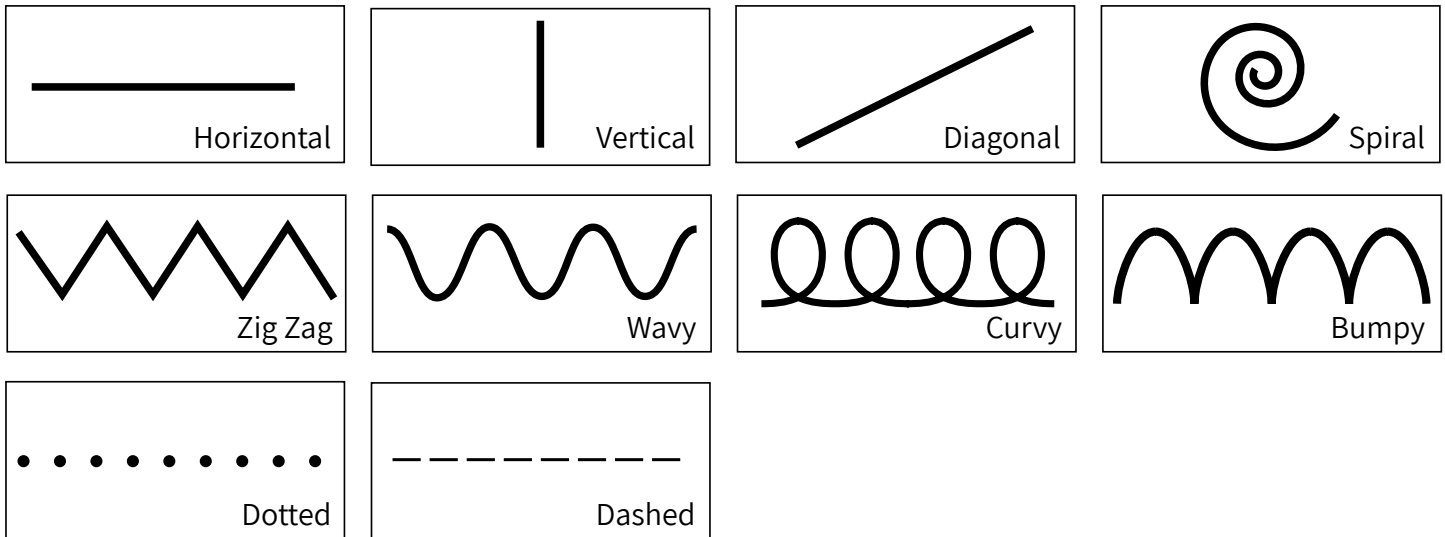


Element of Art: Line

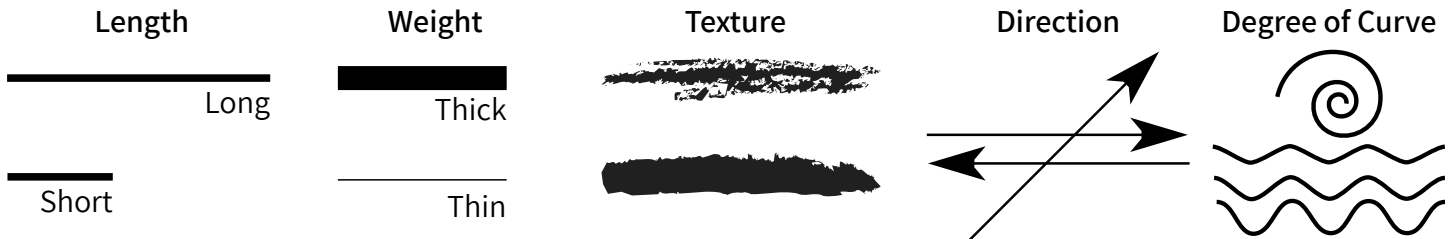
About Line

The elements of art are the essential components, or visual tools, used to create and discuss an artwork. The element of art of line is the first of the seven core elements of art we are going to examine. What is a line? Some say a line is the path of "a moving point or dot."

Some types of line:

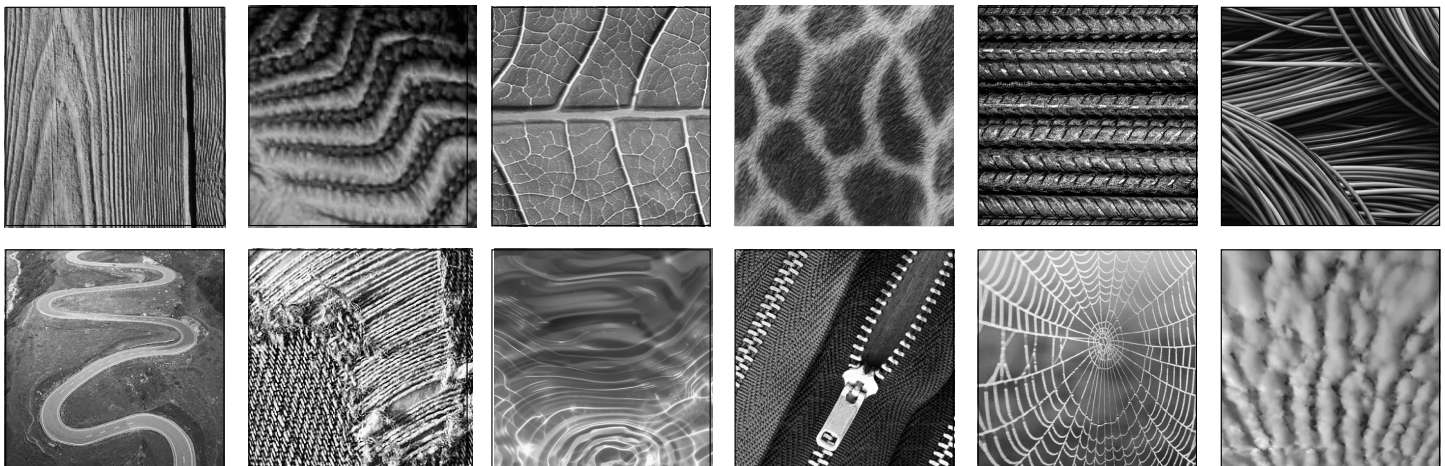


Line Variation:



Lines in everyday life:

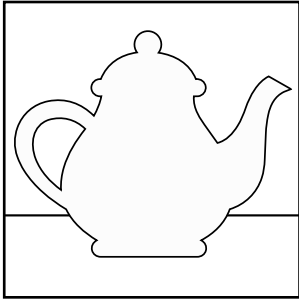
Lines can be found everywhere.



Element of Art: Line *cont'd*

How do artists use line?

1. Defining Structure and Space



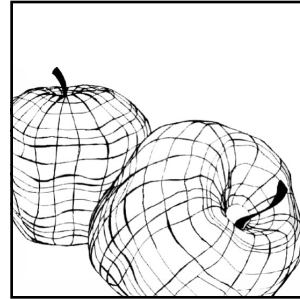
Outline

Marks the outer edge of a shape or object, separating it from the background or other shapes around it.



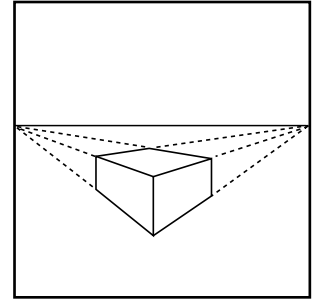
Contour Line

Defines the outer edge, boundaries, and significant interior surfaces of an object or figure without the use of shading.



Cross Contour Lines

Lines that travel across the surface of an object to describe its three-dimensional volume, curves, and topography.



Linear Perspective

System that creates the illusion of depth and volume on a flat surface.

2. Adding value, texture and tone



Head of a Girl, Leonardo da Vinci

Hatching

Lines applied in parallel direction to build up tone, texture, and form.



Portrait of Roulin, Vincent van Gogh

Cross Hatching

Lines are placed at an angle to one another to build up tone, texture, and form.



Number 14, Jackson Pollock

Line Weight

The relative thickness or darkness of a drawn line.

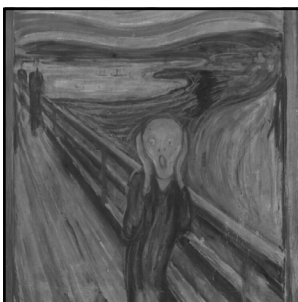


Self Portrait, Chuck Close

Scumbling

Layered, loose, and random lines—often described as controlled scribbling.

3. Guiding Visual Movement in Composition



The Scream by Edvard Munch

Leading Lines

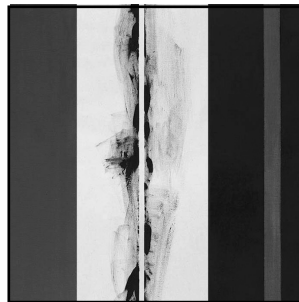
Physical or implied lines which steer the viewer's eye toward focal points in the picture plane.



Lake Geneva by Ferdinand Hodler

Horizontal Lines

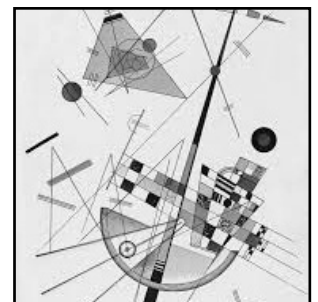
Suggest stability, calm, horizon, and rest.



Shimmer Bright, Barnett Newman

Vertical Lines

Convey height, strength, spirituality, and formality.



Delicate Tension, Wassily Kandinsky

Diagonal & Zigzag Lines

Inject kinetic energy, tension, dynamism, and rapid visual pacing.

Element of Art: Line *cont'd*

How do artists use line? **Cont'd**

3. Guiding Visual Movement in Composition *cont'd*

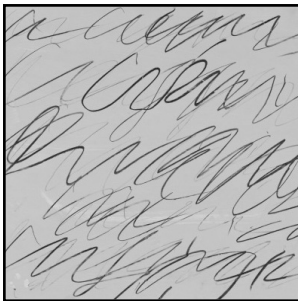


Fishing Boats at Sea

Implied Lines

An invisible path that the viewer's brain perceives as a line, even though no continuous, physical mark has been drawn.

4. Expressing Emotion and Gesture



Untitled, Cy Twombly

Expressive & Calligraphic Marks

Fast, gestural, or sweeping strokes capture fleeting movement, rhythm, and raw energy.



The Weeping Woman by Pablo Picasso

Angular & Jagged Strokes

Create friction, anxiety, aggression, or unrest.



Tree of Life, Gustav Klimt

Smooth & Curvilinear Marks

Evoke gentleness, fluidity, organic growth, and elegance.