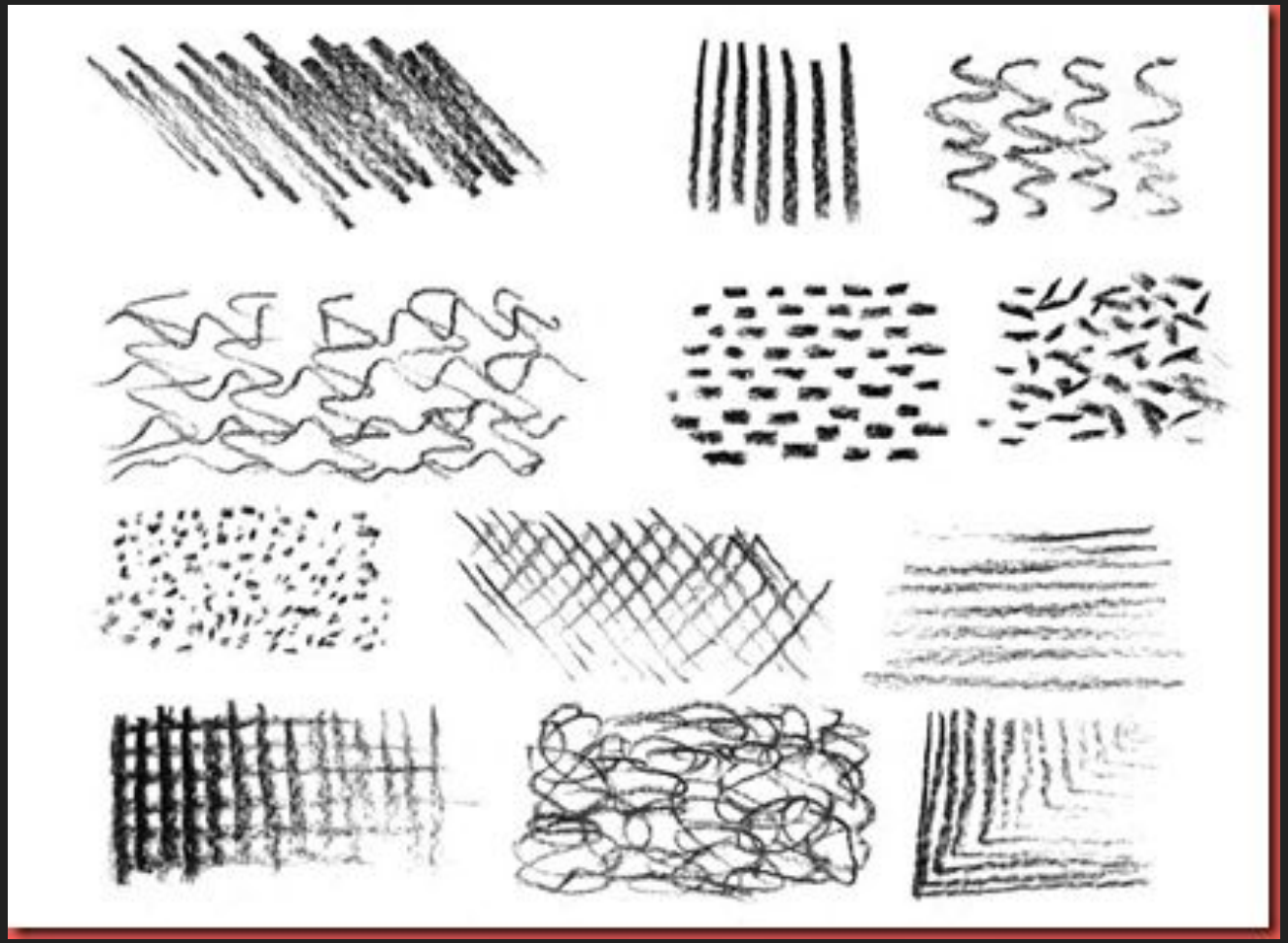
Creative Lines

A line is a dot that went out for a walk.

—Paul Klee

Line in drawing refers to a type of *mark* that contains both a direction and a length.
Line is an Art Element. There are numerous varieties of possible lines, including curved, bent, thick, wide, broken, vertical, horizontal, blurred, or freehand. Lines are frequently used to delineate shapes, forms and spaces. The representation of volume, edges, movement and patterns can all be created using line. Lines can create both 2D and 3D objects and figures.

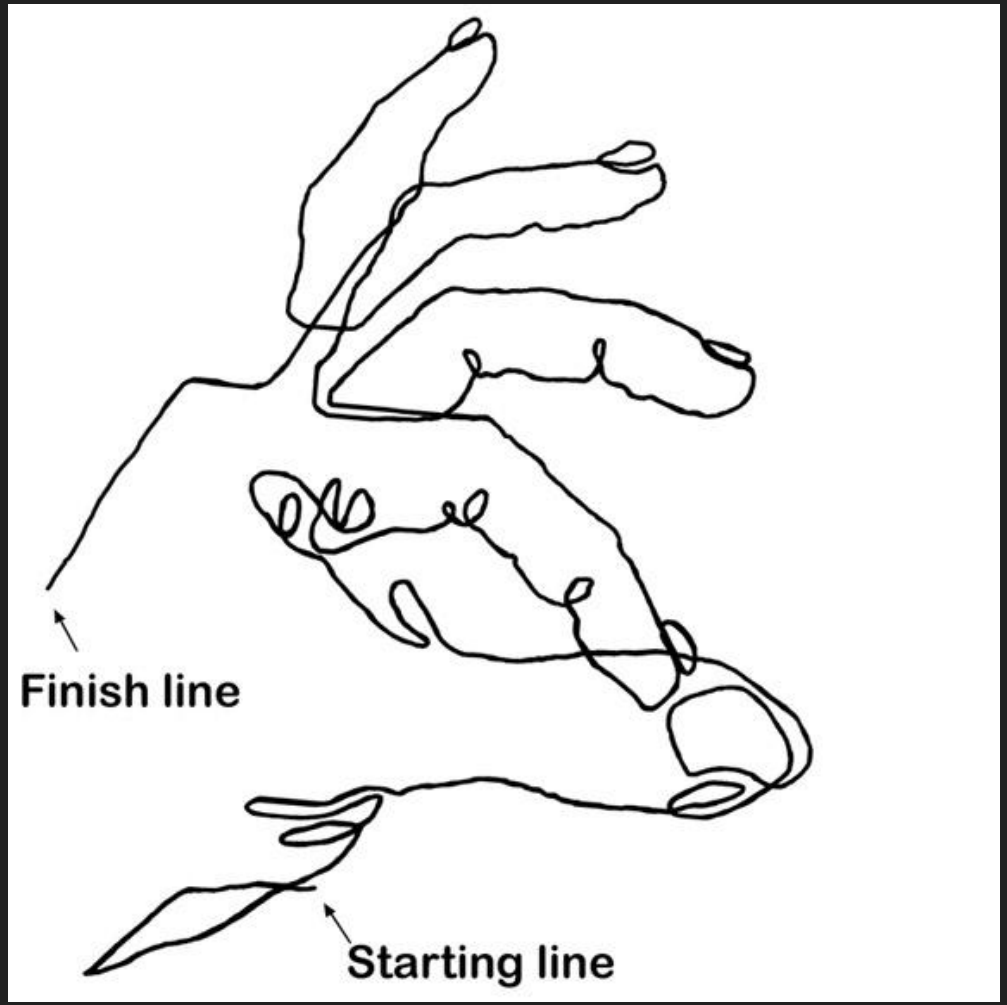


Types of Line

Vertical lines are perpendicular to the horizon. They are filled with *potential energy* that could be released if they were to fall over. Vertical lines are strong and rigid. They can suggest stability, especially when thicker. They stretch from the earth to the heavens and are often connected with religious feelings. Their tallness and formality may give the impression of dignity.

