



# ELEMENTS OF DESIGN: LINE

Art I  
Mrs. Senick

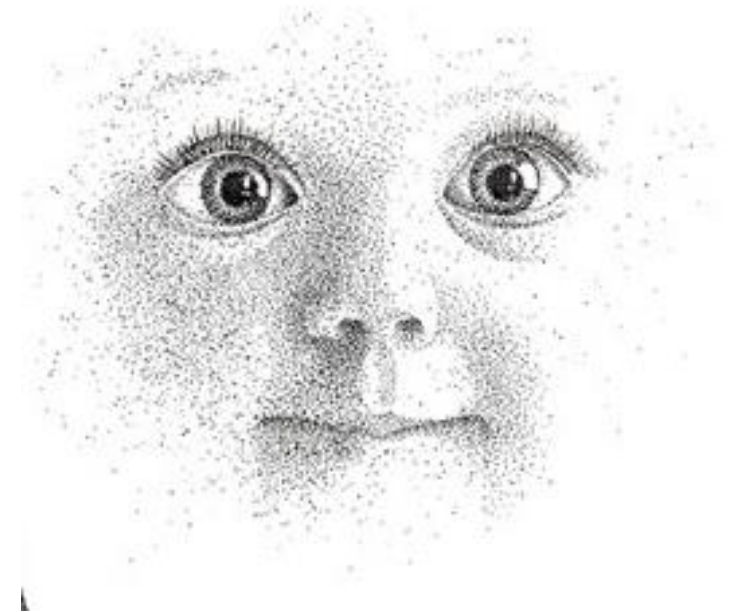
# LINE

A line is defined as the path a point makes as it moves across a surface.

- In art, lines have breadth, but that is not their most important parameter. In graphic design, line art means black or another single color, with no other values or colors.

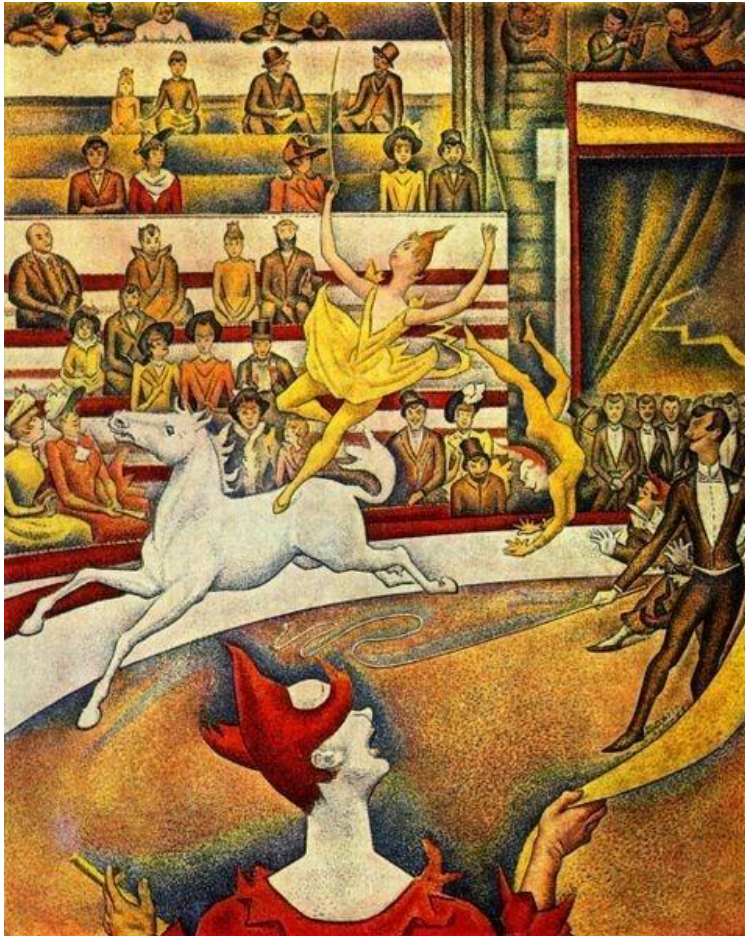
A line begins with a point.

- Some artists use a combination of these points to create entire artworks.
- This is called “stippling” or “pointillism”



Alan Baker “babyface”

# STIPPLING



Stippling is a technique which artists use a series of dots (points) to create value, texture, and entire images.

Artists who use stippling to create artworks usually have a desire to study the scientific theories of color – using two primary colors to create secondary colors, one primary color and one secondary color to create tertiary colors, etc.

