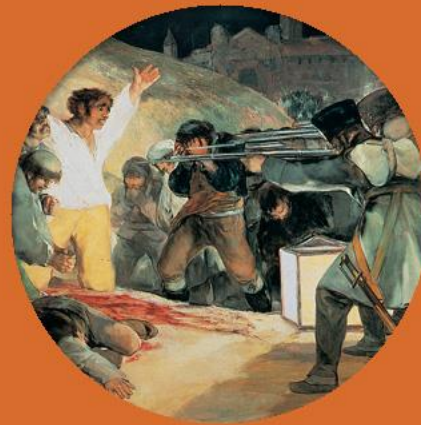


Art in Two Dimensions: Line, Shape, and the Principle of Contrast



Elements and Principles

Ten Elements

Line

Shape

Form

Mass

Volume

Color

Space

Value

Texture

Time/Motion

Elements of art are the
vocabulary of art

Ten Principles

Balance

Proportion

Unity

Variety

Contrast

Emphasis

Focal Point

Pattern

Rhythm

Scale

Principles are the grammar of
art-rule to organize design

Two-Dimensional Art

- **Two-dimensional art**
 - ◆ Is flat or with very low relief
 - ◆ Has height and width, but not physical depth
- **Here is discussion of three elements**
- **Line Shape Contrast**
- **<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Pb5WV1RnXQ>**
- **Mission Impossible**

Definition and Functions of Line

- **Connects two points**
- **Defines the boundaries between planes**
- **Defines shapes**
- **Directs the viewer's eye**
- **Conveys a sense of movement and energy**
- **All types of lines, contour, graduated, implied, gestural, mark-making, irregular and regular**



Contour Surface lines without outside contour lines. Note the graduated line implies form, even color.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC1DGxff6no>
30 second gesture



Gestural lines give an ease to an image-an intimate, immediate quality





CLAMP,
page from the
Tsubasa
RESERVoir
CHRoNiCLE

- Here line communicates direction and movement
- Directional lines converge in the image, focusing our attention to the area the artist intends
- The strong diagonal lines enhance feeling of movement

Lines to Regulate and Control

- **Regular lines express control and planning**
- **Regulated line communicates objectivity and accuracy**

Lines to Express Freedom and Passion

- **Lines can be irregular, reflecting the wildness of nature, chaos, and accident**
- **Such lines—free and unrestrained—seem passionate and full of feelings that are otherwise hard to express**



André Masson, *Automatic Drawing*, 1925–6. Ink on paper, 12 x 9½". Musée National d'Art Moderne. Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France



André Masson, *Automatic Drawing*

- **lines reflect Masson's drawing and thinking process
expressing the subconscious**
- **Masson would go for days without food or sleep , thinking
this would allow him to explore deep-rooted sources of
creativity and truth**
- **The drawings are free, spontaneous expressions**

Regular and Irregular Lines

- Most works use both regular and irregular lines



George Bellows,
Woodstock Road

all lights as high as possible
get color out of shadows

Woodstock.



