



st. louis artists' guild

gallery
explorer
guide

a workbook by:

(Your Name Here!)

what is the st. louis artists' guild?

The St. Louis Artists' Guild is an Arts Center that hosts exhibitions, events, and classes. Our goal is to educate and inspire our community with art!

now tell us about you!

Draw a self-portrait:



Name:

Date:

Favorite Color:

Favorite Things to Draw:

what is art?

This is a complicated question! You will probably get a different answer from each person you ask. It can be anything that an artist creates to express an important idea, feeling, or subject. Art can be beautiful, shocking, happy, sad, or confusing.

You can think about visual art as a different language—instead of using their voices and words, painters, drawers, and sculptors use a visual language to express themselves.

This visual language can be broken down into seven concepts: Line, color, value, form, texture, shape, and space. Let's learn about them together!

Line

A line marks the distance between two points. Use a pen to connect the dots using different types of lines:

Straight ● ●

Wavy ● ●

Curly ● ●

Jagged ● ●

line drawing challenge!

Now we will explore a special type of line: contour lines. A contour line is a line that only follows the edge of a shape.

A *continuous* contour line is when an artist draws an entire picture without picking up their pen or pencil.

Can you write your name without lifting your pencil?



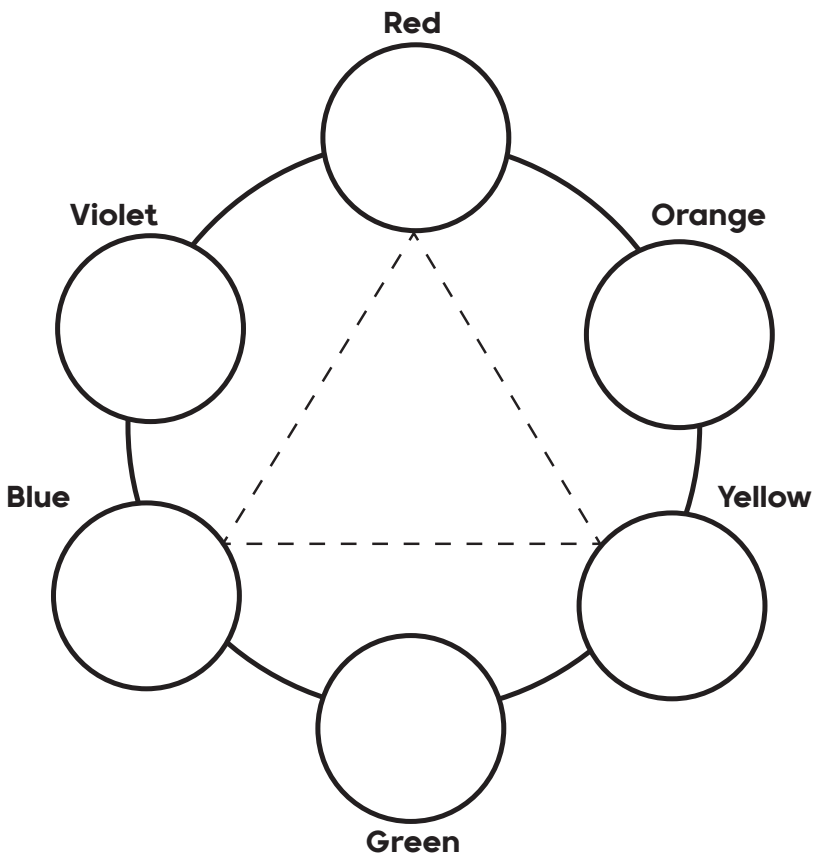
Great! Now let's try something harder. Find an object in the room and draw or trace it using only one continuous contour line:



Color

Color is another important tool artists use to express their ideas. There are three primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. You can mix almost every color in the world from just these three!

Use markers, crayons, or colored pencils to fill in the primary colors and their mixtures (orange, green, and violet):



Color Palettes

Artists use colors to express moods and emotions. Colors that are opposite of each other on the wheel (complementary colors) imply tension, while colors next to each other (analogous colors) have a sense of harmony.

Use analogous colors to draw a calm scene:



Now use complementary colors to draw a wild scene:



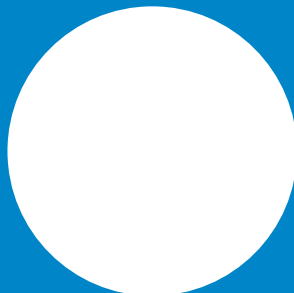
Value

Value is how light or dark a color is. Can you copy the value scale below using a pencil or crayon? Hint: pressing down hard gives you a dark value and lightly gives you a light value.



Form

You can use the same strategy to make shapes that look 3d. Use a pencil or crayon to copy the sphere on the left and transition from dark to light.



Texture

Texture in art represents the way something feels when touching it or what you think it might feel like.

Create each texture in the boxes below. Experiment with using different drawing tools! Which tool works best for each texture?

hairy

gooey

wet

soft

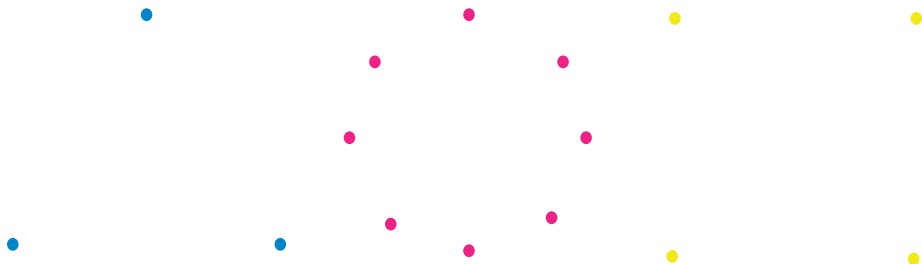
spikey

rough

Shape

A shape is an enclosed two-dimensional form. Artists use shapes to build images.