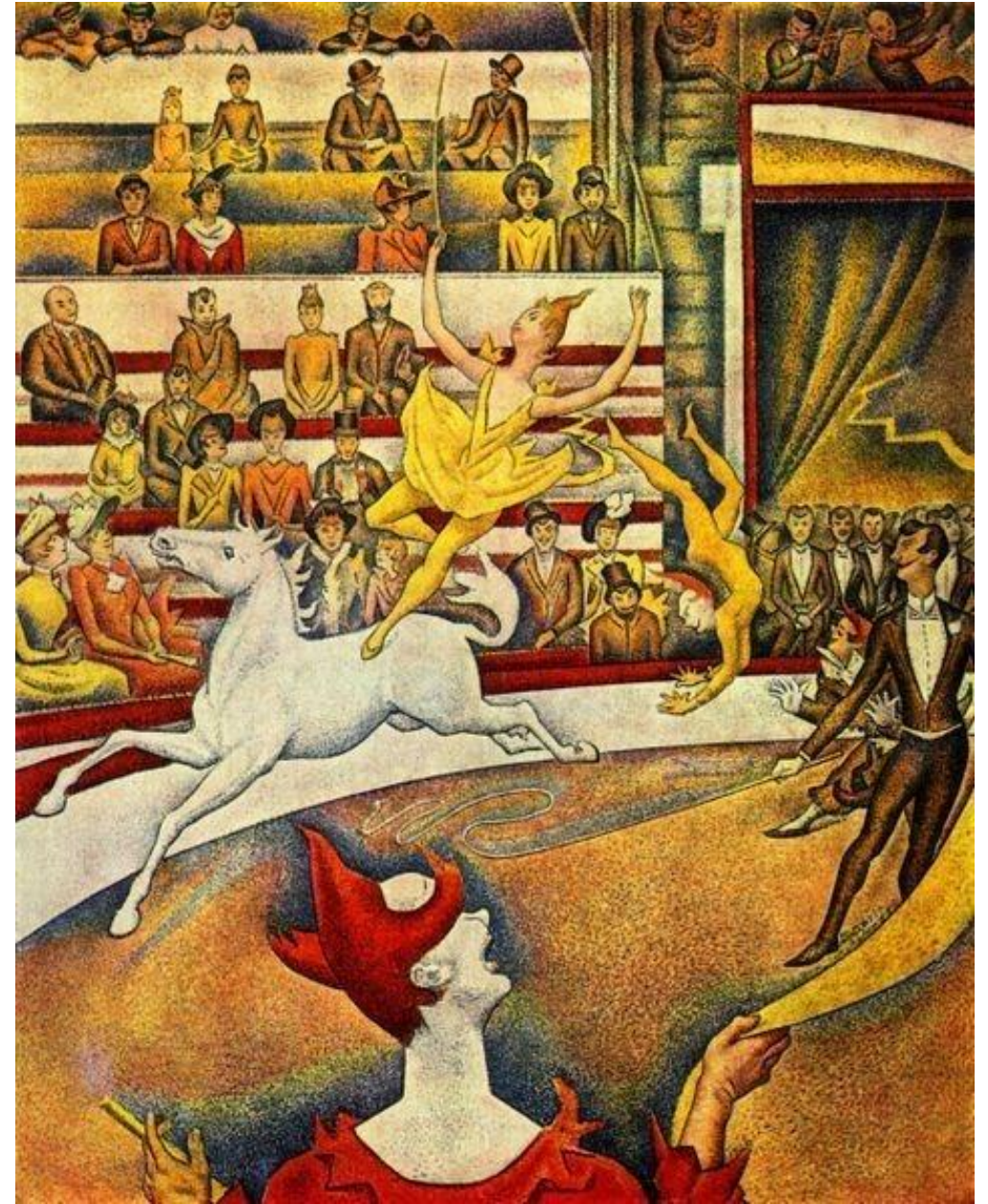
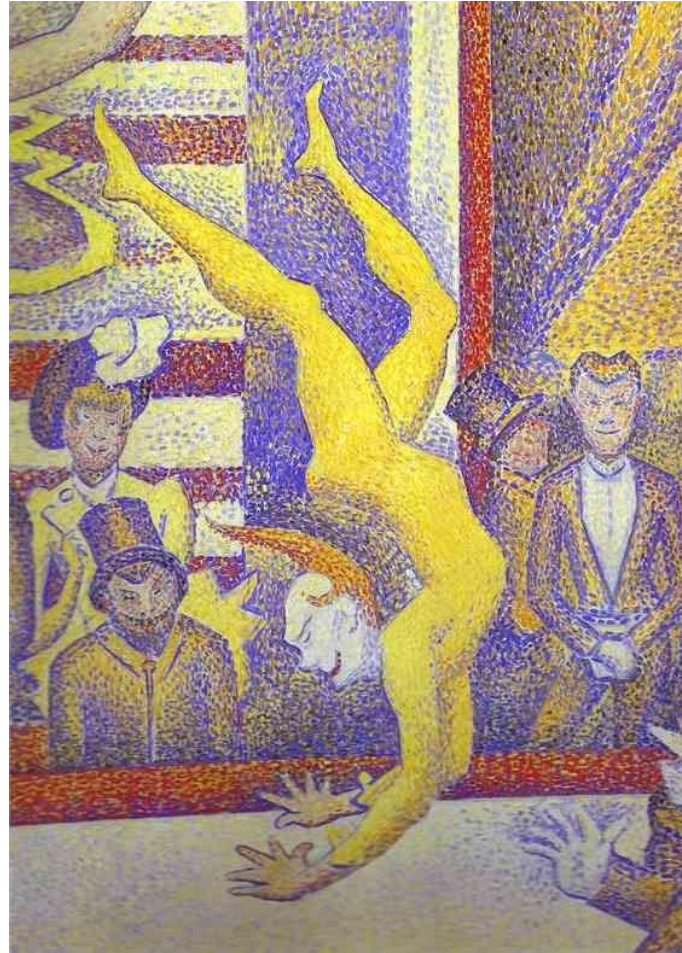
All lines begin with a point.



