

Pre-Lesson: Elements of Art



HELLO!

We are so excited to have you visit the Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) on a field trip where we are going to explore a world of art in fun and interesting ways.

To prepare, please complete the following creativity warm-up:

Elements of Art! (10–20-minute activity)

For this activity you will need:

- Paper**
- Pencil**

The elements of art are the tools, or building blocks, an artist uses to create an artwork.

Get your creativity ready and let's use our artist tool-belt to explore 5 elements of art!

To do this, we are going to look at the same artwork 5 different times and focus on a different element each time. Look closely at the artwork and notice the many details.

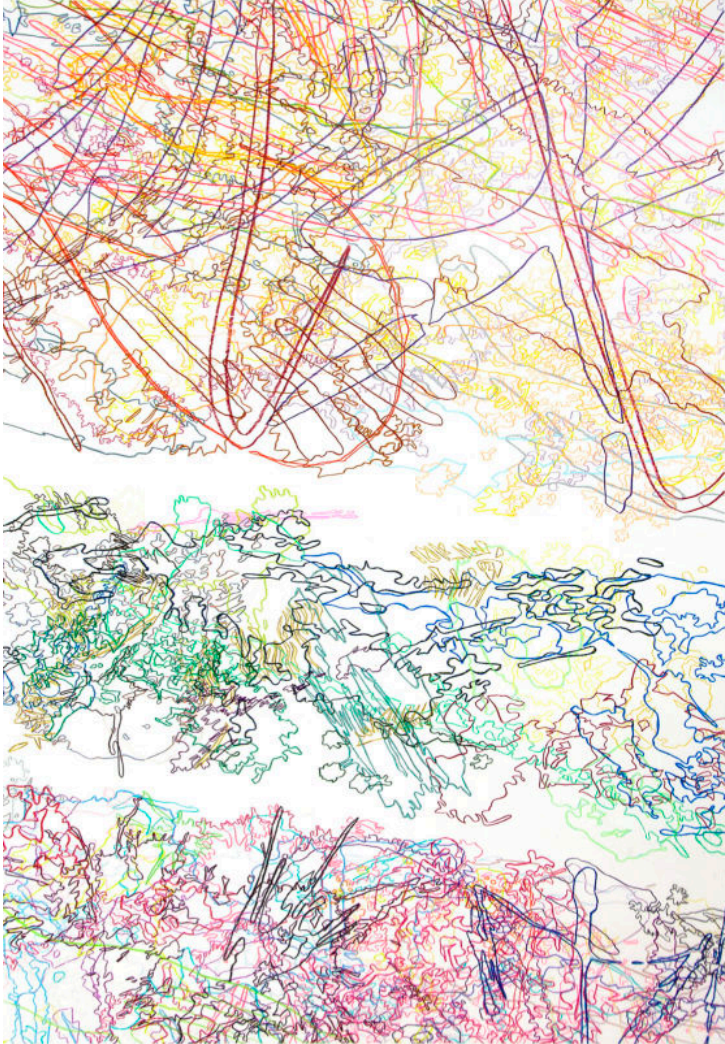
Next five slides | Ingrid Calame, *#233 Drawing*, 2006, colored pencil, mylar. Purchased with funds from The Paul L. and Phyllis C. Wattis Fund, UMFA2006.44.1.



COLOR - Our eyes see waves of light as color.

On your paper, write down 5 different colors you see in this artwork.

- **How would you describe these colors? Are they bright or dull?**
- **Can you find colors that are warm? Cool?**
- **Why do you think the artist, Ingrid Calame, chose to include so many colors in her artwork?**



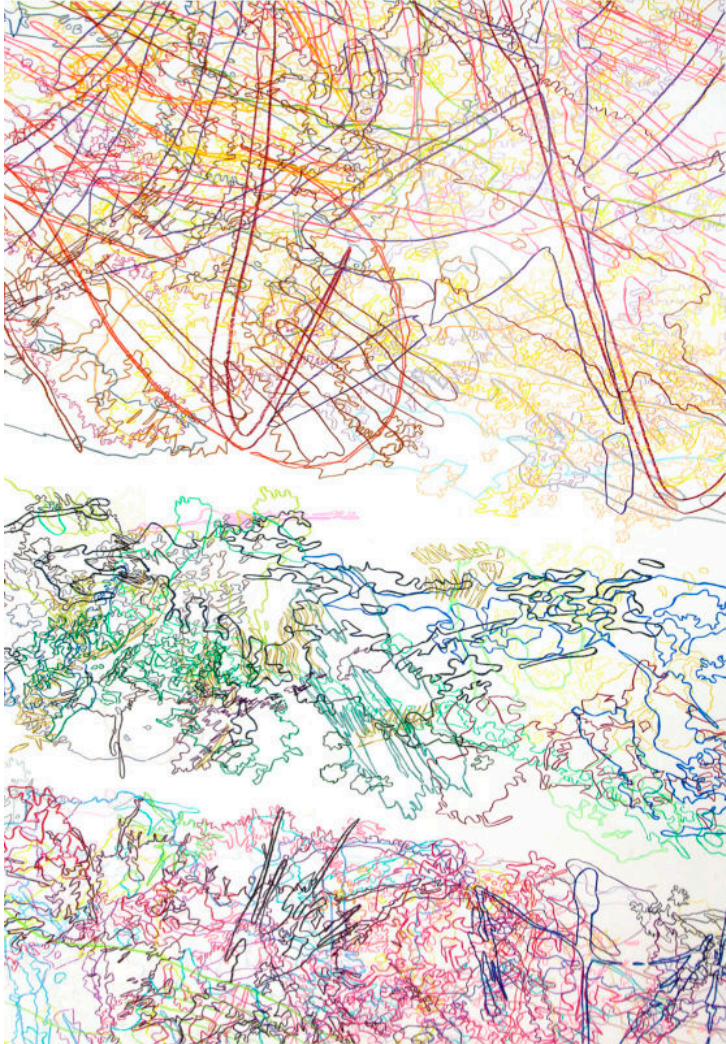
LINE - “A line is a dot that went for a walk”
– Paul Klee.

Lines can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal; straight or curved; thick or thin.

Using your finger, draw some of the different lines you see in the air.

- Can you find a straight line?
- Where is the curviest line?

Pick one line and follow it from its beginning to end. Now draw it on your paper!



SHAPE (FORM) -
A closed line.

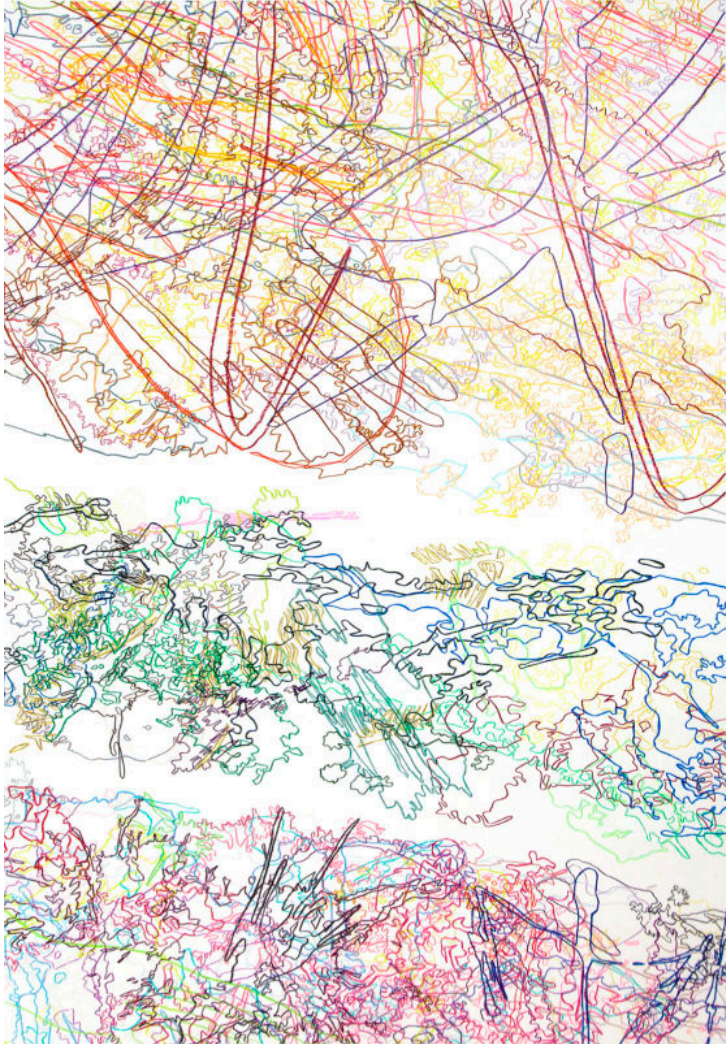
Shapes can be geometric, like squares or circles; or they can be organic, like free form or natural shapes. Shapes are flat. Forms are three-dimensional shapes. Some examples of forms are balls, cylinders, boxes, and pyramids

Draw three shapes you see.

