ELEMENTS OF ART

Fine art is the kind of visual art that makes tangible products that are used simply for aesthetic purpose. Also, fine art is applied in the making of beautiful and attractive objects.

Elements of Art are simply those things brought and mixed together to form a fine art product. For example, for an artist to draw a village he uses lines and colours to create the image.

Note that the elements of art are different from the tools and materials used in art. While the tools and materials are tangible, the elements are not tangible and only exist on paper.

Some of the elements of art are lines, shapes, value, space, colour, texture, form, etc.

Lines

Lines are very essential in fine art. They could be defined as the path of a moving point, i.e. marks

made by a tool or instrument as it is drawn across a surface.

Line is a symbol that is used to express an idea. Line does not exist physically in nature but it is a human invention.

Functions of Line: Line is used to define the edges of an object. It is used to create shape and form in a given space. Lines are used to suggest movement direction. Line is used in calligraphy writing. It is also used to imply texture.

Shapes

Shape is an enclosure created by a moving line that touches itself with a defined boundary. Such a boundary can equally be referred to as contour or outline. Shapes usually stand out of space with difference in value, colour or texture.

Classes of Shapes: Shapes can be classified into different families depending on whether they are imaginary (abstract) or visible (objective). When the shapes are derived from natural objects like

stones, leaves, or clouds, they are referred to as naturalistic, realistic, or representational. However, when they happen to have been altered by the artist, they are said to be abstract, non-objective, non-representational or irregular.

Value

Value is the relative degree of lightness or darkness in a drawing or a picture. The introduction of light and shade in grade of tones makes objects look real and solid. Absence of it makes such an artwork flat and unreal.

Value creates some contrasts in a work of art which enable us to distinguish one form from another. This is achieved through the use of dark tones, middle tones, light tones and highlights. It can be indicated in colour or in black and white.

Space

Space refers to the area within, around, above or below an object(s). Space is seen by artists as a measurable distance between two objects, forms or points. In a work of art, space is as important as the work itself. For example, in drawing objects that are not so spaced results into a composition.

Colour

Colour is very important in art. The beauty of a work of art is achieved through the effective use of colours. Colour is the by-product of the spectrum of light. This means that we know the colour of an object only when light is available. This may be daylight or electric lights in the night. There are primary, secondary, and tertiary colours.

Texture

Texture is the surface quality of an object or a work of art. This is determined by the artist that

produced such work. There are two types of texture: tactile and visual texture.

Tactile texture refers to the texture of the actual surface of an object that can be touched. Visual texture refers to our view of a surface texture as seen in photograph.

Form

Form is the visible appearance of a thing as it relates to the surrounding space. It is the external outline of an object. So, form is what something looks like. Forms are of three dimensions and thus can be measured by height, width, and breadth. In drawing, there are two main kinds of forms: regular form and irregular form. Regular form represents known objects and shapes. Irregular form refers to strange forms not associated with any known object or shape.