



# Elements of Art: Pattern



## Learning Question:

How can I explore the elements of art to improve my artwork and produce a still life piece of work?

## Success Criteria:

- Recognise the elements of art: colour, line, pattern, form and shape.
- Identify examples of primary, secondary and tertiary colours.
- Explore the use of line and different mark making techniques.
- Explain what a pattern is and produce a series of hand drawn patterns.
- Know the difference between shape and form.
- Practise drawing different techniques of different shapes and practise shading them.
- Plan and produce a still life observational drawing using the elements of art.

## Vocabulary

- Elements of Art
- Colour
- Line
- Pattern
- Form
- Shape
- Tone
- Still Life
- Sketch
- Mark Making
- Technique
- Observational Drawing
- Still Life

An artwork is made up of different elements, often used together to make a final piece of art. They are like the tools of art. By understanding the different elements we are able to create better art and interpret the art of others.



# Pattern

**The Visual Element of Pattern** is made by repeating elements of an artwork to create a sense of balance, harmony, contrast, rhythm or movement.

There are two basic types of pattern in art: **Natural Pattern** and **Man-Made Pattern**. Both natural and man-made patterns can be regular or irregular, organic or geometric, structural or decorative, positive or negative and repeating or random.

# Natural Pattern:

Pattern in art is often based on the inspiration we get from observing the natural patterns that occur in nature.

We can see these in the shape of a leaf and the branches of a tree, the structure of a crystal, the spiral of a shell, the symmetry of a snowflake and the camouflage and patterns on animals, fish and insects.



RORY MCEWEN (1932-1982)

Kensington Gardens 1, 1979 (watercolor on vellum)

The first thing you see in McEwen's leaf is the natural pattern of its veins.

**'Rowan Leaves Laid Around Hole'** uses the changing pigmentation of autumn leaves to create a circular pattern of colours.



ANDREW GOLDSWORTHY (b. 1956)

Rowan Leaves Laid Around Hole, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, 25 October 1987 (photograph)

# Man-Made Pattern:

Pattern in art is used for both structural and decorative purposes.

For example, an artist may plan the basic structure of an artwork by creating a compositional pattern of lines and shapes.

Within the artwork they may add a more decorative pattern using colour, tone and texture.



RICHARD ESTES (b1932)  
Telephone Booths, 1968 (oil on canvas)



ANDY WARHOL (1928-1987)  
Marilyn, 1967 (a portfolio of ten silkscreen prints)



WILLIAM MORRIS (1834-1896)

Pencil and Watercolor Sketch for Acanthus Wallpaper Pattern, 1874-75

Morris uses the twisting forms of the acanthus leaf to create a repeat pattern unit for a wallpaper design. He cleverly arranges its organic shapes to hide the geometric structure of its pattern in order to produce a natural wall of leafy forms.

Patterns can be used to trick the viewer.



M.C. ESCHER (1898-1972)  
Day and Night, 1938 (woodcut)



GUSTAV KLIMT (1862-1918)

Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer 1, 1907 (oil and gold leaf on panel)



RENÉ MAGRITTE (1898-1967)

L'Avenir des Statues (The Future of Statues), 1932 (oil on plaster head)

Pattern can even be used to add decoration to an artwork.

# Task

Using your creativity come up with some pattern designs of your own.

If you get stuck, here are some ideas of things you can do:

- Gather household items and create a pattern in the style of Andy Goldsworthy.
- Draw a repeat pattern made up of shapes or an object.
- Photograph patterns in nature.
- Write the word pattern and fill it with patterns.

