THE ELEMENTS OF ART

The building blocks of making art

LINE



A line is a path made by a moving point through space. It is one-dimensional and can vary in width, direction, and length.

SHAPE



Shapes are flat, enclosed areas that are twodimensional (length and height). Artists use both geometric and organic shapes.

COLOR



Color is perceived by the way light reflects off a surface. There are three properties of color: hue (color name), intensity (strength/purity), and value (lightness and darkness).

VALUE



Value describes the lightness or darkness of a surface.

TEXTURE



Texture describes the surface quality of an object. Artists use both actual texture (how things feel) and implied texture (how things look like they feel).

SPACE



Space is used to create the illusion of depth within an artwork. It can also refer to the positive and negative space between, around, or within objects.

FORM



Forms are three-dimensional (length, width, height) and can be viewed from many angles. Forms have volume and take up space.

