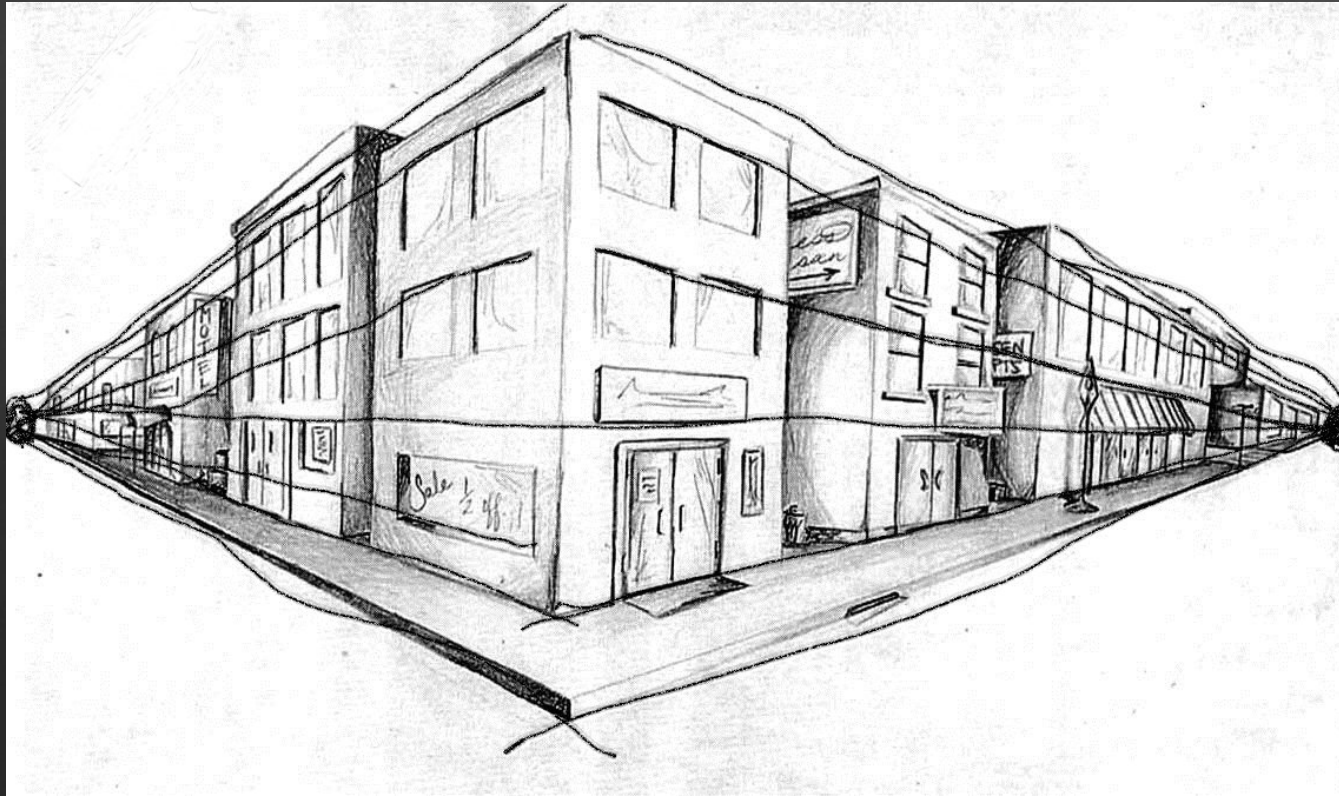


LINEAR PERSPECTIVE

One point perspective uses one vanishing point to accomplish this illusion.



SPACE – One Point Perspective



TWO POINT PERSPECTIVE - uses two vanishing points to create the illusion of space.



SPACE – Two point perspective



SPACE – Positive (filled with something). Negative (empty areas).

5. TEXTURE

TEXTURE is used to describe either the way a three-dimensional work *actually* feels when touched, or the *visual* "feel" of a two-dimensional work.

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Categories of Texture

REAL TEXTURE is the actual texture of an object. Artist may create real texture in art to give it visual interest or evoke a feeling.

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Categories of Texture

IMPLIED TEXTURE is where a piece of art is made to look like a certain texture. Like a drawing of a tree trunk may look rough but in fact it is just a smooth piece of paper



REAL TEXTURE – Smooth



IMPLIED TEXTURE – SMOOTH



REAL TEXTURE – ROUGH



IMPLIED TEXTURE – ROUGH

6. VALUE

VALUE refers to the lightness or darkness of a color.

Value becomes critical in a work which has no colors other than black, white, and a gray scale.

6. VALUE

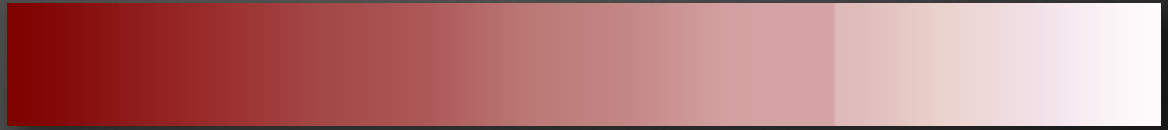
For a great example of value in action, think of a black and white photograph. You can easily visualize how the infinite variations of gray suggest planes and textures.



