

ELEMENTS OF ART

LINE

A line is the path of a point moving through space. Lines help move our eyes through artwork. Lines can be straight, curvy, long, or short.

- **Where do you see lines in this artwork?**
- **How do lines move our eyes around this artwork?**
- **Do lines make this artwork seem larger or smaller than it actually is?**



Great Distance, James Swinnerton

COLOR

Color comes from how light bounces off or is absorbed by an object. Colors help artists show emotion and create special art.



Warchief of Santa Clara Brazzillio Herrera—Dark Cloud, Henry Balink

- **What colors do you see in this artwork?**
- **Why do you think there are so many colors in this artwork?**
- **How do the colors in this artwork make you feel?**

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FORM

Form is a three-dimensional object . Forms are created in real life, or can be made to look real in paintings or drawings.



Indian Warrior, A. Phimister Proctor

- **This form is a bronze sculpture.**
- **What shapes do you see in this form?**
- **Have you seen a form like this in your life?**
- **Does this form look like it's moving or standing still?**

SHAPE

Shape is like form, but is always two-dimensional. Examples of shapes are squares, circles, and triangles.

- **What shapes can you find in this artwork?**
- **Most of the shapes in this artwork show different kinds of jewelry. Have you ever seen jewelry in these shapes or others?**
- **Use your imagination and find other, less obvious, shapes in this artwork.**



Chief White Eagle, E. L. Waldo

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TEXTURE

Texture is what an item feels like, or looks like it feels like. Examples of texture are soft, hard, rough, and smooth.



Crossed Trails, John Clymer

- **What textures can you see in this artwork?**
- **Does it look like the rocks are hard or soft? What about the bear? What about the snow?**
- **Talk about how you know the texture of the different items in the artwork.**

VALUE

Value is how dark or light a color is. This is also called *contrast*.

- **Where do you see light in the artwork? Where do you see dark?**
- **Where is the light coming from in this artwork?**
- **How do you feel when you look at the light and the dark in this artwork?**



Mount Corcoran, Southern Sierra, Nevada, Albert Bierstadt

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SPACE

Space is how an artwork shows distance. Artists often show space by drawing things smaller in the back, and larger in the front.



Unwritten History, E. W. Gollings

- **How can you tell what items are far away in the artwork, and which are up close?**
- **Point to examples of how the artist uses space in this artwork.**
- **Does the use of space make this artwork seem larger or smaller than it really is?**