

PRINCIPLES OF ART

The principles of art help artists plan their art and think about how other people will react to the artwork.

Understanding the elements of art and principles of art helps people talk and think about art.

The principles of art are:

- Balance
- Contrast
- Proportion
- Pattern
- Rhythm
- Emphasis
- Unity
- Variety
- Harmony
- movement

The principle of balance

Balance is one of the principles of art which describes how artists create visual weight.



The principle of balance



Symmetrical (formal) balance means both sides of an imaginary line are the same.

The principle of balance



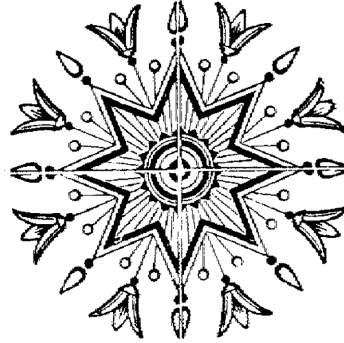
asymmetrical
balance



asymmetrically
balanced

Asymmetrical (informal) balance means each side of an imaginary line are different yet equal.

The principle of balance



Radial balance means lines or shapes grow from a center point.

The principle of contrast

Contrast is one of the principles of art which creates excitement and interest in artworks.

Two things that are very different have a lot of contrast.

The principle of contrast



The principle of contrast



The principle of contrast



The principle of contrast

Artists use high contrast to make something show up.

White and black have the greatest contrast.

Complementary colors also have high contrast.

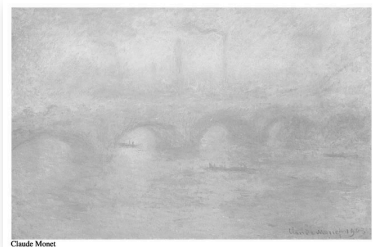
The principle of contrast

In *Wheatfields with Ravens*, Vincent van Gogh used high contrast colors to make the yellow wheat fields stand out against the dark blue sky.



The principle of contrast

Artists may choose low contrast for a softer look, as Claude Monet did in this painting of a bridge.



The principle of proportion

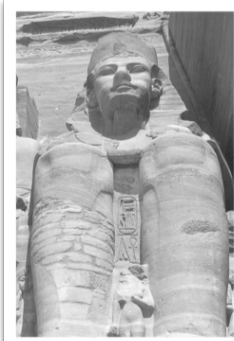


Proportion is one of the principles of art which describes the size, location or amount of one thing compared to another.

The principle of proportion

In ancient arts, proportions of forms were enlarged to show importance.

This is why Egyptian gods and political figures appear so much larger than common people.



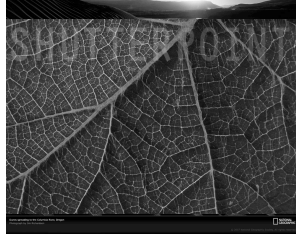
The principle of pattern



Artists create pattern by repeating a line, shape or color over and over again.

The principle of pattern

Patterns may include decorative patterns such as stripes and zigzags and they are to be found everywhere in nature and in art.



The principle of pattern

In "Water Lilies," Claude Monet repeats the pattern of water lilies floating on the pond.



The principle of rhythm

Visual rhythm makes you think of the rhythms you hear in music or dance.

Artists create visual rhythm by repeating art elements and creating patterns.

The principle of rhythm



In *Okazaki*, Ando Hiroshige's bridge supports create a rhythm that leads your eyes through the landscape.

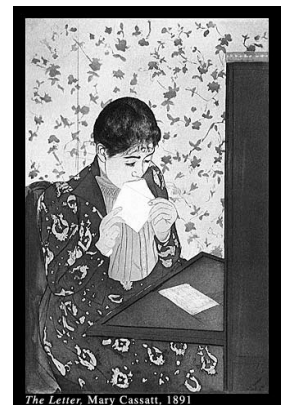
The principle of emphasis

Artists use emphasis to make certain parts of their artwork stand out and grab your attention.

The center of interest or focal point is the place the artist draws your eye to first.

The principle of emphasis

In this painting, "The Letter," Mary Cassatt emphasized the envelope by painting it white against the dark patterns of the woman's dress.



The principle of unity

Unity is the feeling that everything in the work of art works together and looks like it fits.

Repetition of shape and color can make an artwork unified.



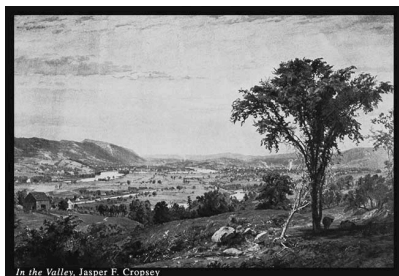
The principle of variety

Variety occurs when an artist creates something that looks different from the rest of the artwork.

An artist may use variety to make you look at a certain part or make the artwork more interesting.

The principle of variety

Jasper Cropsey painted a large tree to create variety in his landscape, "*In the Valley*."



The principle of harmony

Harmony creates a sense of belonging together.

Harmony is achieved in a body of work by using similar elements throughout the work; harmony gives an uncomplicated look to your work.

The principle of movement

Movement shows actions, or alternatively, the path the viewer's eye follows throughout an artwork.

Movement is caused by using elements under the rules of the principles in picture to give the feeling of action and to guide the viewer's eyes throughout the artwork.

The principle of movement