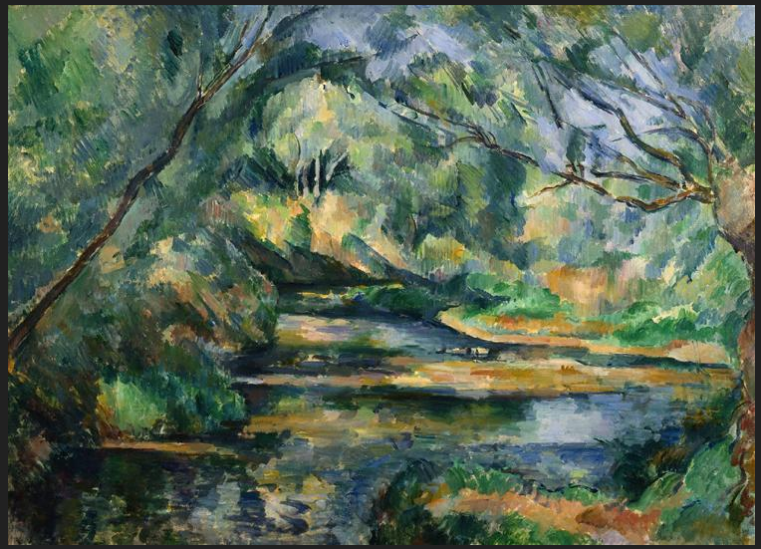
Thin lines are fragile. They appear easy to break or knock over. They convey an elegant quality. They are delicate and give off an ephemeral air.

Thick lines on the other hand appear difficult to break. They suggest strength and give emphasis to nearby elements. Thick lines are bold, *powerful,* and make a statement.


Finish line
Starting line

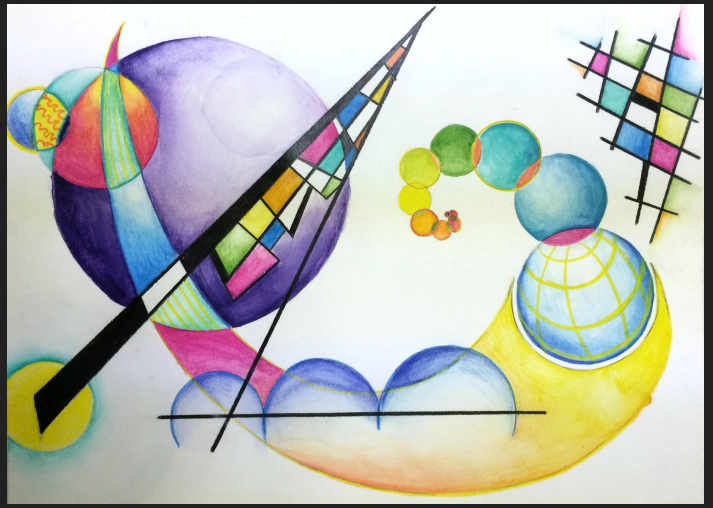
Horizontal lines are parallel to the horizon (hence the name). They look like they're lying down, *at rest*, asleep. They suggest calm and quiet, a relaxed comfort. Horizontal lines can't fall over. They accentuate width. They're stable and secure.

Claude Monet
The Bridge



Paul Cezanne
The Brook

Diagonal lines are *unbalanced*. They are filled with restless and uncontrolled energy. They can appear to be either rising or falling and convey action and motion. Their kinetic energy and apparent movement create tension and excitement. Diagonal lines are more dramatic than either horizontal or vertical lines. Diagonal lines can also appear solid and unmoving if they are holding something up or at rest against a vertical line or plane.

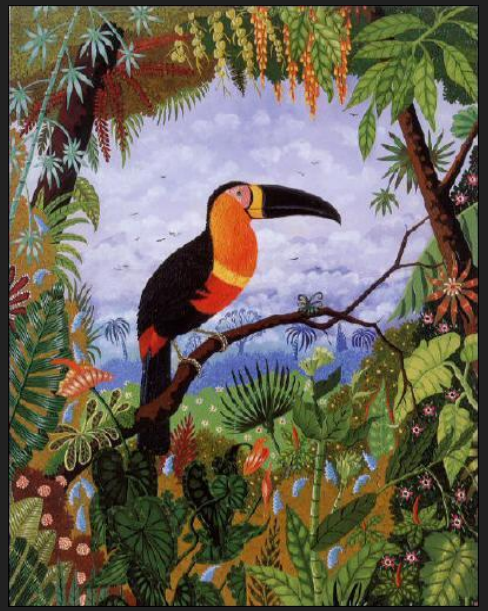


Wassily Kandinsky
Watercolor Study

Henri Matisse
Dancing

Organic lines are softer than straight lines. They are *curvy* and sweep and turn gracefully between end points. They are less definite and predictable than straight lines. They bend, they change direction. Curved lines express fluid movement. They can be calm or dynamic depending on how much they curve. The less active the curve the calmer the feeling.