# GEORGES SEURAT "EL CIRQUE"



whogallery.com - Internet's biggest art collection





# TESSERAE

Many artists use a combination of dots and dabs (not that kind) to create pictures and patterns that (when viewed at a distance) merge into a continuous tone.

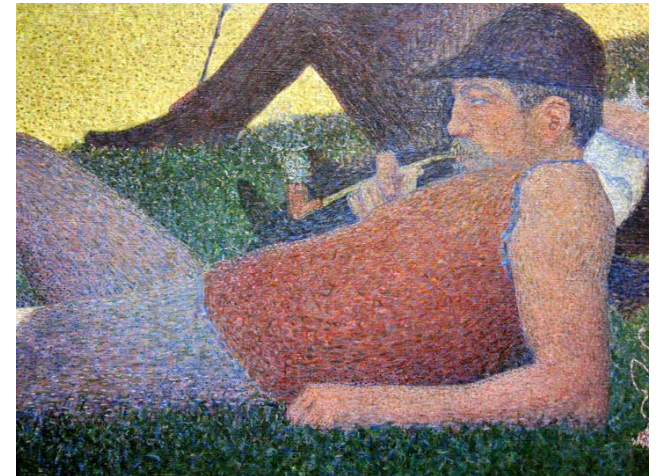
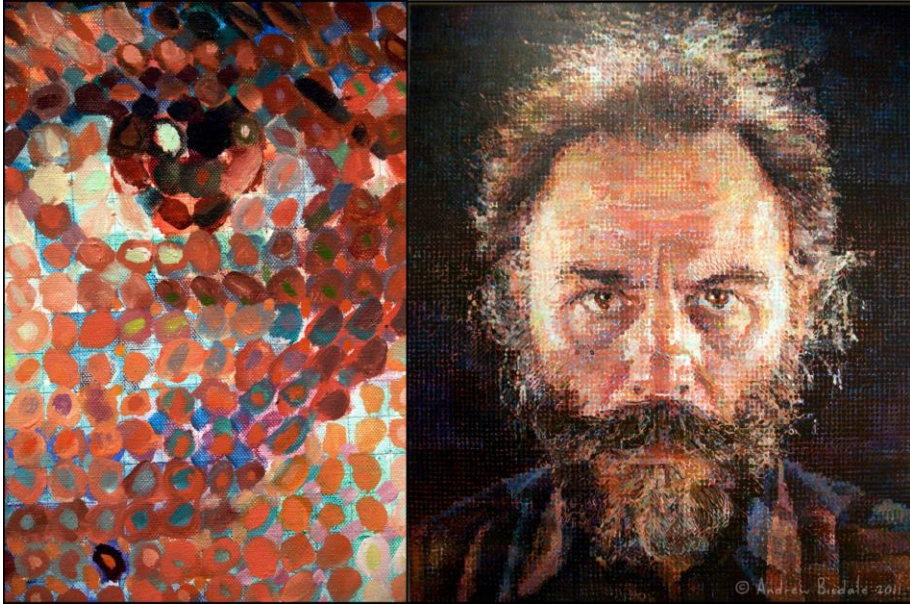
- Textile designs, tapestries, carpets, and embroidery

Mosaics are made using tesserae

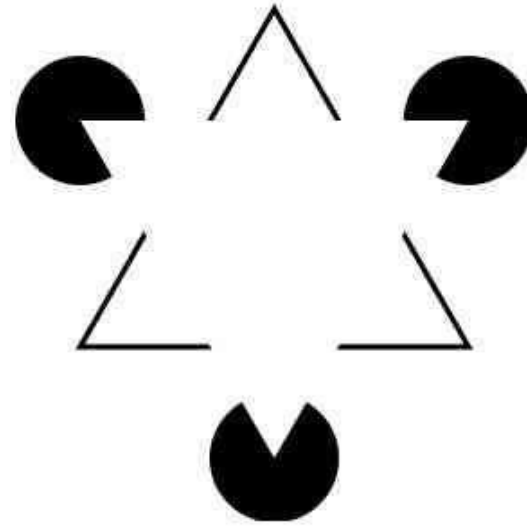
- Small cubes of colored marble or glass in a limited range of colors arranged most often in contours rather than regular arrays.
  - Appears to give the full tonal range of color

Georges Seurat > Vincent Van Gogh > Chuck Close

# SEURAT > VAN GOGH > CLOSE



# TYPES OF LINES



Physical line – Actual line, meaning that the line is actually there.



