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Elements of art line worksheet

Elements of art line worksheet pdf.

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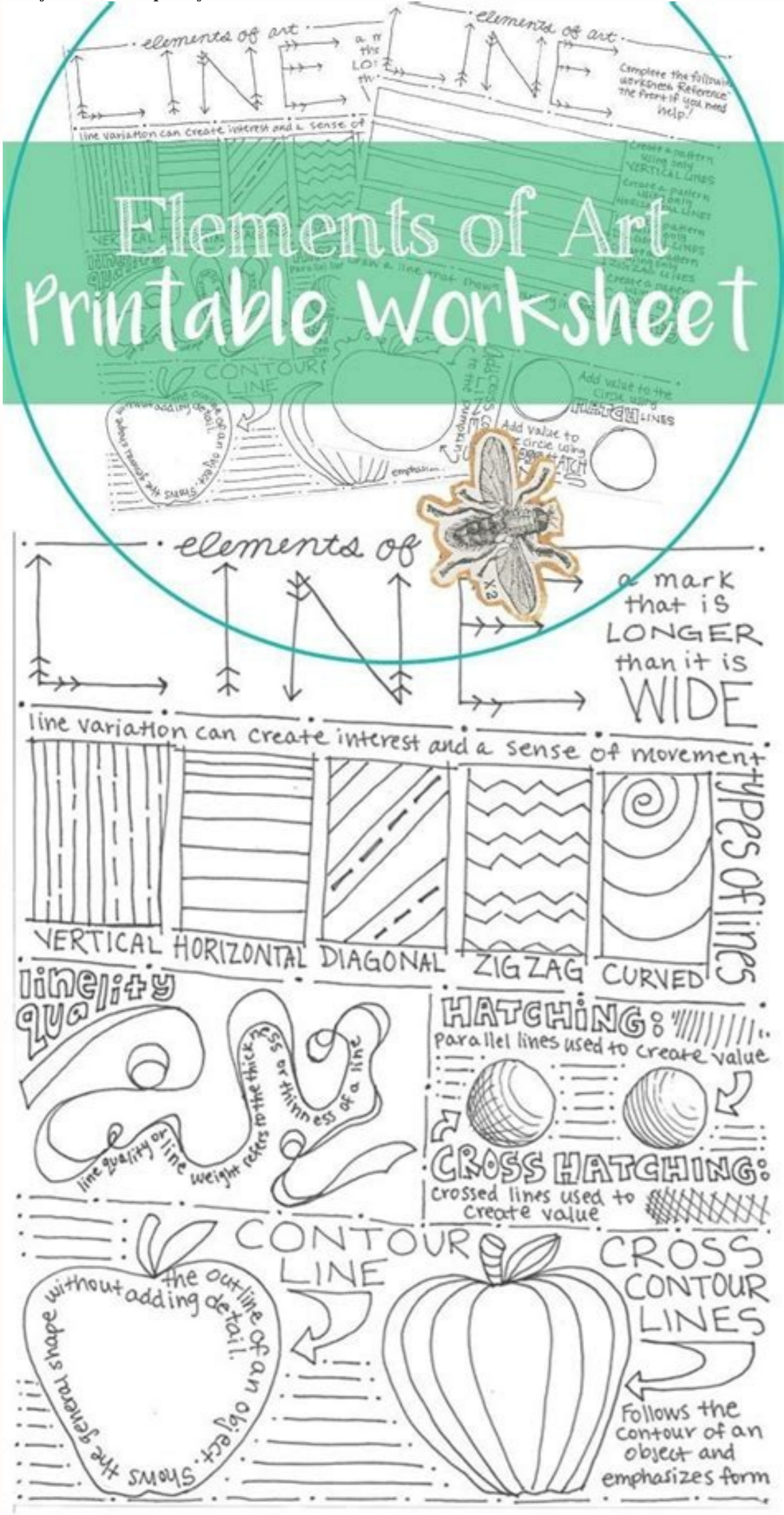
Line is one of the seven elements of art. It is considered by many to be the most basic element of art. In terms of art, line is considered "a moving dot". A simple way of thinking of a line is to imagine a point that moves... Drawing and Painting with Line Line has an endless number of uses in the creation of both drawings and paintings. Although we typically associate line with drawing, it's also foundational to painting. Contour Lines Perhaps the most obvious use of line is when it is used to define the edges or boundaries of a subject. We can obviously communicate a subject's edges by using line. In most cases, when we begin a drawing, we start by drawing the outlines of the subject. The outlines are just the beginning since line is also used to describe the details on the subject as well.