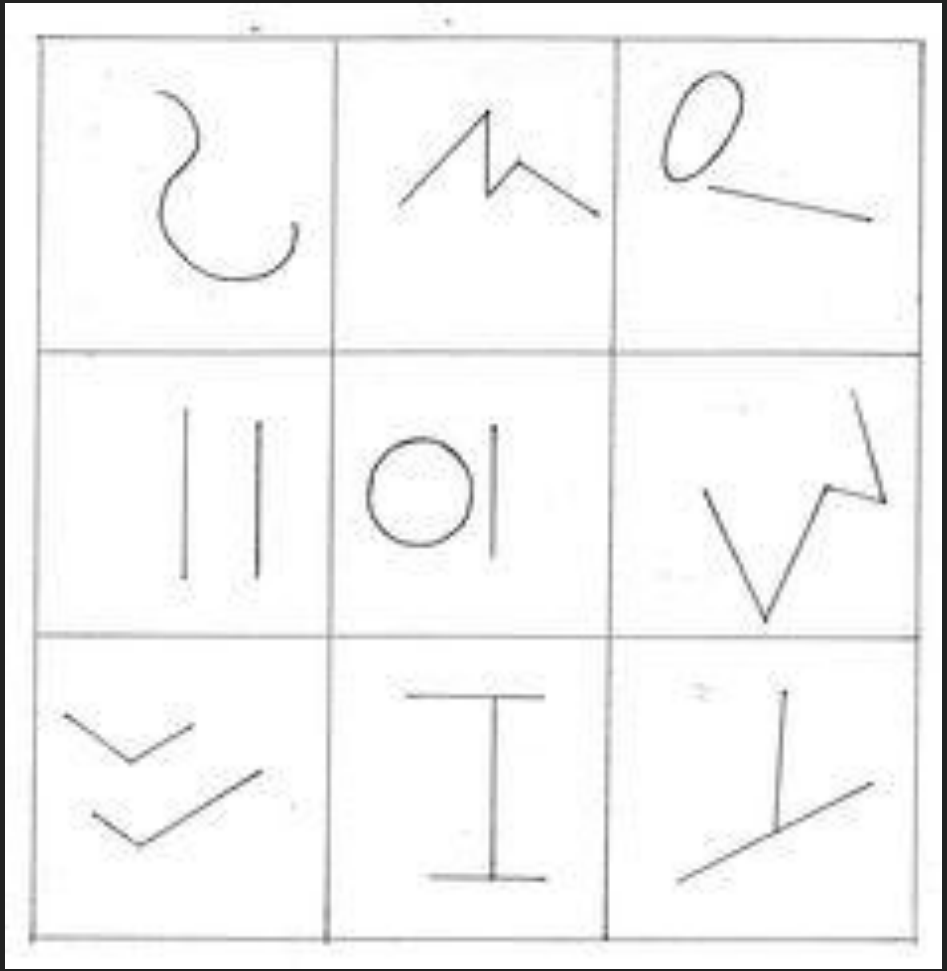
Vincent Van Gogh
Starry Night

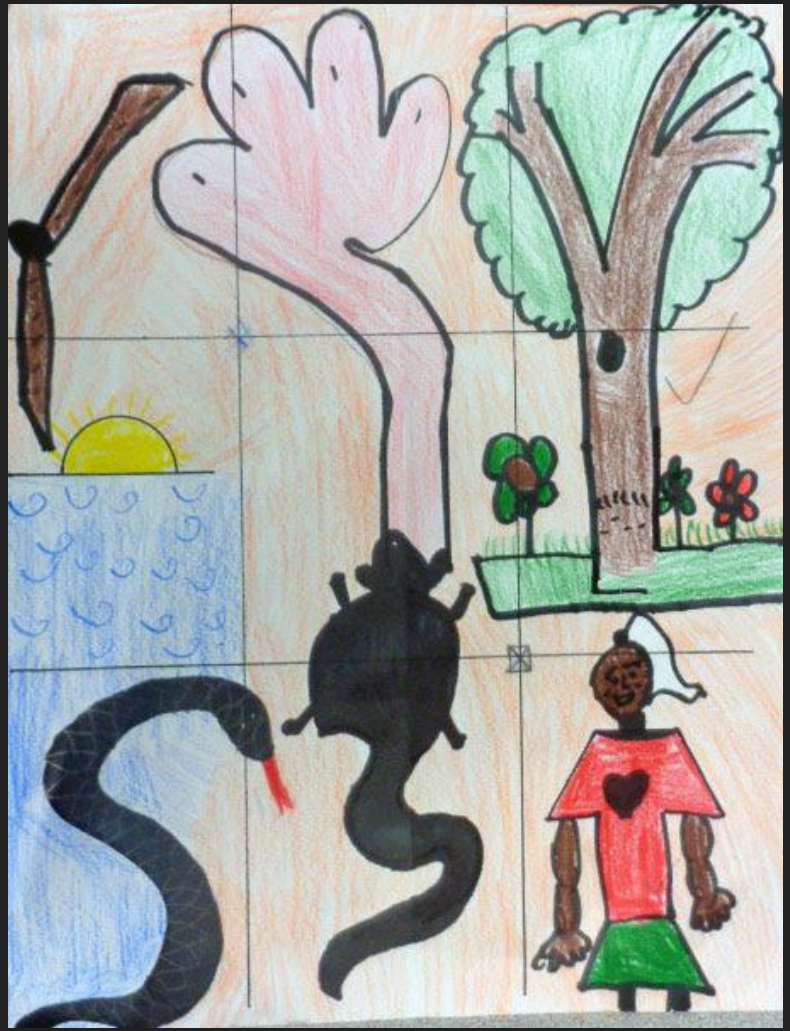


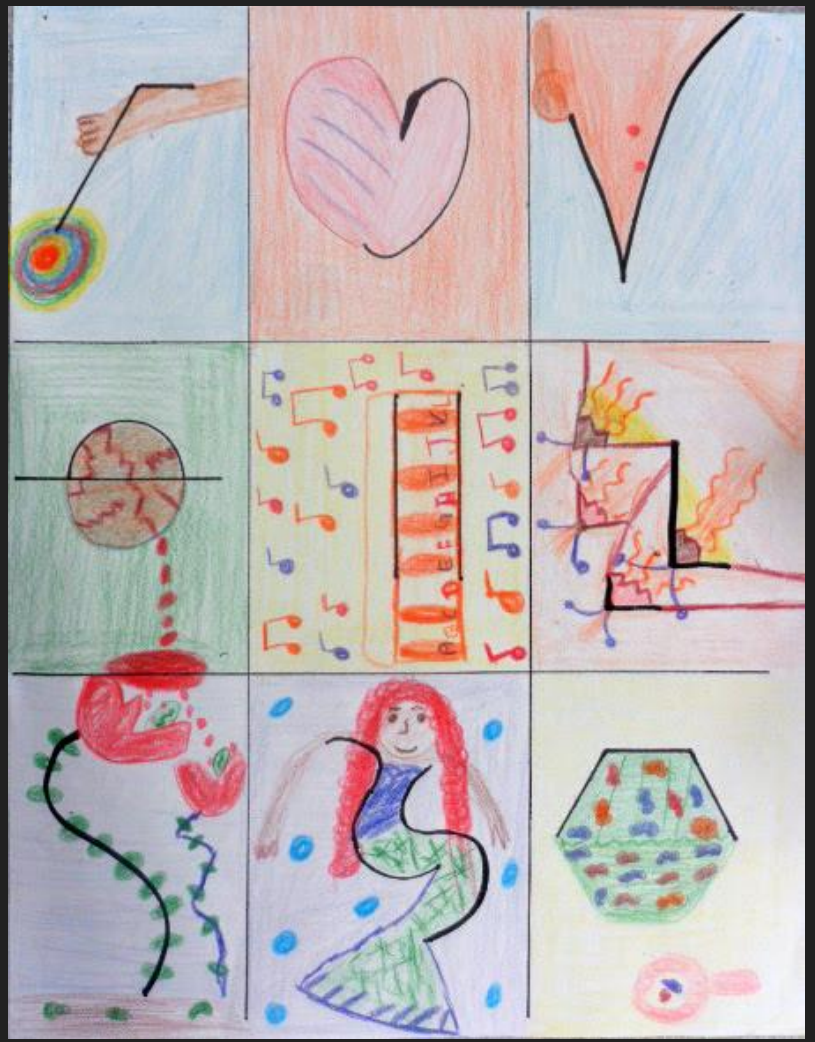
Henri Rousseau
Toucan

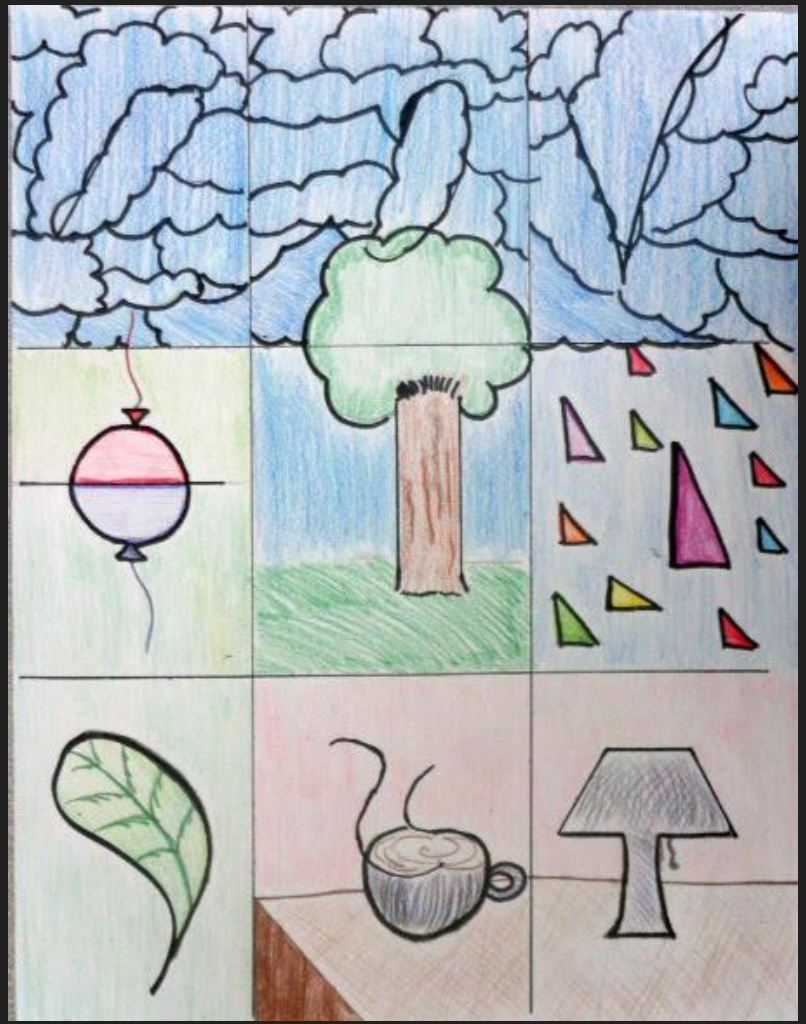
Zigzag lines are a combination of diagonal lines that connect at points. They take on the dynamic and *intense energy, also* characteristics of diagonal lines. They create excitement and *intense movement*. They convey confusion and nervousness as they change direction quickly and frequently. They can imply danger and destruction as they break down.

