The Elements Of Art & Principles Of Design

Elements are the basic components or building blocks of ART. Artists consciously use these in their artwork to express their ideas visually.

LINE-a continuous mark made on a surface by a moving point
SHAPE-flat and limited to 2 dimensions: height /width
COLOR- made up of the 3 distinct qualities: hue, intensity, & value
VALUE-lightness or darkness of color (hue)
FORM-an object or shape in 3 dimensions: height /width/ depth
TEXTURE-how a surface feels or looks
SPACE-distance or area between, around, above, below, or within things either 2 or 3 dimensional. Positive spaces are the areas that are occupied by an object and/or form. Negative space is the area in between, around, through or within an object

Principles are the different ways the above elements can be put to use and arranged in a work of ART.

BALANCE-a way of combining *elements* to add feeling of stability or equilibrium to works of ART
CONTRAST-the difference between *elements* in an artwork
EMPHASIS-The creation of a focal area in a work of art
MOVEMENT- creating a feeling & look of action to guide the viewer's eye throughout the artwork
REPETITION-element, object or shape that is repeated
PATTERN- is a combination of *elements* or shapes repeated in a recurring and regular arrangement
RHYTHM-careful placement of repeated *elements* to cause visual beat, tempo, or pattern
UNITY/HARMONY-a way of combining similar *elements* to accent similarities (repetitions & subtle gradual changes)
VARIETY-adds visual interest through variations and changes and combines *elements* in involved ways to create intricate and complex relationships
GRADATION- a series of **gradual changes** in the *elements* used in your artwork such as smaller to larger, lighter to darker, rougher to smoother…
PROPORTION-relative size of parts to a whole
SCALE-relative size of one object to another
FIGURE/GROUND RELATIONSHIP- relationship between foreground (typically your main subject) and background