Usually, we can simplify areas of contrast on a subject into a line. In the image below, we can see the photo reference next to the resulting line drawing of a flower. The flower is communicated clearly in the line drawing. However, you'll note that the drawing is not an exact replica of the reference. There are only lines used in the drawing, yet there are many more complexities present in the photo. The drawing above is part of "Drawing Bootcamp". Click here to view Drawing Bootcamp (Membership required). As we can see, line is great for describing a subject in a drawing, but outlines on their own are not complete.



Other elements of art (specifically value) must be used in addition to line to create a realistic drawing. Lines that are used to communicate the edges and/or to describe the details of a subject (like we see above) are called contour lines. We commonly call these lines outlines. Line Quality Line quality refers to the characteristics of the line drawn. In many cases, line quality refers to the thickness of a line.



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By varying the line quality (including both thick and thin lines), we create drawings that are more interesting and provide more information to the viewer. Take a look at the line drawing of the apple below. Notice how the contour lines are thicker in areas. A thicker line is used where we expect to see shadow and where the apple itself is a little thicker. In this way, we can communicate a bit about the form of the apple and the light using a simple line. Cross Contour Lines Cross contour lines are more complex than contour lines. Cross contour lines flow over the form of the subject. These lines can be implied or visible. Cross contour lines are mostly used when line is used to shade a drawing with hatching and cross hatching. To better understand cross contour lines, you may imagine running your finger over the surface of an apple. Start from the stem and move down to the bottom. As you move your finger, imagine leaving a line behind. If you continue repeating this, making "lines" with your finger all around the apple, you would have created cross contour lines. We can see this illustrated in the image below...



The importance of understanding the concept of cross contour lines lies in shading (or adding shadow and highlight) with line. Depending on the form of the object you are drawing, these lines may curve or change direction. For more on cross contour lines, see the following lessons... Shading with Line Line can be used to shade drawings as well. Shading is the process of developing the value (art element). Value is the darkness or lightness of a color. Darker values typically represent shadows while lighter values typically represent highlights or lighter tones. Lines can be concentrated to create darker values. The more lines that are used, the darker the perceived value. Lighter tones can be achieved by allowing more of the white of the paper to show through or with less concentrated lines.

Line

Line: An element of art that is used to define shape, indicate motion, and define area. It suggests form and structure. It may be a continuous mark made on a surface with a particular tool, or it may be implied by the edges of forms and tones.

Characteristics of Line are:

- **Width:** _____
- **Length:** _____
- **Direction:** horizontal, vertical, diagonal, curved, _____
- **Flexibility:** _____
- **Texture:** _____

Types of Line:

1. **Outline Line:** Lines that define the shape of an object or its boundary.
2. **Broken Line:** Lines that are not continuous, often used to indicate a break or a change in direction.
3. **Implied Line:** Lines that are not actually drawn but are suggested by the arrangement of other elements in a drawing.

Draw the Lines:

1. **Draw five horizontal lines of varying lengths and thicknesses.**
2. **Draw five vertical lines of varying lengths and thicknesses.**

We can see this concept illustrated in the image below. The pepper has been shaded using lines. In areas where the value is darker, more lines are used. In areas where the value is lighter, less lines are used. You'll also notice that line quality (variety in line thickness) is also used to create a more interesting drawing. The drawing above is part of "25 Days to Better Drawings". Click here to view 25 Days to Better Drawings (Membership required). You'll also notice that the lines used to shade the drawing curve and change direction slightly based on the form of the pepper. This illustrates the concept of cross contour lines discussed before. Hatching Hatching is the process of using directional linear strokes that do not cross over each other to develop the shading in a drawing. Hatching can be used with any drawing or painting medium but it is at its best when used with linear drawing medium. Below we can see a drawing that was created with pen and ink that utilizes hatching. The drawing above is part of "Subjects with Pen and Ink". Click here to view Subjects with Pen and Ink (Membership required). Cross Hatching Cross hatching is the process of developing the value (or shading) in a drawing or painting using lines that cross over each other. Just like with hatching, the greater the concentration of marks, the darker the value. Hatching and cross hatching are often used together. Below, you'll find a drawing created with pen and ink that utilizes cross hatching. The drawing above is part of "Subjects with Pen and Ink". Click here to view Subjects with Pen and Ink (Membership required). Lines come in all shapes and sizes and the types of line that can be drawn are endless. Some common forms of line include horizontal, vertical, diagonal, zigzag, and curved. Other types of line include broken lines and implied lines. Horizontal lines are lines that are parallel to the horizon and generally flow from left to right or vice versa. Vertical lines are lines that move up and down without any slant. Diagonal lines are lines that slant. Zig zag lines are lines that change direction abruptly. Curved lines gradually change direction. Broken lines include open spaces but continue on a path. These lines may imply an edge or be used to communicate a highlight. Implied lines may include the open space in between broken lines. These lines may not be visible but are implied due to contrast in value or the inclusion of broken lines. See also: Implied and Broken Lines Line - Vocabulary Terms Line - element of art. In terms of art, line can be described as a moving dot. Line is perhaps the most basic element of drawing. Line Variation - the use of a variety of line including width, length, texture, thickness, etc. to add interest to a drawing or painting. Length - lines can be long or short. Width - lines can be wide or skinny. Texture - lines can be rough or smooth. Direction - lines can move in any direction. Degree of curve - lines can curve gradually or not at all. Hatching - lines that flow in the same direction in order to develop value or shading Line quality or line weight - refers to the thickness or thinness of a line. By varying the line quality artists can make objects appear more 3-dimensional and more interesting.