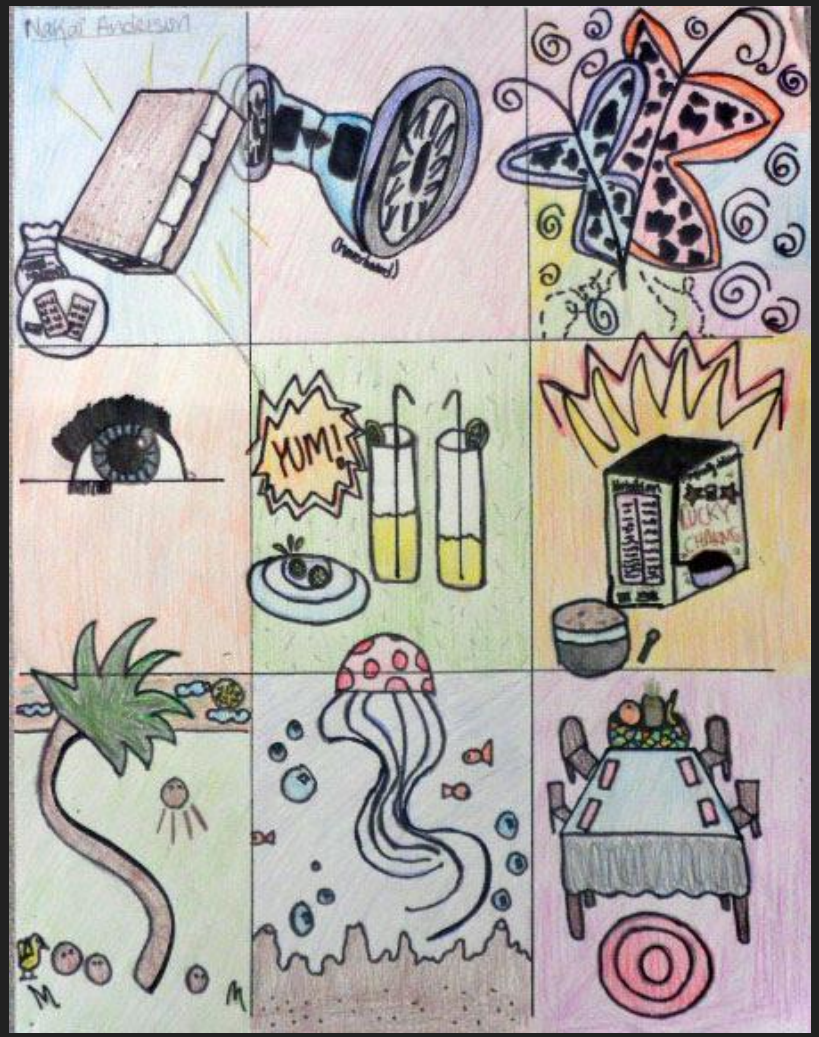
Sabastio Salgado

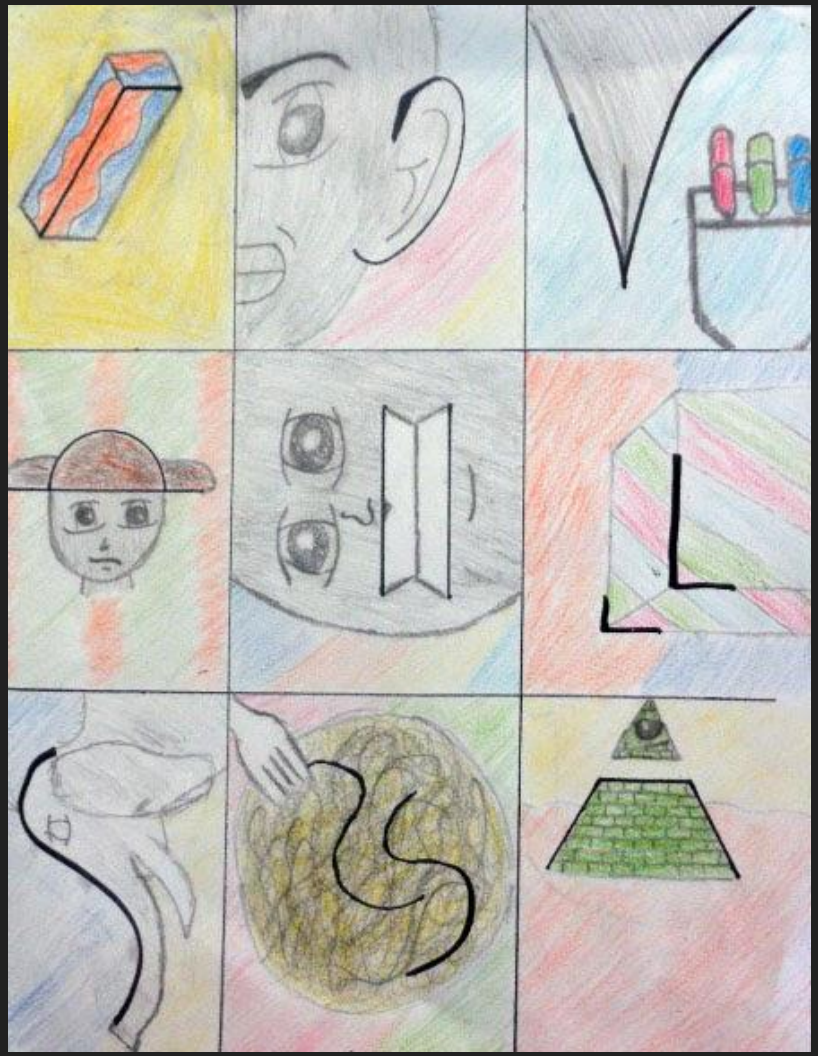


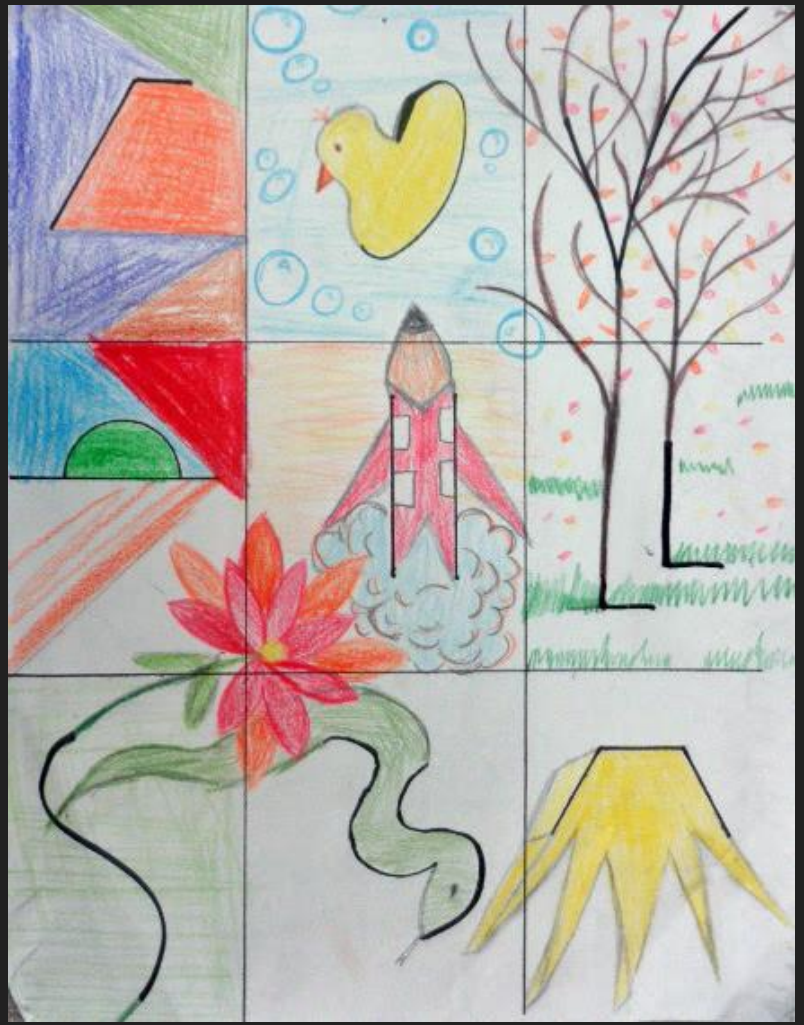







Nakai Anderson
YUM!
LUCKY CHARMS



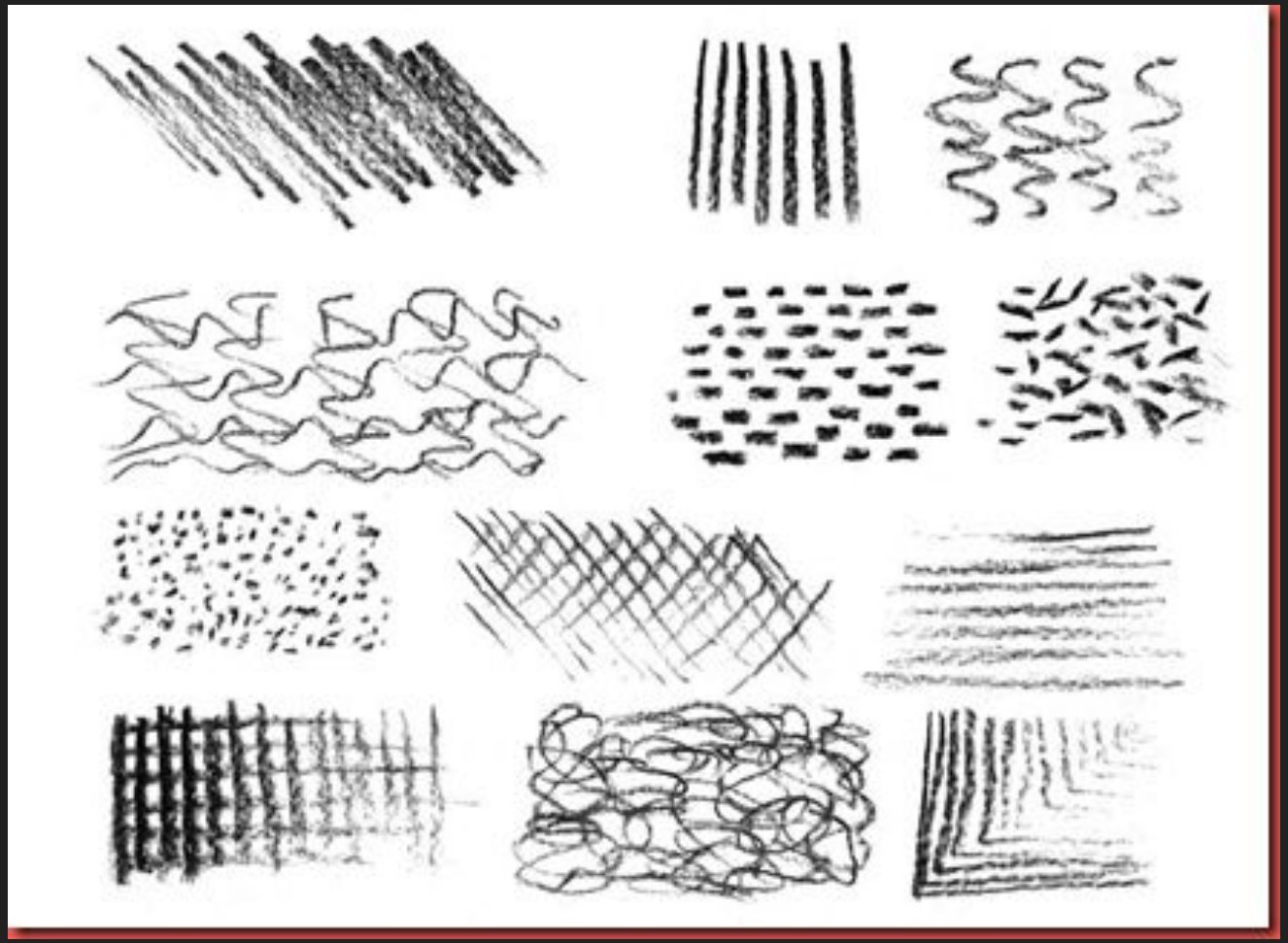


A LINE is the most basic of all the art elements.