Connect the dots then name and color the shapes that appear.

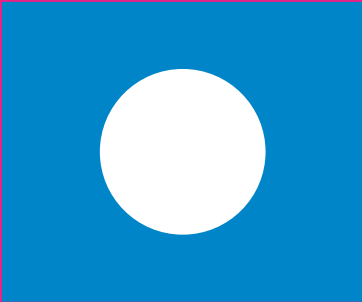


Now invent your own shapes. Don't forget to give each one a name!

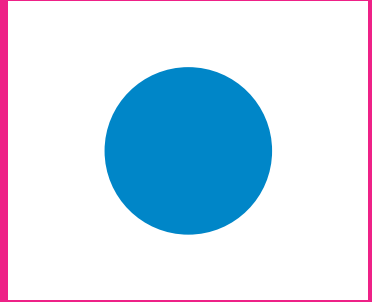
A large, empty white rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing and naming shapes.

Space

Artists also consider space when making a work of art. Space can be negative or positive. Positive space is an area of the picture taken up by an object. Negative space is the empty area around it.



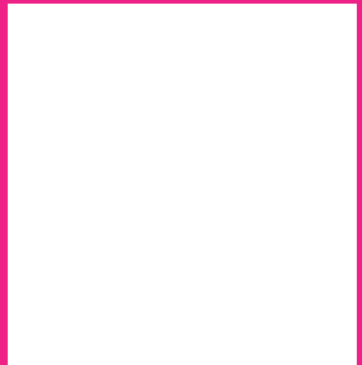
In this image, the circle is negative and the background is positive.



In this image, the circle is positive and the background is negative.



Sometimes artists use space to create an illusion! Can you find two images in this picture?



Use this space to create your own negative-positive design!

how does an art show work?

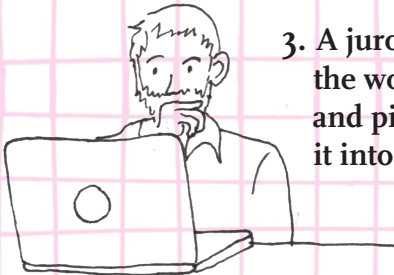
1. The artist creates a piece of art



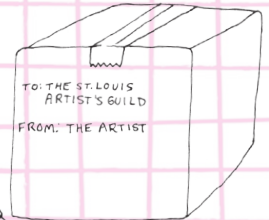
2. The artist submits an image of the artwork to the show.



3. A juror looks at all of the work submitted and picks what makes it into the show.



4. If the artwork is accepted, the artist ships it to the gallery.

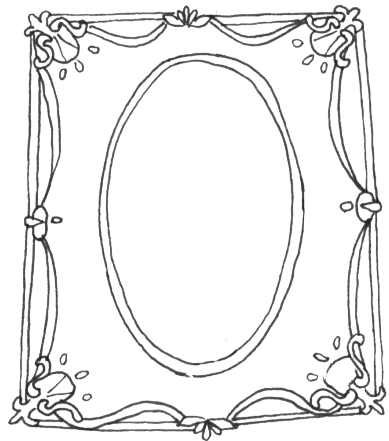
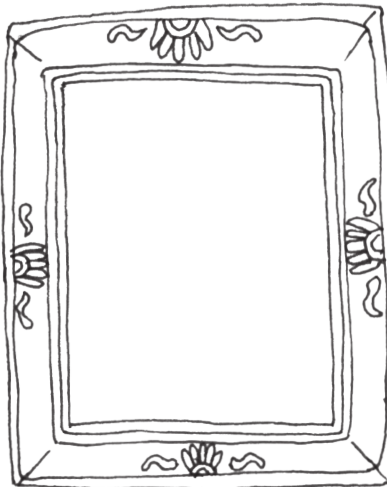
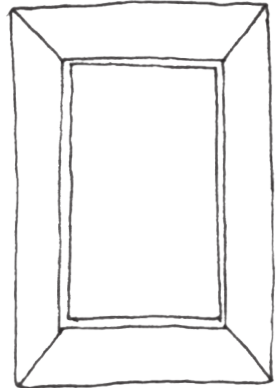
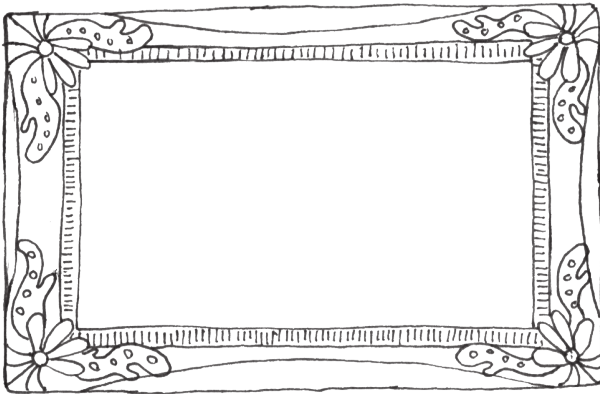


5. The Artists' Guild workers hang the art on the walls!



Now invent your own art show!

What is your art show about? Write the name of the show in the box below then fill the empty frames with art!



scavenger hunt!

Look around the gallery, and see what you can find! Write the name of the piece underneath the prompt.

Look for an artwork that is made mostly of lines.

Find an artwork that is very colorful.

Which piece would I take home?

Which piece uses the most surprising materials?

Which piece would I give away as a gift?

Which piece is most confusing?

Find an artwork that inspires you, and draw it here:

