

# Elements of Design

## Guidelines For Art Print Discussion

- 1. LINE** – Is line an important part of this art work? Describe the quality of the line. Are most of the lines curved and flowing or are they straight and static?  
Lines can be: thick, thin, long, short, straight, curved, jagged, graceful, flowing, light, dark, solid, broken, weak, strong, forceful, elegant, crude, directional, horizontal, vertical...etc.  
Lines can create: rhythm (a pattern of movement), illusion of depth, illusion of texture, informative symbols, and mood or emotion.
- 2. SHAPE** – What shapes has the artist used in the artwork? Has the artist mainly used organic (natural) shapes or geometric shapes? Has the artist repeated the shapes to create rhythm or movement?  
Shapes can be: geometric or organic, realistic (representational), abstract (symbolic or simplified) or nonobjective (nonrepresentational). Shapes can appear flat and two-dimensional or can suggest forms that are three-dimensional.  
Shapes can create: the same illusions and feelings as line, (pattern, depth, texture, symbol or mood, and emotions.)
- 3. COLOR** – Is color an important part of the artwork? What primary and secondary colors are used in the artwork? Has the artist used many colors or just a few colors in the work? Has the artist used light and dark values of color in the work? Are the colors in the artwork mainly warm or cool colors? Has the artist used the color to help give the art work certain feelings or emotions? Has the artist used color to draw attention to a specific element?
- 4. TEXTURE** – What kinds of texture do you see in the artwork? Has the artist used texture to make objects look more realistic? Has the artist used texture to make the shapes more decorative and interesting? Does the texture add feeling and emotion to the artist's work?  
Texture can be: actual (real) or simulated. Simulated texture is not actually rough or smooth, but appears to have texture through the use of lines, shapes, colors, and / or value changes.  
Texture can create: rhythm and movement, illusion of depth, and feeling or emotion.
- 5. SPACE** – Is the artwork flat or is there an illusion of depth? Are some of the shapes overlapping to indicate distance? Are some of the shapes smaller to make them appear further away? Is perspective used in the artwork?  
Space can be: defined as the area surrounding all shapes. Space can be positive or negative.  
Space can create: rhythm and movement, illusion of depth, and feeling or emotion.