Note the contour line



Saul Steinberg

Irregular lines convey humor,
texture and emphasis

1508



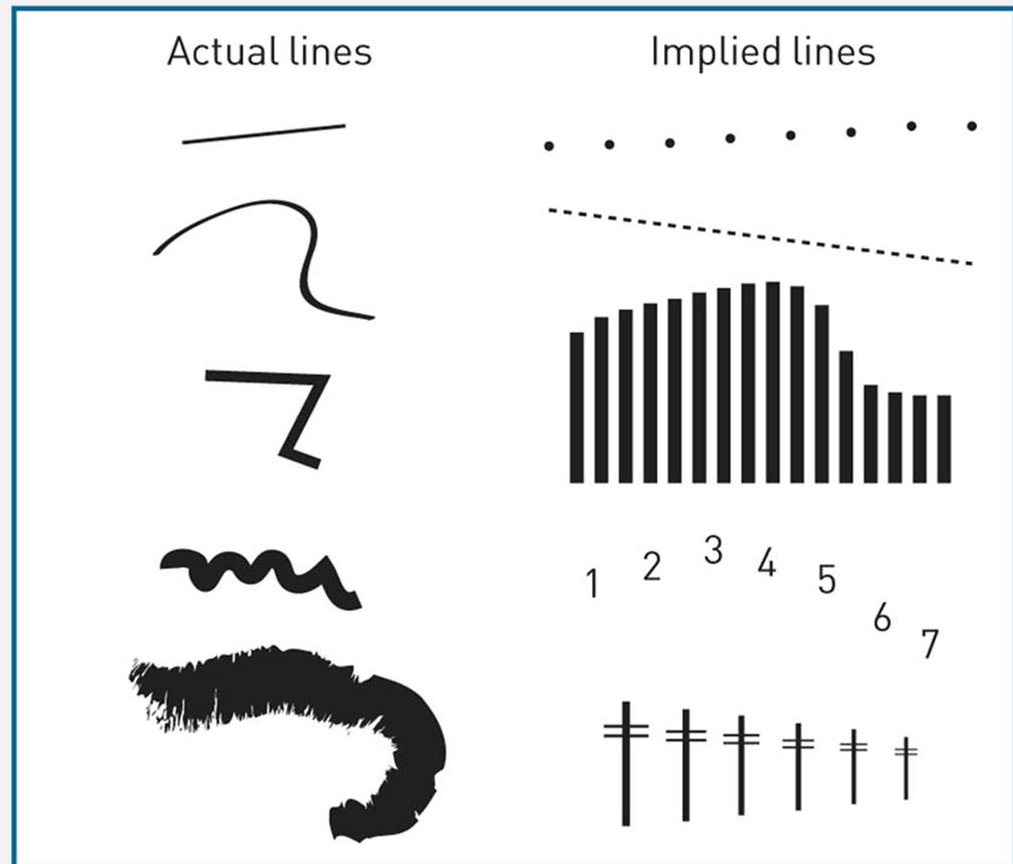
Line Expressing Form Albrecht Durer

Crosshatched line, contour line, surface contour line, graduated line all working in concert 1471-1528



Implied Line

- Line can be implied by a series of marks
- Implied line gives us the impression we are seeing a line where there is no continuous mark- so no actual solid line is present; just the idea of a line is created





Francisco Goya, *The Third of May, 1808*, 1814. Oil on canvas, The Prado, Madrid, Spain

PART 1 FUNDAMENTALS



Gateway to Art:

Goya, *The Third of May, 1808*

Using Line to Guide the Viewer's Eye

- Goya uses implied line to direct the viewer's gaze
- Directional (actual & implied) line is used in these instances:
 - ◆ (A) Actual line directs the viewer from left to right where sky meets the lighted hillside
 - ◆ (B) An implied line created by the feet of the soldiers leads right to left
 - ◆ (C) A shadow at the bottom continues the same direction
 - ◆ (D) and (E) Direct the viewer upward toward (A)
- The strong horizontal of the rifles draws attention to victims

Communicative Line

- The directions of lines both guide our attention and suggest particular feelings
- Vertical lines tend to communicate strength and energy
- Horizontal lines can suggest calmness and passivity
- Diagonal lines are associated with action, motion, and change

Vertical lines
communicate strength,
stability, and authority



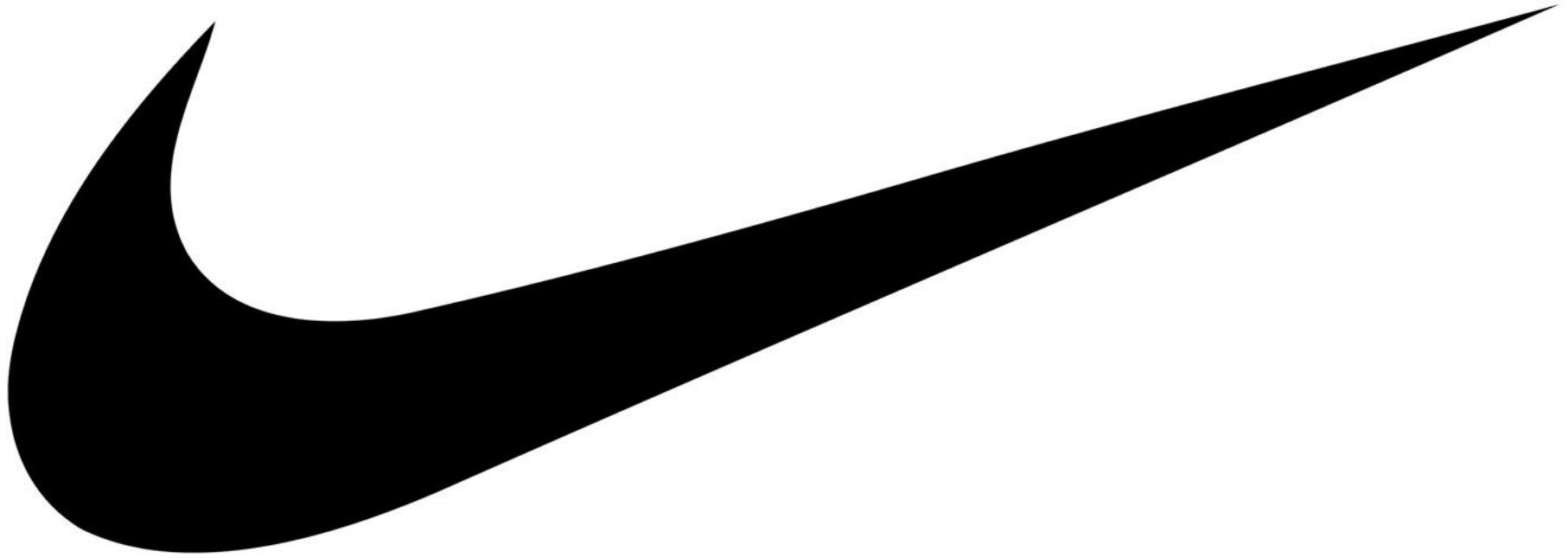
Horizontal lines
communicate calm,
peace, and passiveness