They are used to make SHAPES and FORMS, and to create PATTERNS and MOVEMENT in SPACE.

LINES move in every different direction.

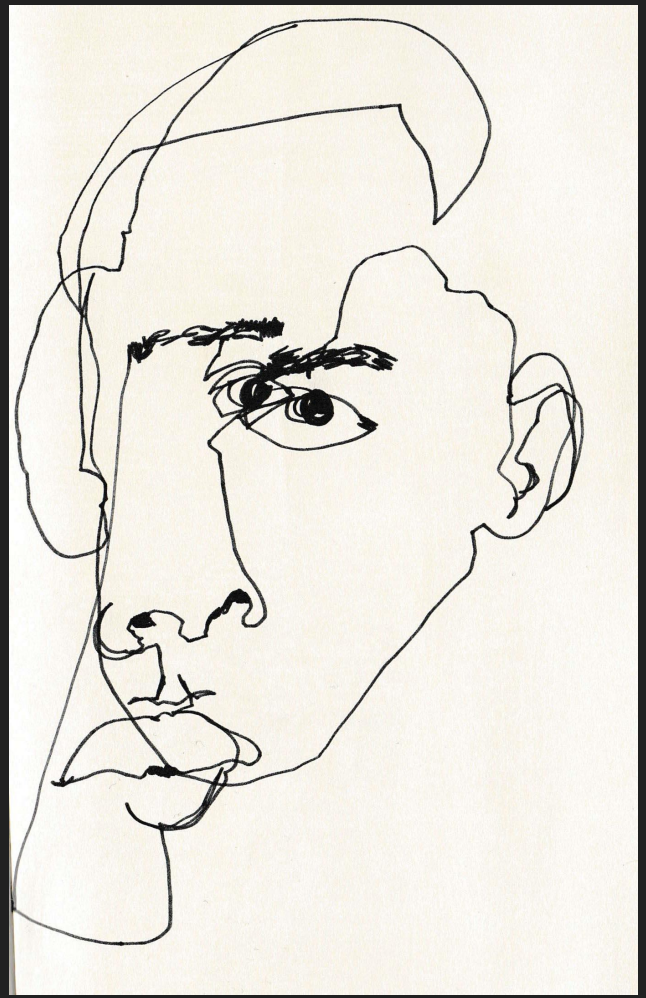
LINES have an unlimited variety of thicknesses and lengths.

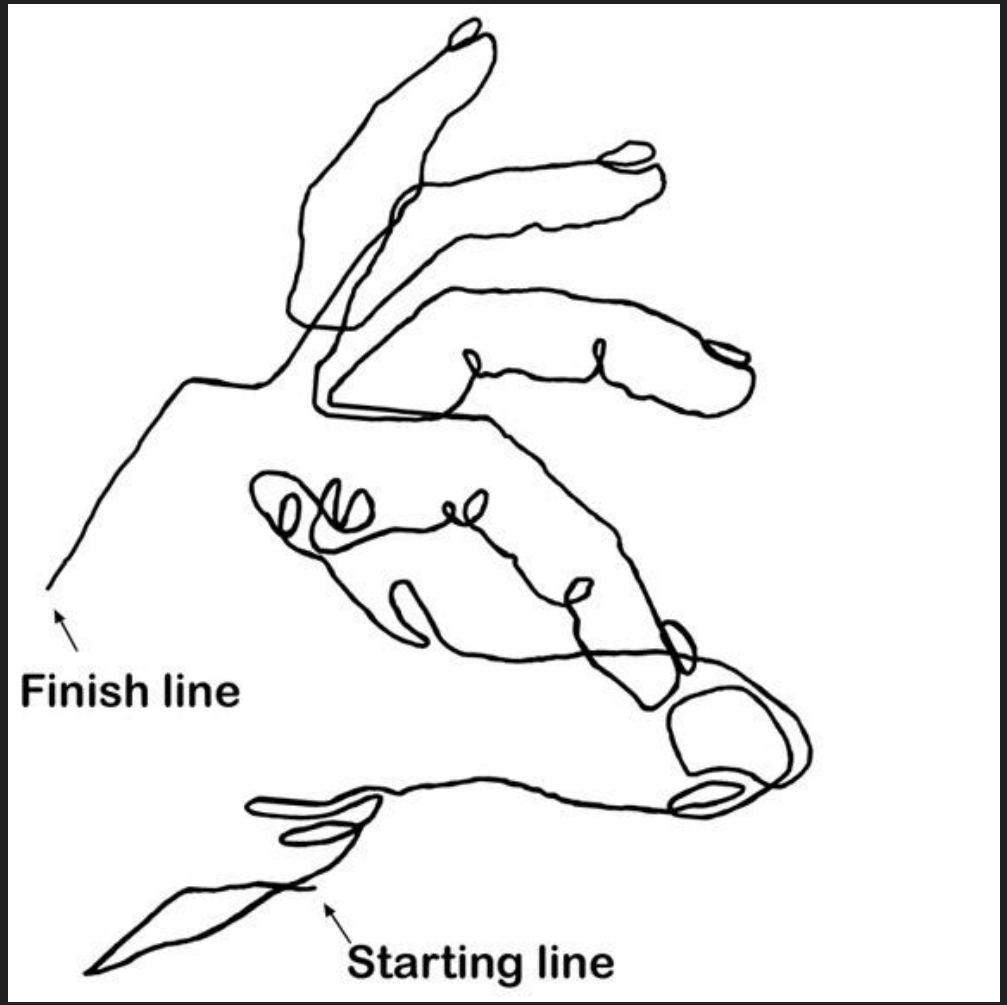


Types of Line

Blind Contour Drawing

- A **blind contour** drawing is a line drawing that is created without looking at the paper.
- one concentrates intensely on the item that he/she is drawing and tries to draw the many shifts of lines and tangents of lines seen.
- These types of drawings enhance one's eye-hand coordination and create a better awareness of changes of form and space
- Contour - in art refers to the outside edges, as well as the defined enclosed edges, of a person, object or mass.




Finish line
Starting line

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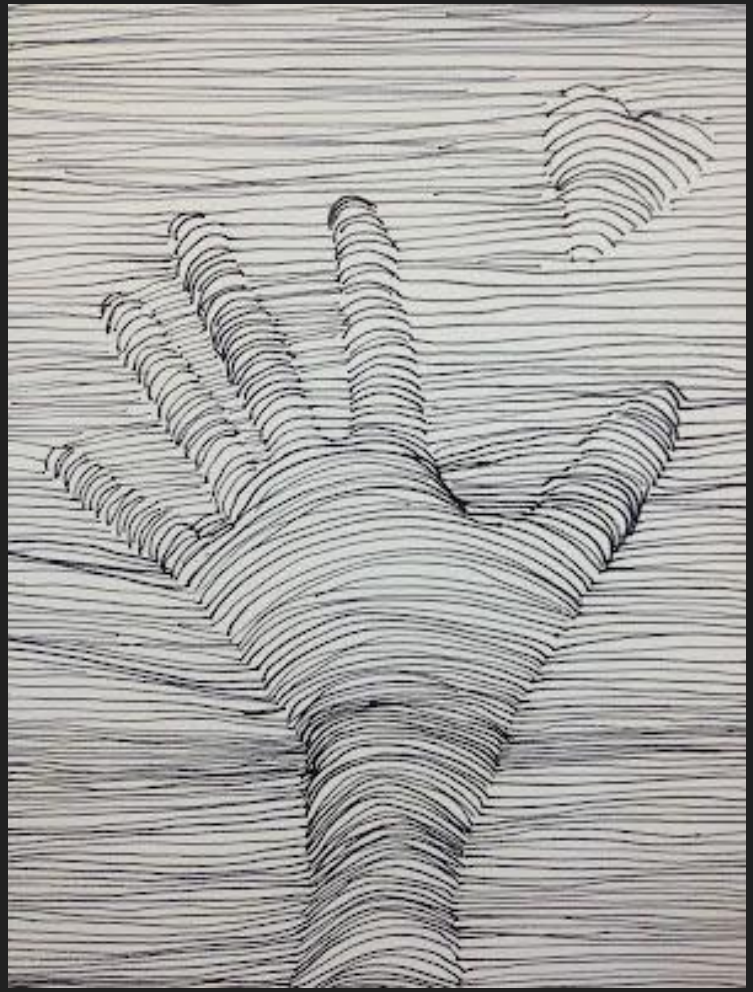