Implied line – created by arranging points or short lines in such a way that our brains join the dots, fill the gaps, and complete the picture



Psychic line – has no existence at all except as an imaginary ray of light (joining a person's eyes to the object that they are looking at, or the line that extends into space from the tip of a pointing arrow).



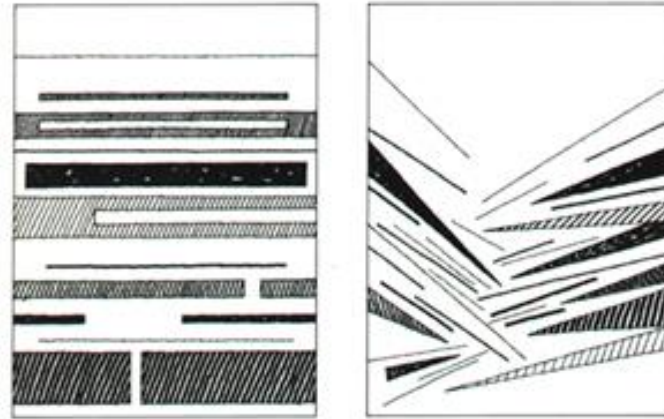
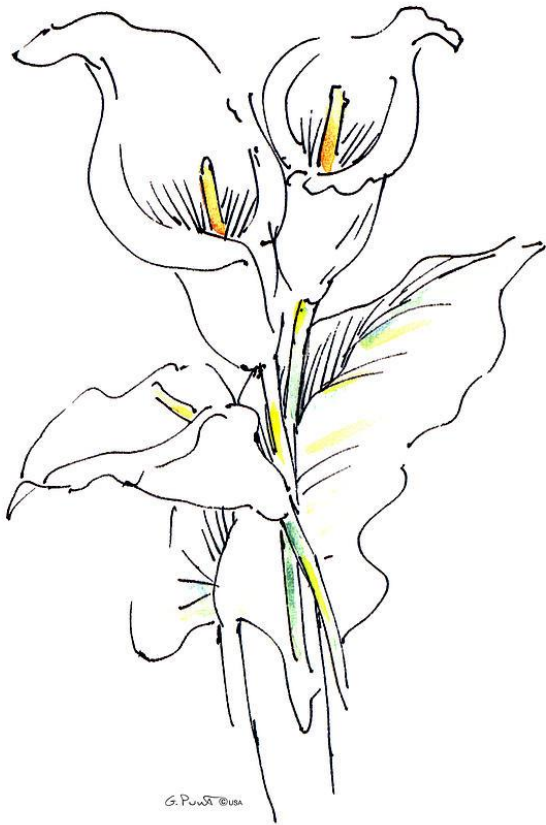


WHAT KIND OF LINES DO YOU SEE?





# TYPES OF LINES, CONTINUED



Contour line – an outline

Horizontal line – usually imply rest or lack of motion, as if being at rest or asleep

Vertical line – potential of activity, as if standing

Diagonal line – Implies movement and action, as if leaning forward and ready to spring to action

Gesture line – outlines that imply movement

# CONTOUR LINE ACTIVITY

Draw a lightbulb on your paper.

The catch: **You cannot look at your paper.**

- Look at the person across from you, the ceiling, the courtyard, but do NOT look at your paper!

Try again with another object: A shoe, an ice cream cone, a football, etc.

