

the elements and principles of art

The background of the entire page is a reproduction of the painting 'A Painter in the Work' by Paul Cézanne, 1875. It is an Impressionist work showing a man in a hat and light-colored coat sitting on the ground, painting a landscape. The scene is filled with vibrant, textured brushstrokes in shades of green, yellow, and blue, with a dark, silhouetted figure of a dog in the background.

A Painter in the Work by Paul Cézanne, 1875, Impressionism

TEXTURE

can be literal texture or implied through line, color, and tone

SHAPE

can be geometric or organic

COMPOSITION

the overall arrangement of elements in an artwork

MOVEMENT

using elements to move the viewer's eye around the image such as with diagonals or curves

PATTERN

consistent repetition of elements such as spirals or grids

CONTRAST

the difference between elements such as color, value, or space

LINE

can be literal or implied
the horizon line is crucial in landscapes

EMPHASIS

the visually dominant focal point of a composition

VALUE

the lightness or darkness of a work of art

VARIETY / UNITY

balance is essential –
too much variety is chaotic
too much unity is monotonous

RHYTHM

created by movement in a non-uniform but organized way

COLOR

the basis of all artwork
can be broken down into hue, intensity, and value

BALANCE

the visual weight of artwork
can be symmetric, asymmetric, or radial symmetry

SPACE

can be positive or negative