VALUE – Greyscale

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Categories of Value



Tint is adding white to a color to create lighter values such as sky blue or pink.

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Categories of Value



Shade is adding black to a color to create darker values such as indigo or maroon.

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Categories of Value



High-Key is where the picture is all light values.

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Categories of Value



Low-Key is where the picture is all dark values.

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Categories of Value



Value Contrast is where light values are placed next to dark values to create contrast or strong differences.

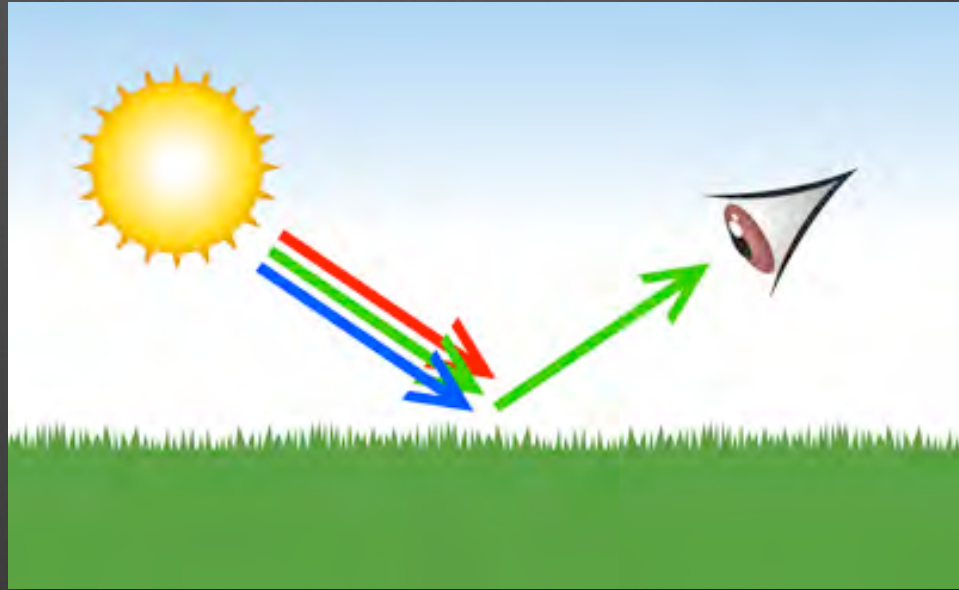
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Categories of Value



Value Scale is a scale that shows the gradual change in value from its lightest value, white to its darkest value black.

7. COLOR



COLOR is the element of art that is produced when light, striking an object, is reflected back to the eye.

7. COLOR

There are three (3) properties to color.

First is **HUE**, which simply means the name we give to a color (red, yellow, blue, etc.)

7. COLOR

The second property is **INTENSITY**, which refers to the strength and vividness of the color.

For example, we may describe the color blue as "royal" (bright, rich, vibrant) or "dull" (grayed).

7. COLOR

The third and final property of color is its **VALUE**, meaning its lightness or darkness.

The terms **SHADE** and **TINT** are in reference to value changes in colors.

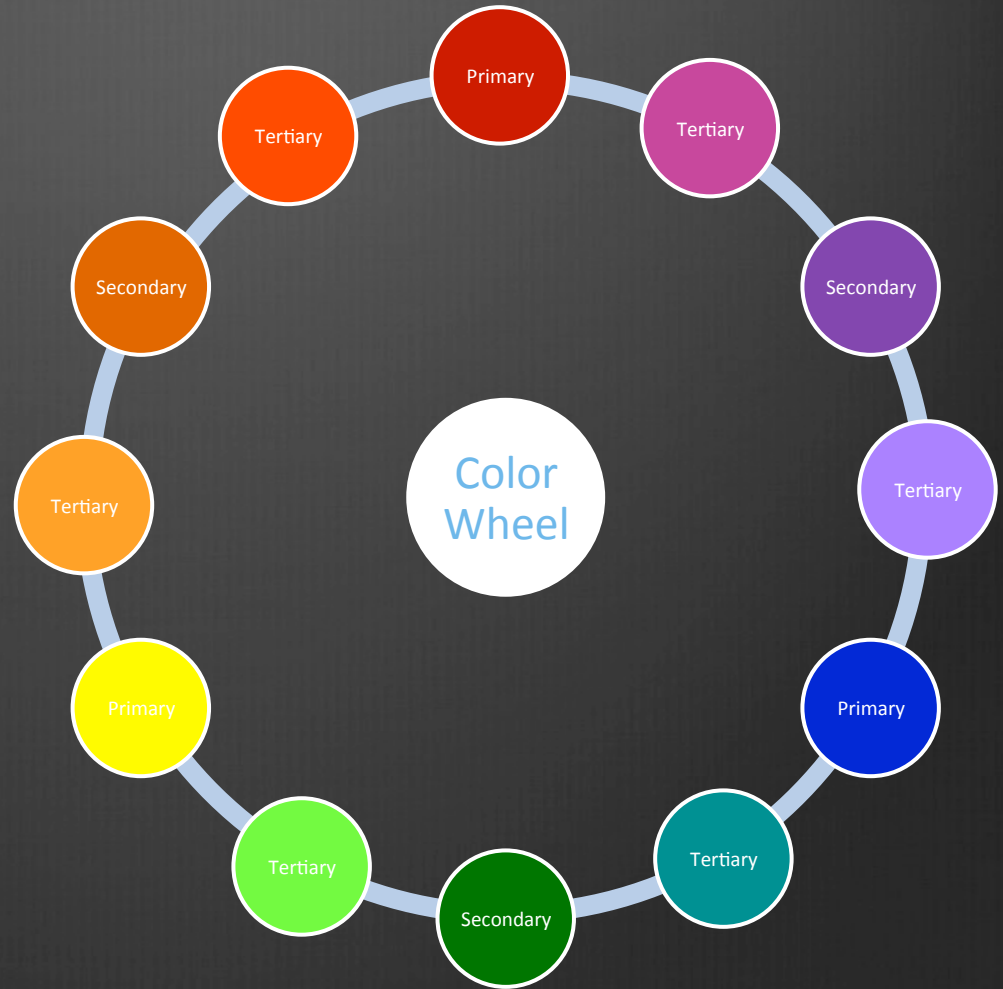
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Categories of Color