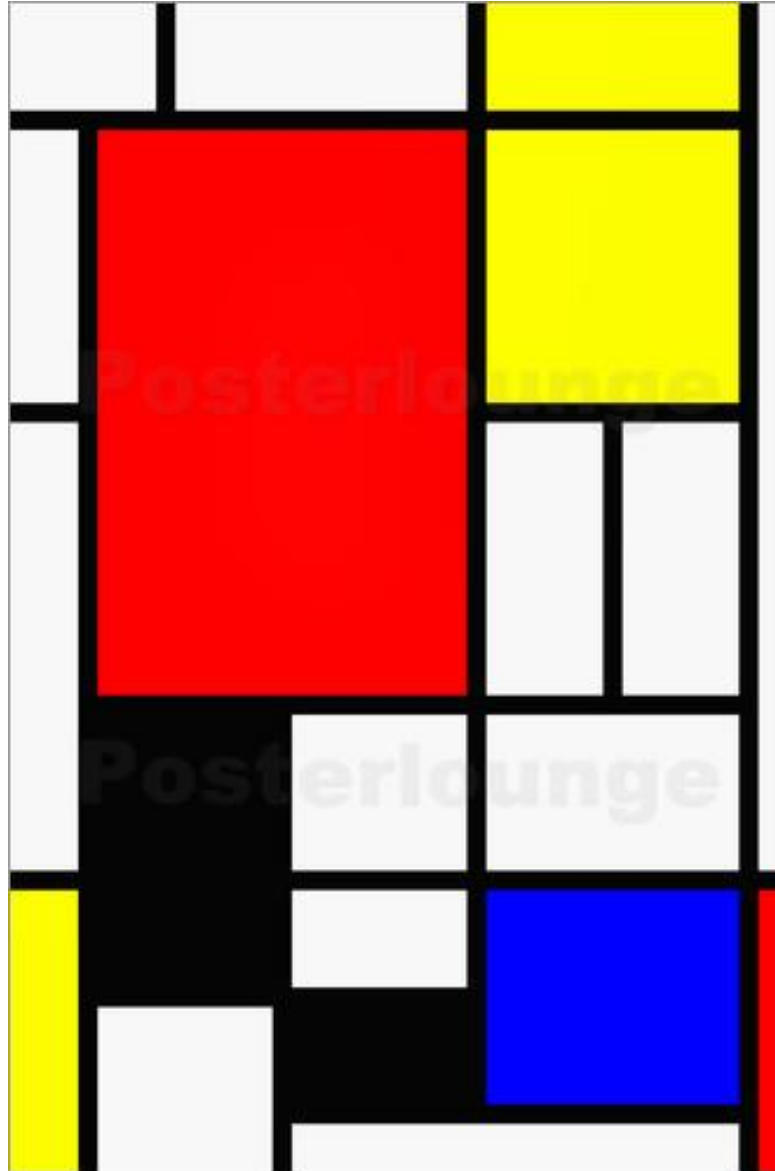


# PIET MONDRIAN

Note the use of horizontal and vertical lines.

How does this painting FEEL?

What feeling/emotion do you experience when viewing this artwork?





# VAN GOGH

Looking at the image on the right, what feeling or emotion do you experience?

Is there movement in this piece?

How?





# GESTURE LINES & ACTIVITY



Defined (hard) edges, as well as less defined (soft) edges.

Often uses implied lines to reference movement.

## Activity:

- Draw an animal (simple is best; a bee, a butterfly, a cat) and use gesture lines to show the animal moving
- Use loose lines (soft, less defined) as well as defined (hard, permanent) lines.

# LINE QUALITY

Thick

Thin

Bold/Crude

Delicate

Subtle

Cold/Impersonal

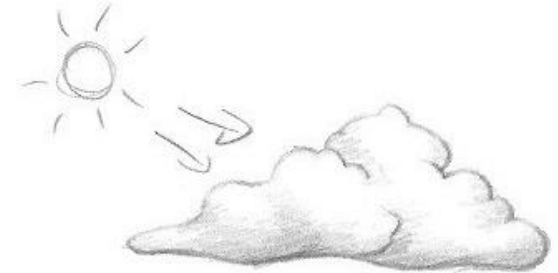
Free/Expressive

LOOKS CARTOONISH



VS.

MORE REALISTIC



VS.





# LINES AND OUTLINES

An outline is an abstract concept, but humans have the ability to read an outline as representing something that really exists.

Where do you see outlines in art?