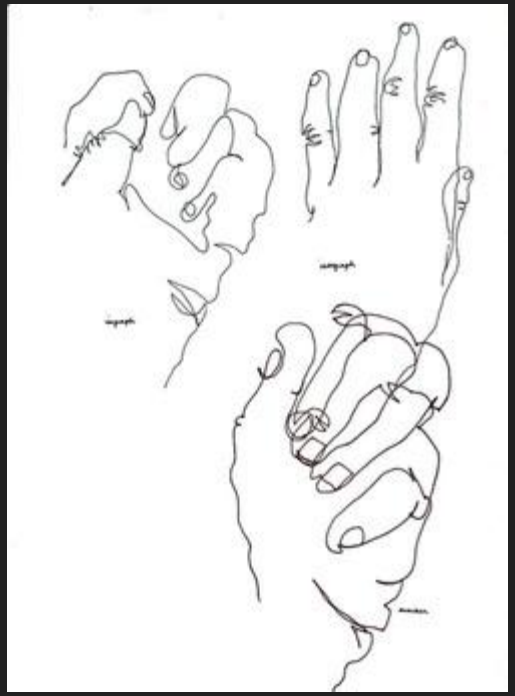

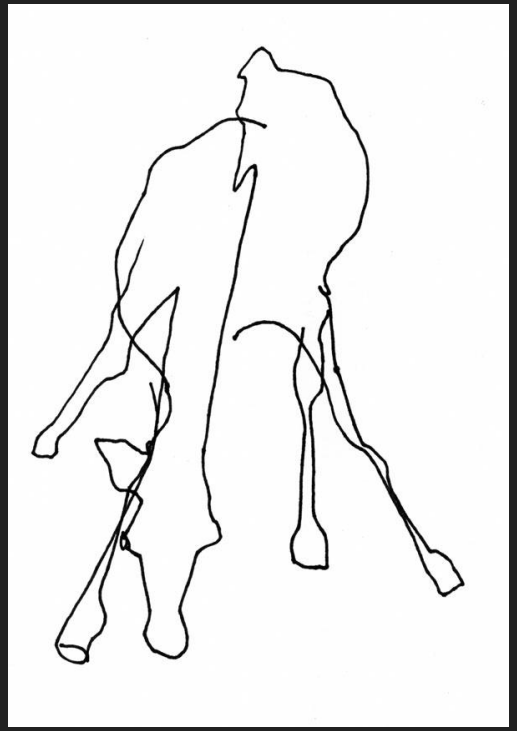

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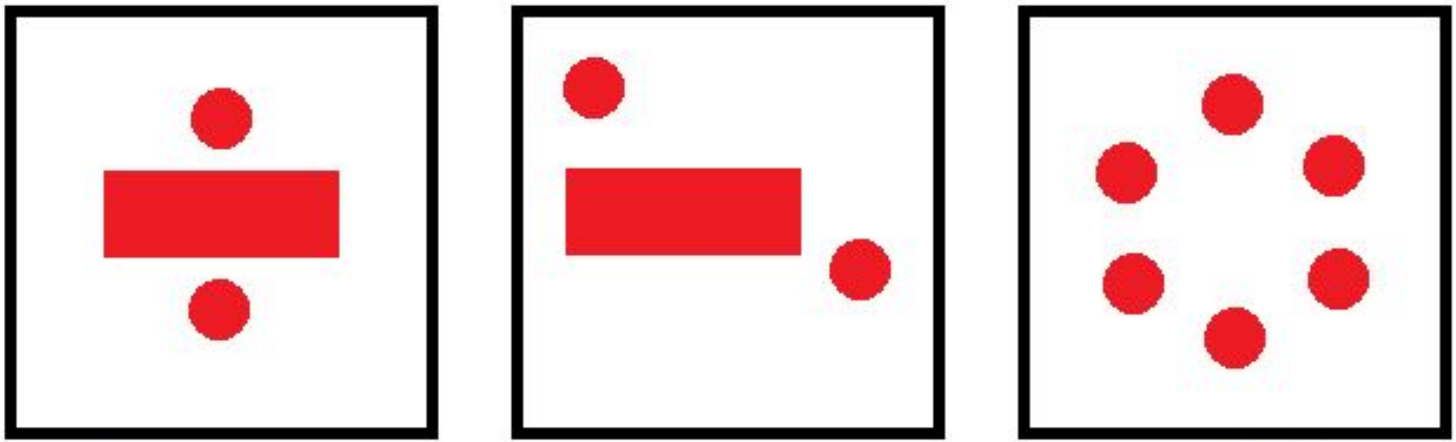
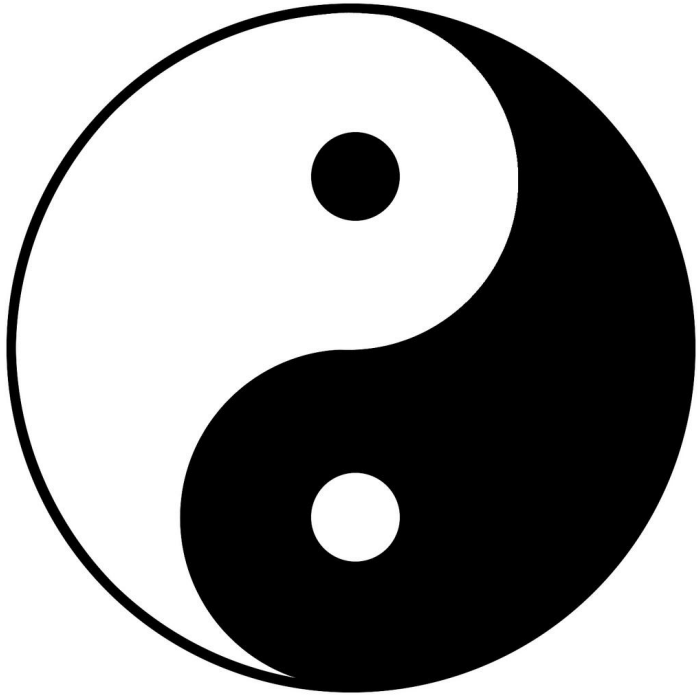
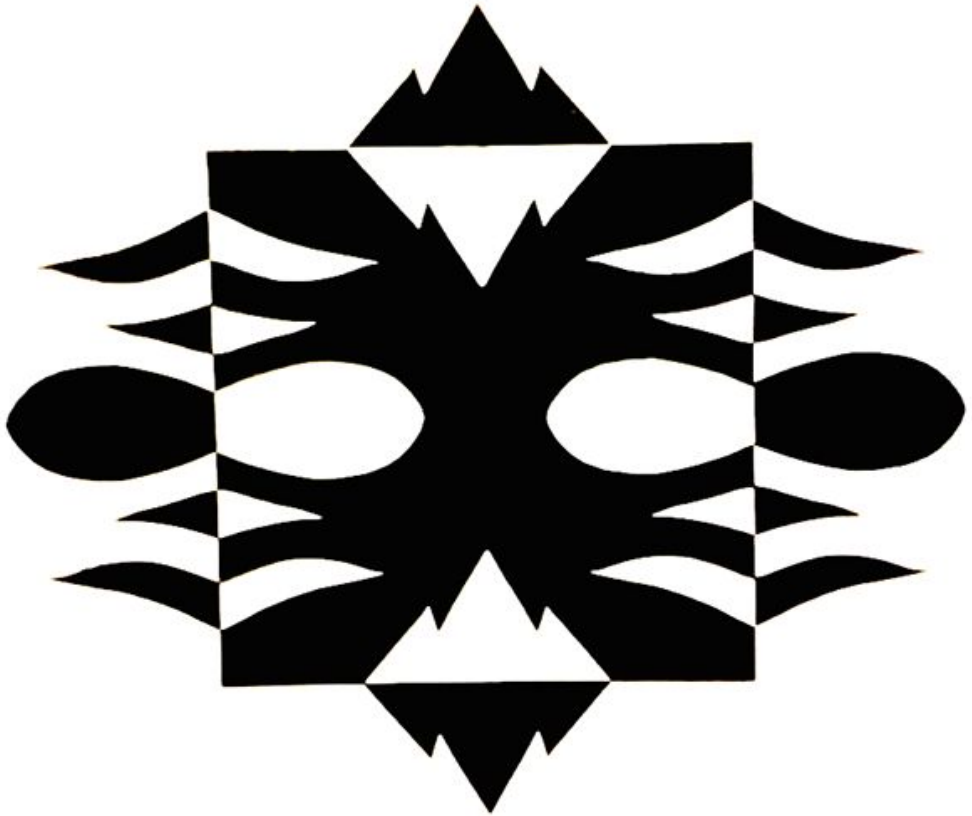
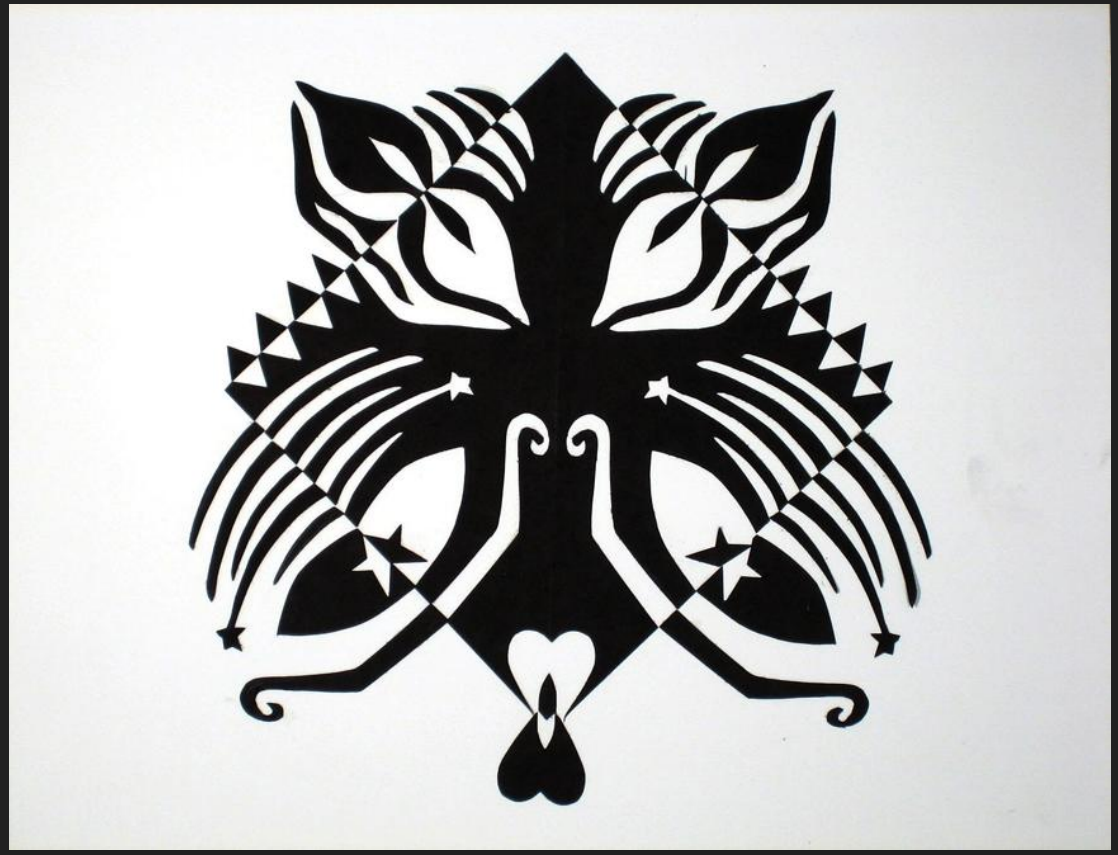
What is symmetry? What is Asymmetry?