The **Color Wheel** is a tool used to organize color. Within it, there are **3 divisions of color**.

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The Color Wheel



The Elements Of Art

Categories of Color

The **Color Wheel** is a tool used to organize color.

Within it, there are **3 divisions of color**.



PRIMARY – Red, Yellow, Blue

You can not mix colors to get any one of these primary colors



SECONDARY COLORS - Orange, Violet, Green
These colors are created by mixing two primaries.



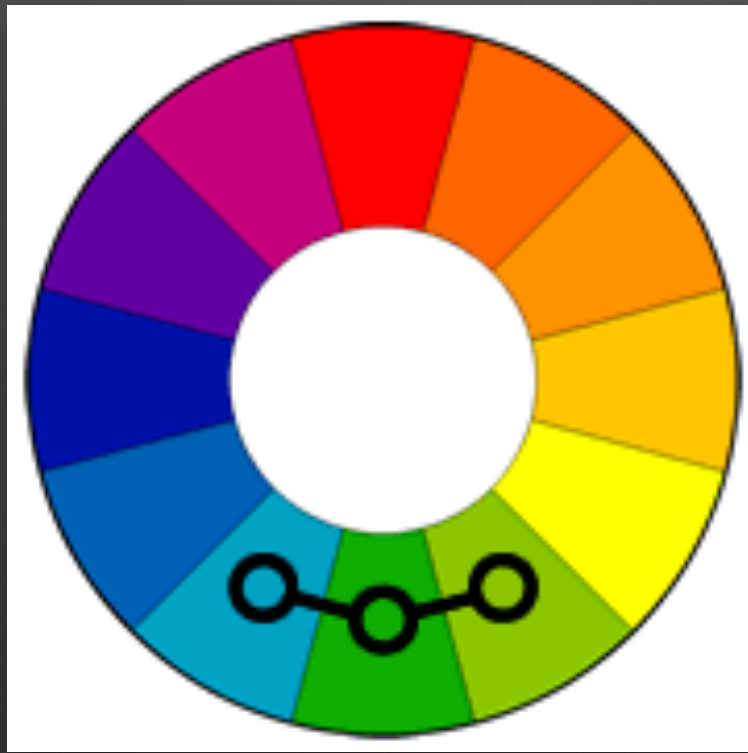
TERTIARY COLORS - Red Orange, Yellow Green, Blue Violet, etc.;
mixing a primary with a secondary creates these colors.

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Color Groups

The **Color Wheel** is a tool used to organize color.

Within it, there are **color groups**.



ANALOGOUS COLORS - The analogous colors are those colors which lie on either side of any given color, and who share a common color. In this example, they share green.



ANALOGOUS COLORS



COMPLIMENTARY COLORS - are colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel. When placed next to each other they look bright and when mixed together they neutralize each other.



COMPLIMENTARY COLORS



WARM COLORS - are on one side of the color wheel and they give the feeling of warmth for example red, orange and yellow are the color of fire and feel warm.



WARM COLORS

Georgia O'Keefe – POPPIES (1928)



COOL COLORS - are on the other side of the color wheel and they give the feeling of coolness for example blue, violet, are the color of water, and green are the color of cool grass.



GUNS N' ROSES USE YOUR ILLUSION II

COOL COLORS

Mark Kotsabi - The School of Athens (Scuola di Atene)



MONOCHROMATIC Harmony – A monochromatic object or image has colors in shades of limited colors or hues.



MONOCHROMATIC Harmony

A **monochromatic** object or image has colors in shades of limited colors or hues.