Lines are fantastic, because we all know how to make them! In this article we will discuss the different types of lines used in art, but before we begin, let's start with a definition! What is a line? A line is a continuous path drawn on a surface to create an image. A line can be thick, thin, vertical, horizontal, diagonal, curved or zig zagged. Lines are used in art to represent edges, form and textures of an object. In this article we'll discuss how lines affect an artwork, the different types of lines in art, contour lines, gestures lines and how to achieve line variation! Let's begin! How Do Lines Affect a Work of Art? An image is an illusion. It's just a whole bunch of well placed lines put together to make something that we recognize. Lines affect a work of art by enhancing this illusion. And to make this illusion as believable as possible, you will need to use variation in your lines. Why? Having just one type of line in the image will make the artwork repetitive and monotonous, just thinking about it makes me wanna have a nap. But if you create an artwork with a diverse mix of thick, thin, curved, vertical and horizontal lines, you're going to end up with a great picture. Something your audience will definitely stay awake for! What is Line Variation? Line variation is combining different types of lines into one image. For example, a drawing with thick lines for its outlines and thin lines for its details. Other combinations could be: Long lines vs. Short lines Hard lines vs. Soft lines Straight lines vs. Curved lines Fast lines vs. slow lines The purpose of line variation is to add life, interest and detail to a drawing. What Are the Types of Line in Art? The main types of line in art are: Thick lines Thin lines Vertical lines Horizontal lines Diagonal lines Curved lines Zig Zag lines Any drawing or illustration will be made up of these different types of lines. In the above list, thick lines and thin lines can be applied to all of the other lines mentioned. So before we go any further, I want to first talk about the super duper important relationship between thick lines and thin lines! Thick Lines Thick lines are used to add boldness and power to a design. They are often used to add depth to an image, making things appear closer to the viewer. While thin lines are great for adding detail to an image, it's the thick lines that will draw the viewer into the image. Why are Thick Lines So important? Thick lines are important because they give structure and weight to an image. They help the viewer understand where they should be looking. As a general rule, thick lines are important to emphasize the overall shape of something, whereas thin lines are there to make something look detailed and believable. Let me tell ya a story to explain! A few years ago at an art auction, I remember a seeing a large pen and ink artwork. I walked up to it and was amazed at the artwork's details. It was one of the most finely drawn artworks that I'd ever seen. But when I stepped back a few feet, the details disappeared and all I could see was a pale, washed out sketch. Technically the artwork was amazing and it took weeks to make. But ultimately it just wasn't fit for hanging on a wall. It ended up selling well below what it was worth. The artist was so busy focusing on the details that he neglected to take a step back and add in some thick lines to draw the audience into his picture. An artwork needs to look good from close up, but if it doesn't look good from afar, then you've only done half your job. The viewer will struggle to know where to look, and that's where thick lines help guide them to the important places in the image. Thin Lines Thin lines are used to show detail and softness in image. Thin lines add depth to an image, making things appear further away from the viewer. Without thin lines, details in an image will just look like a big chunky mess (try adding in details to an illustration with a thick pen, it aint great!) Why are Thin Lines So important? Thin lines are important because they make an image more believable. I am always amazed at what a few thin lines can do to an illustration. If you were to draw a picture of boats in the ocean, it would make sense to do the boats closest to you with thick lines. However, if you were to draw the boats far away near the horizon with a thick pen, it will ruin the depth of the image. The further away an object appears, the thinner their lines should be. This is a form of atmospheric perspective, and helps to make things on your piece of paper look more real. Thin lines also play a very important role in enhancing the quality of an image. I will often draw the main parts of an image using only thick lines. Once that foundation is down, I'll take step back to assess it... The next part of the process is to then add details to my illustration. How do