- Subject matter
- Movements in art
- Artistic process

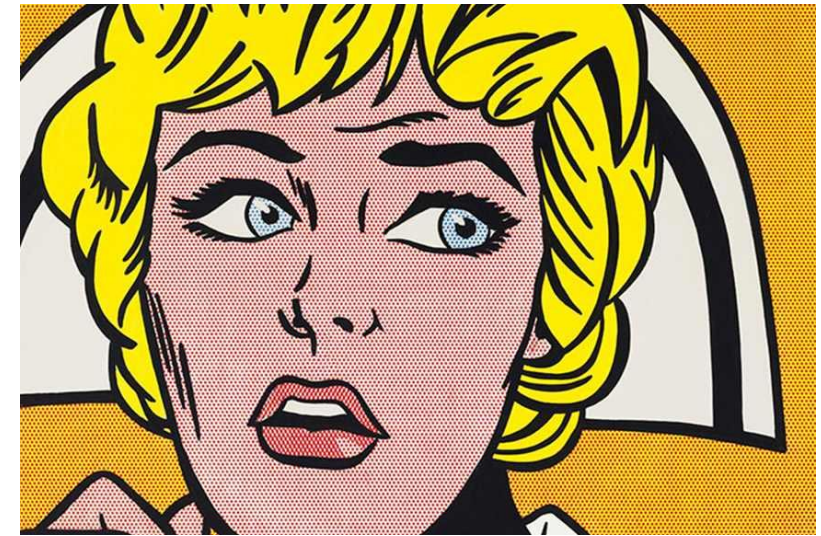
# OUTLINES IN ART



Sketches



Comics



Pop Art

Cartoons



Japanese printmakers

Shadows

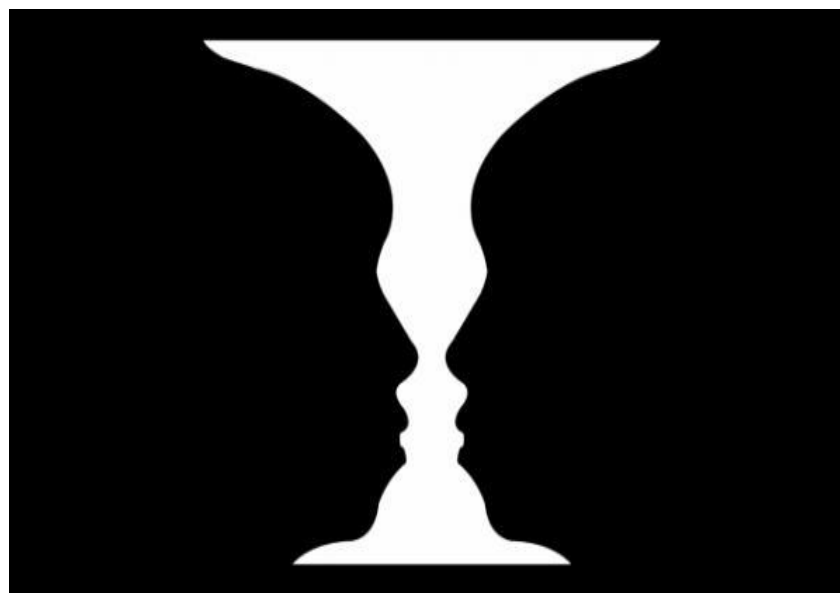
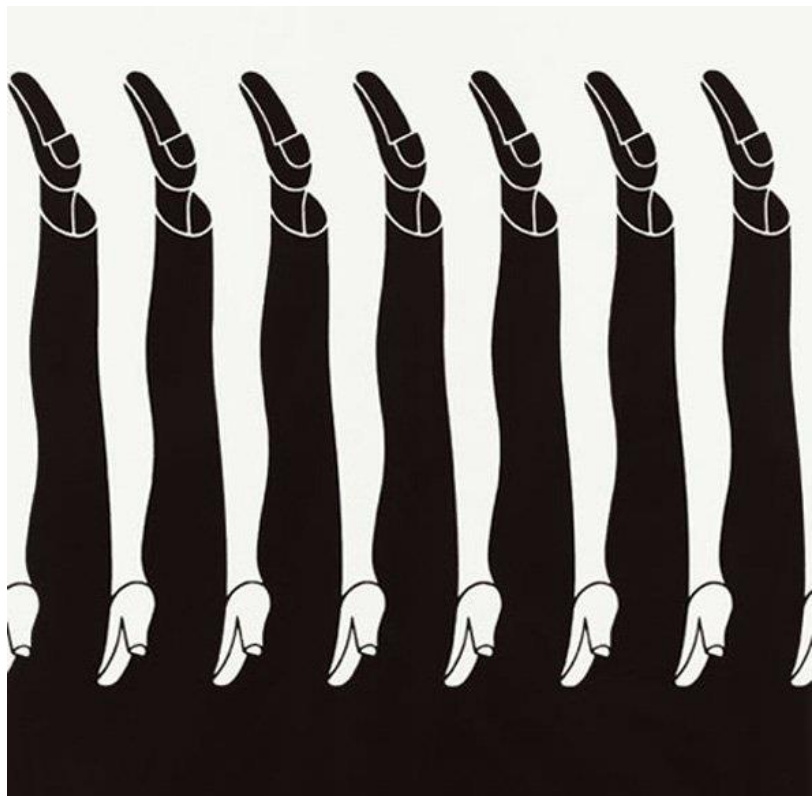


Abstract Art





# LINE QUALITY AND OUTLINES



Old woman or young lady?

