

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

RHYTHM

The repetition or alteration of elements to create a feeling of movement or flow.



Navajo Fire Dance, William R. Leigh

- **What elements/figures are used multiple times in this painting?**
- **The figures in this painting are dancing. Which way are they moving and how can you tell?**
- **Pretend like you are at this “Fire Dance.” What kind of music do you think is playing?**

BALANCE

The distribution of elements to create a sense of order. Can be asymmetrical (different, but equally weighted figures) or symmetrical (uses the same figures).



Switchback, Tim Shinabarger

- **Does this bronze use symmetrical or asymmetrical figures to demonstrate balance?**
- **When a design is unbalanced, it can feel unstable. Would removing one of the horses (or one of the horses feet from the “ground”) make this piece feel less stable? Why?**

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CONTRAST

The placement of opposite elements (light and dark, rough and smooth, small and large, etc.) to create visual interest.



Kewa Pueblo Pottery, Woolaroc Museum

- **What opposite elements does this artist use to create contrast?**
- **Imagine that the artist did *not* use contrast when they painted this vase. What do you think the vase would have looked like? Do you like it better *with* contrast or *without*?**

MOVEMENT

The path your eyes take as you look at a piece of art. Artists create a sense of movement by using lines, shapes, and contrast.

- **How does the artist create a sense of movement in this art? Do you see lines, certain shapes, or contrast?**
- **This painting is called *West Wind*. What way is the wind blowing and how can you tell?**



West Wind, Wilson Hurley

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REPETITION

Reusing the same or similar element throughout a design.



Third Phase Navajo Chief Blanket, Woolaroc Museum

- **What elements of art do you see in this work? (Lines, shapes, colors, etc.)**
- **Discuss how these elements are used/repeated in the work/what patterns do you see?**

CENTER OF INTEREST (EMPHASIS)

A focal point that attracts the viewer's eye. Artists create a center of interest by minimizing other elements to bring attention to a single point.

- **What do you think is the focal point of this image?**
- **How does the artist draw your attention to this point? Is it darker/lighter, smaller/bigger, etc.**
- **What other things do you see in this image once you start looking around?**



Ruins of an Old Church, Cuernavaca, Thomas Moran