Diagonal lines
communicate movement,
action, and drama



Diagonals can express the excitement of athletic activity
**Conveys action with a shape comprising a stylized,
diagonal line**



Shape: Geometric and Organic Shapes

- A shape is a two-dimensional area the boundaries of which are defined by lines or suggested by changes in color or value
- Shapes can be classified into two types: **geometric and organic**
 - ◆ Organic shapes are made up of unpredictable, irregular lines that suggest the natural world
 - ◆ A geometric shape is mathematically regular and precise
 - ◆ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWa5rzEOumQ>

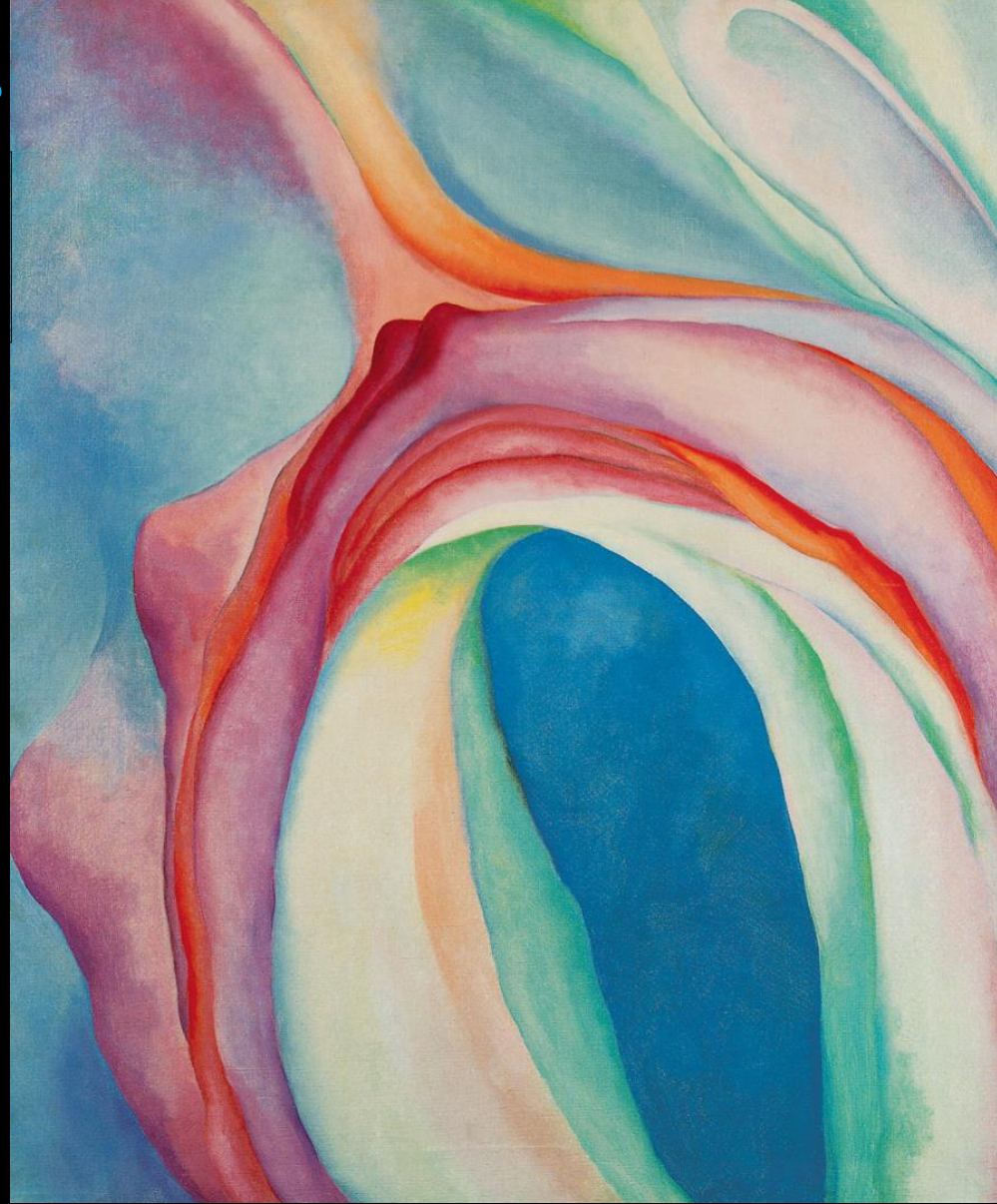




Donald Sultan. *Lemons, May 16, 1984*. 1984.
97 in. x 97 1/2 in.

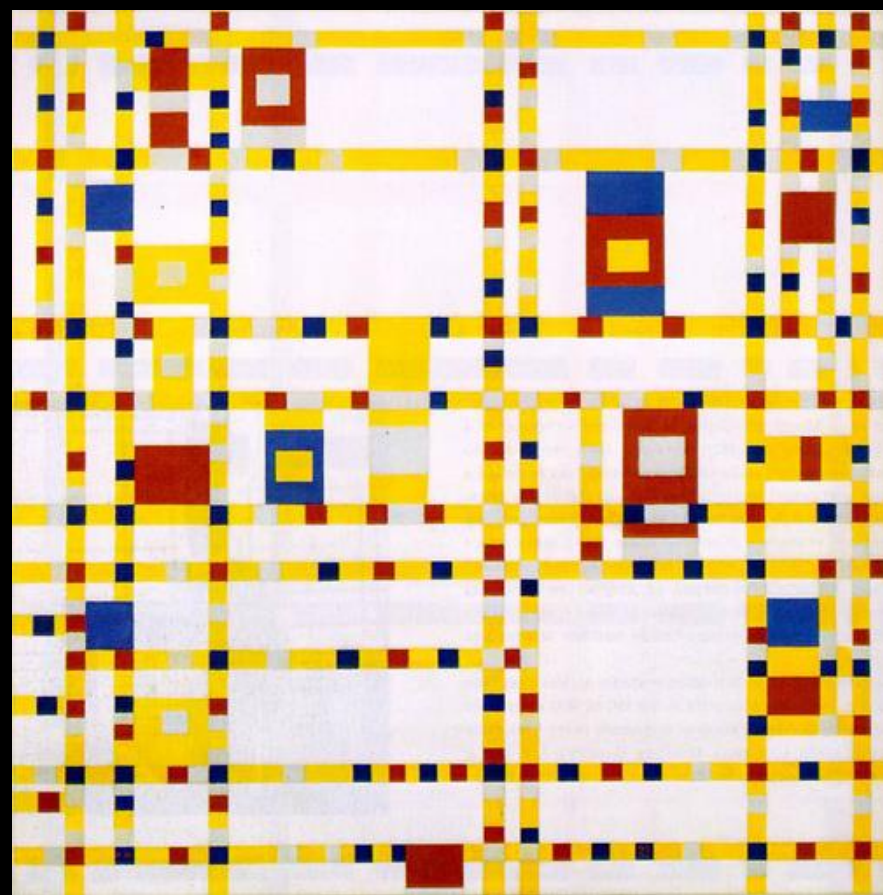
Organic Shapes

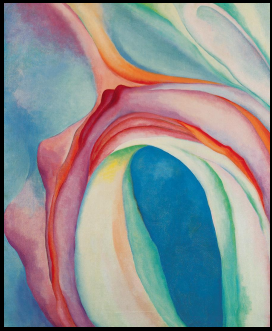
Georgia O'Keeffe,
Music—Pink and Blue
II, 1919