# HOW DO THESE OPTICAL ILLUSIONS WORK?

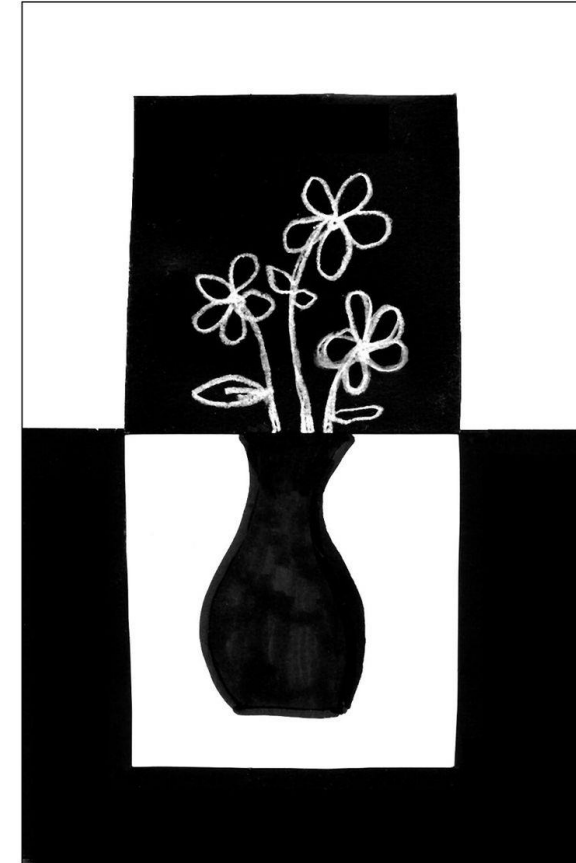
SPACE:

Positive space – the area that has been drawn

Negative space – the area that is left over AFTER drawing has stopped

Draw 2 examples of positive space

Draw 2 examples of negative space







# CONTOUR LINE DRAWINGS

Art 1  
Mrs. Senick  
Lesson 1

# WHAT IS A CONTOUR LINE?





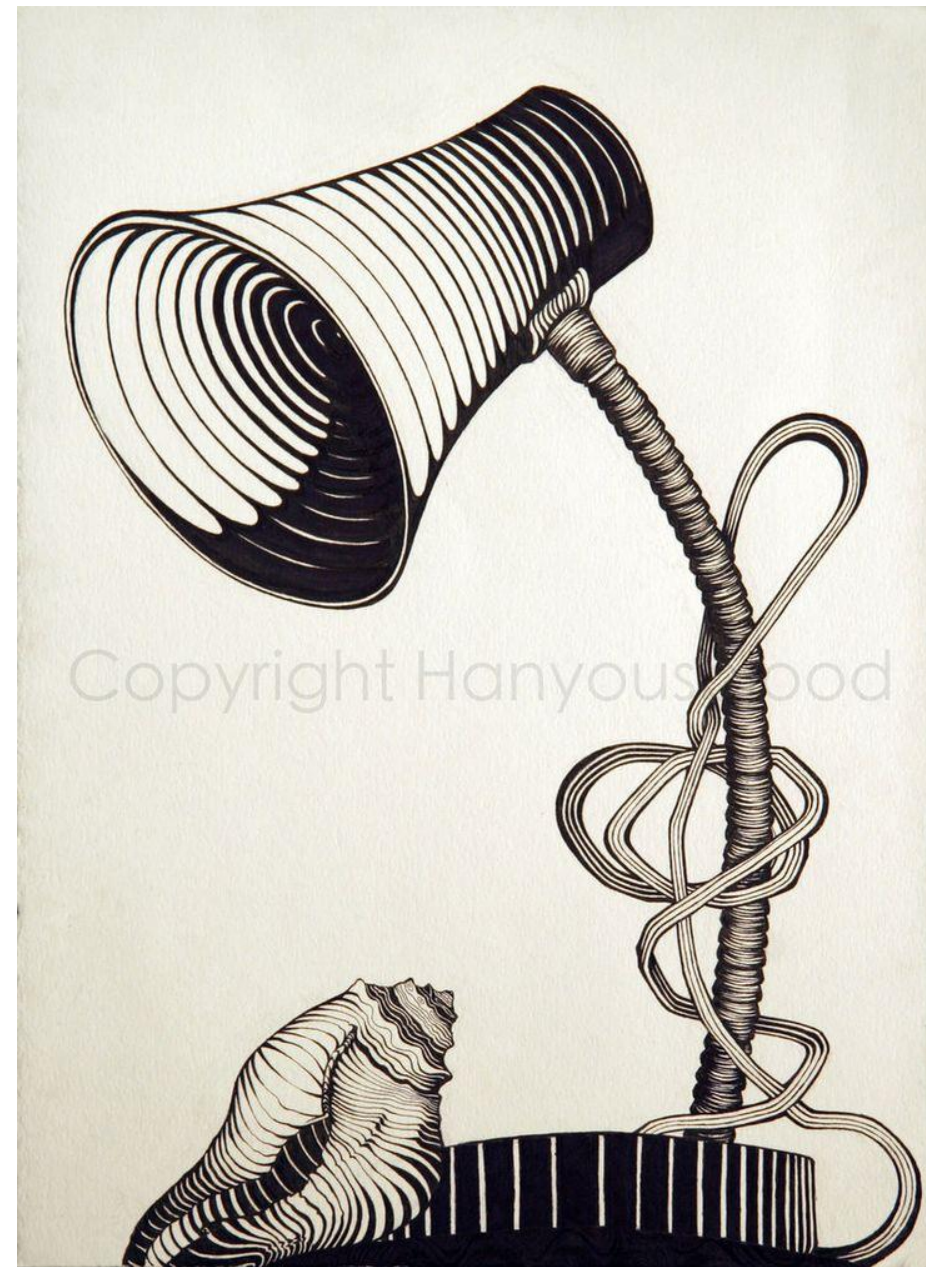
# WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?