I do that?! Yoouu guessed it - With a whole bunch of thin lines. Without thin lines, an image will look incomplete (and a little bit boring too!) Vertical Lines Vertical lines are used to convey height in an image. Think of how vertical lines are used in an artwork. They are used to draw tall trees, buildings and lampposts. All these objects are anchored to the ground and move upwards. To emphasize height even more, vertical lines will extend right up to the top of the artwork. Think of a landscape drawing with tree trunks extending beyond the top of the drawing. The further away the trees are in the picture, the taller they will appear! Okay, just when you thought lines couldn't possibly get more riveting... it's time to talk about the opposite type of line: Lines that are horizontal! Hoo yeah! Horizontal Lines Horizontal lines are used to convey distance in an image. Imagine yourself standing on a mountain, looking down at an endless scene of rolling hills. As the hills recede into the distance, the land will become more and more horizontal. And the closer the horizontal lines are to each other, the further away the land will appear. This effect can apply to any kind of landscape drawing such as drawing Paris from above, or a sky full of clouds fading into the horizon. Diagonal Lines Diagonal lines are any straight line that isn't vertical or horizontal. Diagonal lines are used to create depth and perspective in a drawing. Just think of how you draw up a one-point perspective grid. You draw one horizontal line, and then a whole bunch of diagonal lines. Without all those delightfully diagonal lines, your grid will look as flat as a pancake. Curved Lines Curved lines add an organic feeling and a sense of movement to a design. Think of a body of flowing water, or some smoke rising in the air. Without curved lines, all our designs will look straight outta Minecraft - just a whole bunch of blocks that look static and flat. Zig Zag Lines Can I just say... zig zags are fantastic. They can make an image look waaay more interesting! Zig zag lines are used to lead the viewer's eye above and across the artwork, and are a great effect to pair up with the more conservative vertical and horizontal lines. How to Incorporate Line Variation into Your Art If you are want to get better at adding line variation to your drawings, then you just need to simply practice drawing with line variation as your primary objective. Get out some scrap paper and just do some doodles. Don't worry about what you're trying to draw, just have fun and make a bilig mess! Line Variation Exercises You Can Try Are: adjusting the pressure of your pen or pencil as you are drawing - this will give you a thick line / thin line effect. drawing lines at different speeds. Slow lines will look rigid, while fast lines will look organic and full of life. drawing lines at different lengths. Start with a long line, then break it with a gap, draw a slightly shorter line and repeat until your line turns into an itty bitty dot. Don't stress mate, just have fun. What are Contour Lines? Contour lines are used to give direction to an object, without needing to rely on shading or color. If you make a drawing using only basic outlines, you will end up with a flat drawing. In you want to create the illusion of depth, you will need to add some curved contour lines. The great thing about contour lines is that you only need a few to make a drawing look three dimensional. If you have taken the time to draw a skilful and visually pleasing outline (as your foundation), then adding in contour lines is not only easy, but a whole lotta fun as well. What are Gesture Lines? Gesture lines are used to give a loose, organic and energetic feeling to your designs or drawings. When creating a gesture drawing, it is important to draw with your eyes, rather than your brain. No offence to our collective brains, but gesture drawing requires us to allow our eyes to talk directly to our hand. If you don't overthink things and draw what you see (rather than what you think you see), you will end up with a confident, energetic and organic artwork Conclusion! In this article we discussed one of the great elements of art: Lines! We touched on the importance of lines in art, the different types of lines you can use, and how you can put these different line types together for a more interesting artwork. If you currently don't use line variation in your drawings, please give it a go! It's a lot of fun and it will make your drawings look fantastic! Remember: Practice drawing different lines - nothing fancy, just abstract doodles Use thick lines for the overall shape, and thin lines for the details. Experiment with the speed of your line strokes. Instead of drawing one line, try and break it up into smaller lines. Thanks for stopping by, and best of luck! Malcolm Melbourne, Australia