Geometric Shapes

Piet Mondrian
Broadway Boogie Woogie
1943



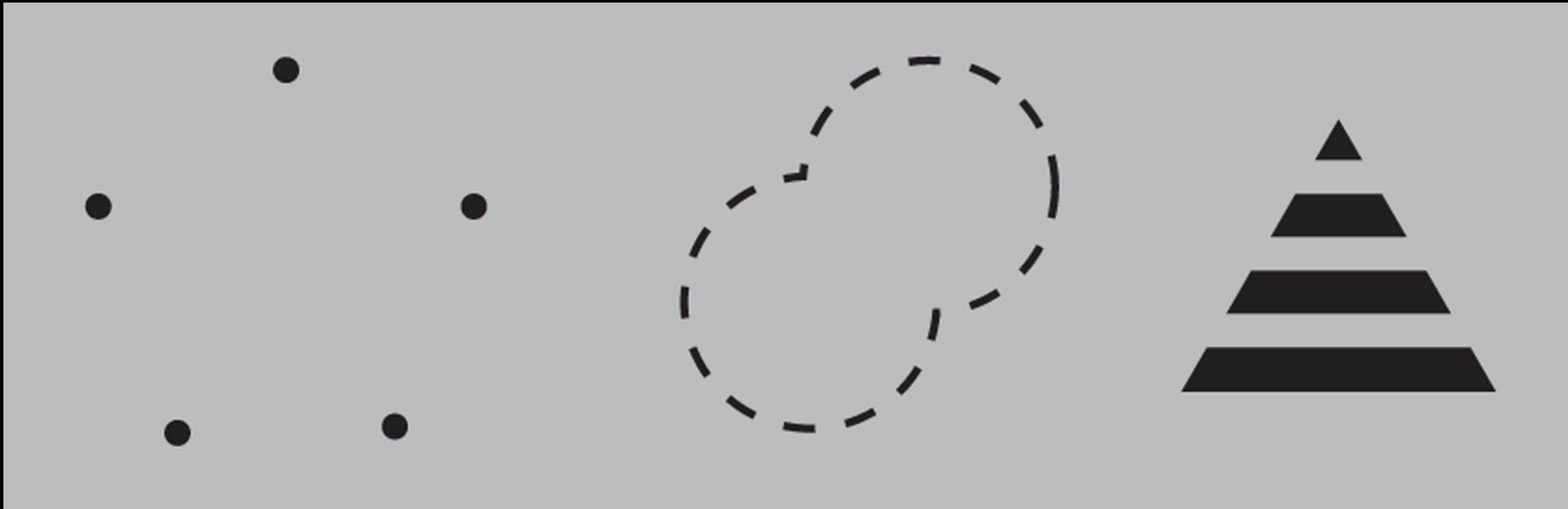


Georgia O' Keeffe, *Music—Pink and Blue II*

- Shapes derived from organic objects
- O' Keeffe's paintings use landscape and flower shapes to make associations with the female body
- The interplay of positive and negative space becomes symbolic of the erotic and life-giving nature of womanhood
- Mondrian used music and “bare bones” shapes and colors to convey his musical rhythms in the work.

Implied Shape

- **Implied shapes are shapes we can see where no continuous boundary exists**
- **Just as line can be implied, so too can shape**





Uses horizontal lines to imply a sphere or globe

The image is simple, creating an appropriately meaningful and readily recognizable symbol for a global company

Contrast

- When an artist uses two noticeably different states of an element, he or she is applying the principle of contrast
- Strong differences in the state of an element can be a very useful effect for an artist to use
- It is especially effective to use opposites
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-GQCb1nMGY film noir clips



CARAVAGGIO – Oil, 1600 The Calling of Saint Matthew
Tenebrism



Shepard Fairey, *Obey*, 1996. Campaign poster



Shepard Fairey, *ObeY*

- **Black features and the blank white space contrast with and complement each other**
- **The contrast between positive and negative shapes draws our attention**
 - ◆ **Fairey wants strong impact because he needs to catch his audience's attention quickly as they pass by**
 - ◆ **Fairey posted these images in public spaces as an act of street theater and guerrilla marketing**

Conclusion

- Artists use line, shape, and contrast to communicate in two dimensions in combination with other elements like color
- Shape and line are the “bones” that govern and add structure to other elements in art as well as meaning and beauty in their own right
- Within two dimensions we can communicate nearly every interaction in mankind’s history of understanding
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oag5NVFwyfQ>
- Student morphing project