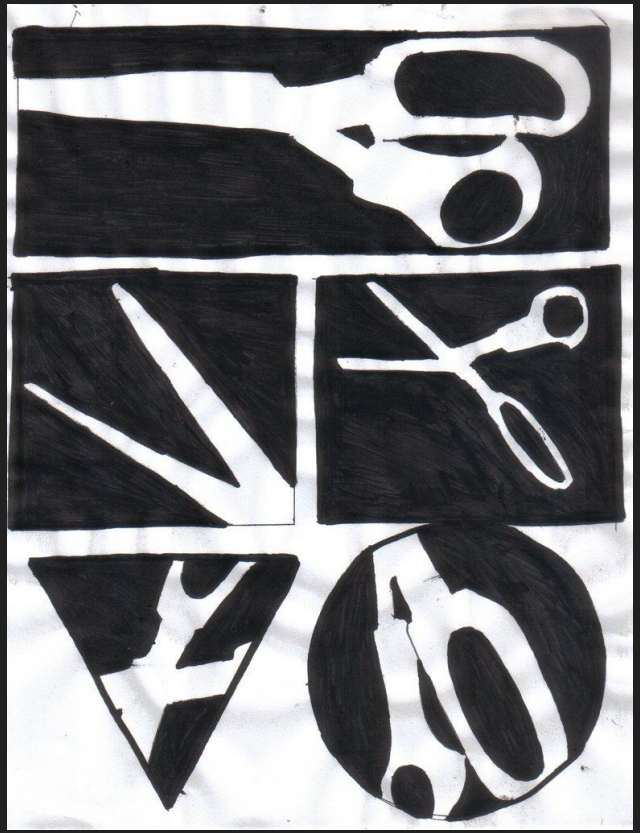


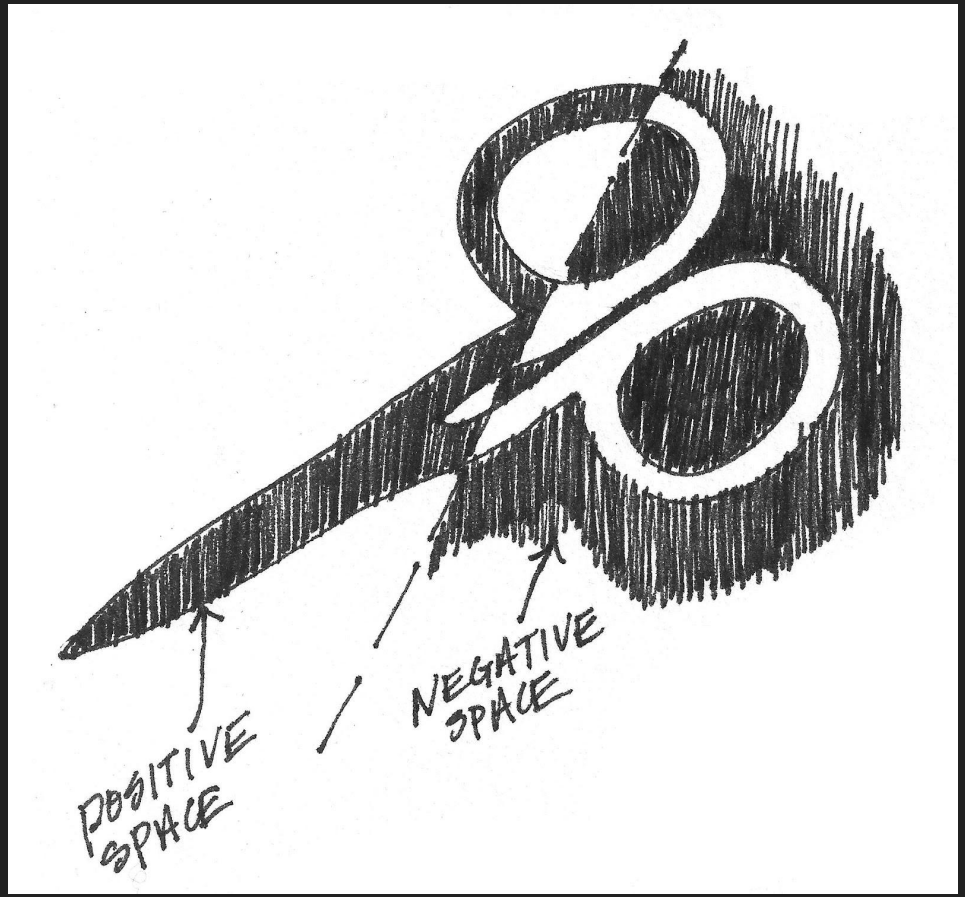






Symmetrical Balance





Drawing Negative Space

Color Wheel