Can you find a BIG shapes?

What about a teeny-tiny shape?

Imagine that some of these shapes are floating just above the paper. What 3D forms might they create?

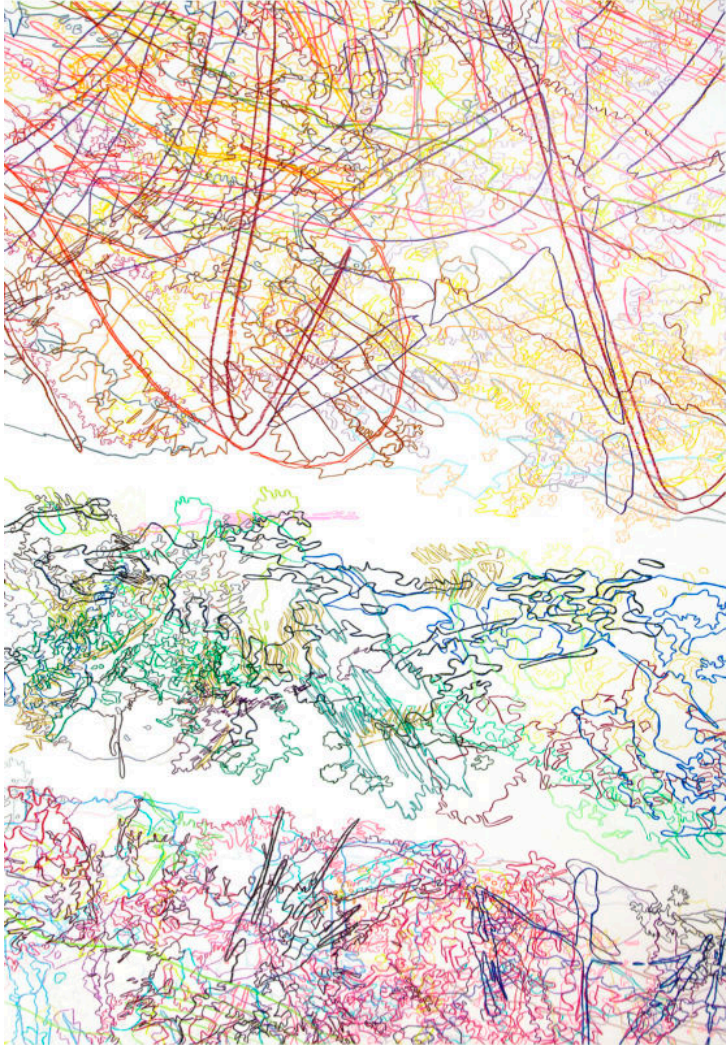


SPACE - Space is the area between and around objects.

Let's focus on all the white places around the colors, lines, and shapes. This is called *negative space*. Point to the places that have negative space.

Space helps our eyes see the details of an artwork more clearly.

Color around the shapes you drew on your paper to highlight negative space.



TEXTURE - Texture is how something feels – or how it looks like it would feel.

Textures can be rough or smooth, soft or hard, bumpy or fluffy, prickly or flaky. Textures do not always feel the way they look; for example, a drawing of a porcupine may look prickly, but the paper is smooth.

Write down three words to describe different textures in this artwork! Can you find those same textures where you are right now?

Great job exploring 5 elements of art by looking at this artwork closely!

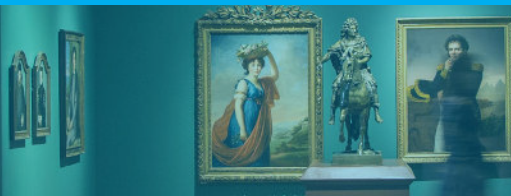
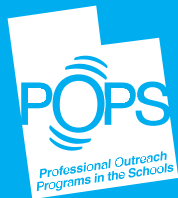
What name, or title, would you give this work of art to describe it? Write that title on your paper and share with your class.

We can't wait to see you soon on your UMFA field trip where we will see amazing artworks and keep adding to our artist tool-belt.

Please review the following Museum Manners before your visit:

- **Have fun!**
- **Ask questions and share your ideas and thoughts**
- **Listen to and consider the ideas of others**
- **Please use indoor voices, feet, and hands in the Museum**
- **Look but don't touch: oil from your fingers will damage the artwork**
- **Stay with your group**
- **No food, drink, or gum in the Museum's galleries**

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