To begin a drawing

To capture life, motion, or expression of the subject

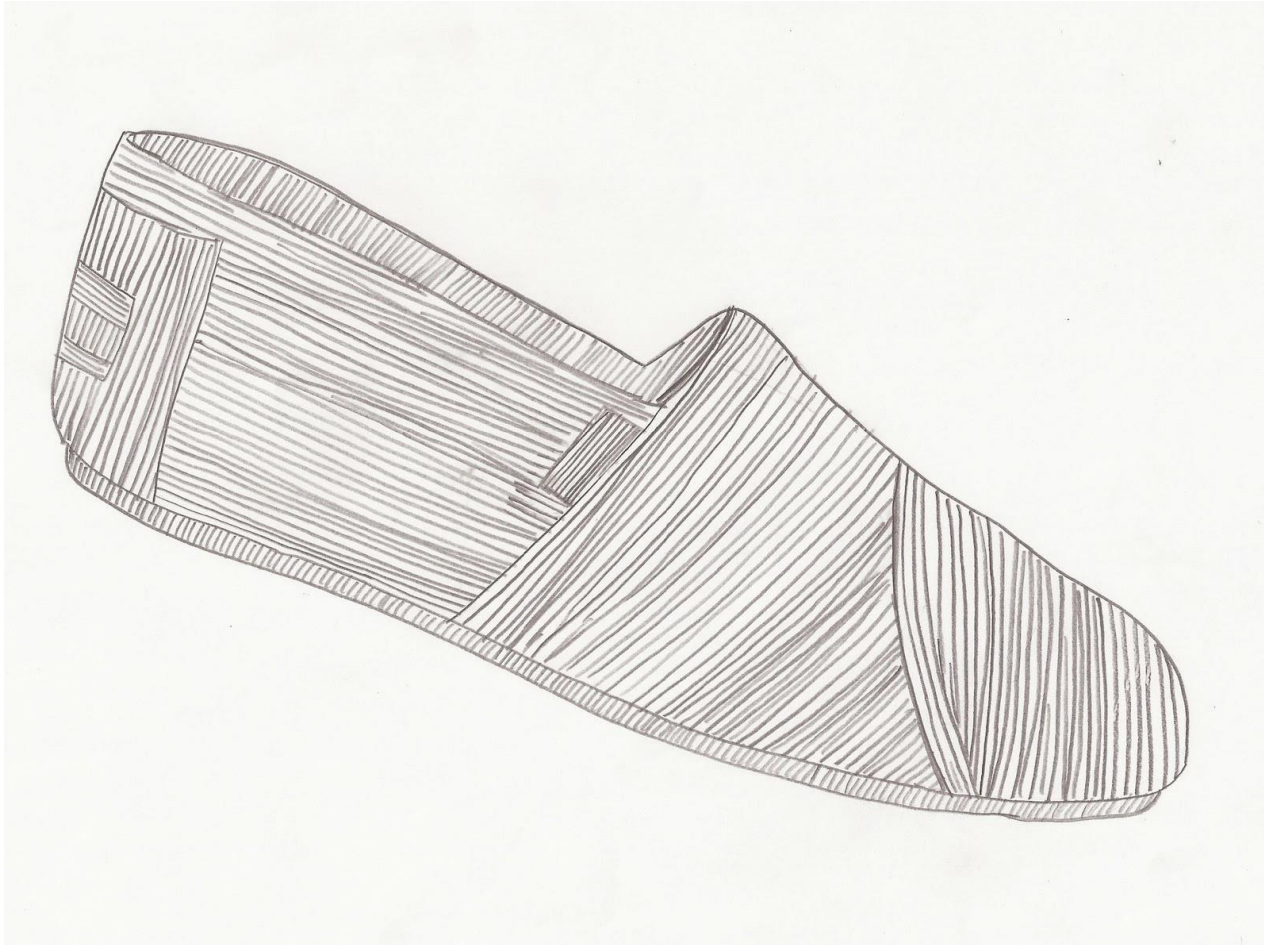
Strong foundation for any painting or drawing

# EXAMPLES





# EXAMPLES



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# FINAL PROJECT

1

Choose 4 objects to draw

2

Sketch each object in your sketchbook.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a page

3

Begin filling your object with lines that curve to the contours of the object

4

Pay close attention to details!!!