THE ELEMENTS OF VISUAL ART

BRAINWORKS
Berkshire Regional Arts Integration Network
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LINE
A mark made by the path of a point moving through space. Lines can be horizontal, vertical, ordiagonal; they can vary in width, direction, and length.

SHAPE
A closed line; shapes can be geometric, often made up of straight edges, or they can be organic and made up of irregular, free-form edges; shapes are flat and can be a defined length and width.

COLOR
The response of the eyes to different wavelengths of light reflecting off objects; color can be defined by any of its three properties: hue (or name, such as red, blue, or green), intensity, and value.

TEXTURE
The quality of a surface that can be seen and felt; rough, smooth, bumpy, and so on; texture can be real or implied, meaning that a surface can have a physical texture or visually appear to have a texture even though the surface is flat.

FORM
A three-dimensional shape that can be expressed by length, width, and depth.

VALUE
The lightness or darkness of a color.

SPACE
The area between, around, above, below, or within objects; space can be defined as negative (such as the emptiness of holes) or positive; space also describes depth, or the illusion (idea) of depth.

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