

## THE ELEMENTS OF ART

**LINE** – An element of art which refers to the continuous mark made on a surface by a moving point (i.e. 2-dimensional pencil marks on paper or 3-dimensional wire lines). Line is often an outline, contour, or silhouette which is implied. Lines come in many variations: curved, straight, broken, thick, thin, zigzag, implied, etc.



**SHAPE** – An element described as 2-dimensional enclosed space. Shapes can be geometric (square, circle, triangle, etc.) or organic (irregular).



**SPACE** – An element that indicates either positive or negative areas, or ways to show depth in space using foreground, middle ground and background



**FORM** – An element of art that is described as 3-dimensional (having height, width and depth) and which encloses volume (i.e. cylinders, cubes, spheres, etc.)



**TEXTURE** – An element that refers to the surface quality (rough, smooth, etc.) of an object or artwork. Texture can be actual or implied. Drawings and paintings describe implied textures. Actual textures are those you can actually feel.



**COLOR** – An element that identifies hues such as red, yellow, violet, etc. Color groups: Primary: red, yellow, blue; Secondary: orange, purple, green; Analogous: 3-5 colors immediately next to one another on the color wheel that share a common hue (i.e. red, red-violet, violet, blue-violet share the color red). Complementary: (2) colors directly across from one another on the color wheel (i.e. red and green). Monochromatic: Different values of one color (tints and shades).

**VALUE** – An element that refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. A color's value is lightened by the addition of white (tint) and darkened by the addition of black (shade).



