The Elements of Desgn

The elements of design are: Line, Shape, Value, Texture, and Color
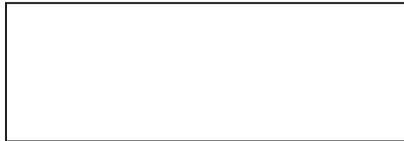
Line

I'm pretty sure you know what a line is. We use them all the time. Lots of times lines are used to make shapes. Lines can be hesitant, beautiful, bold, strait, curved, sketchy, and much more.
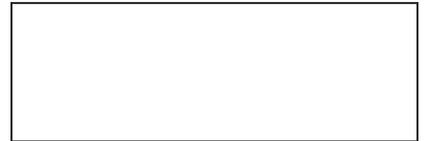
Put some bold lines in this box.

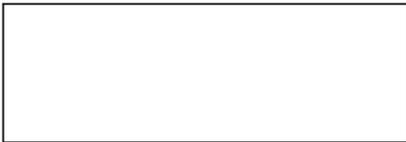Put some sketchy lines in this box
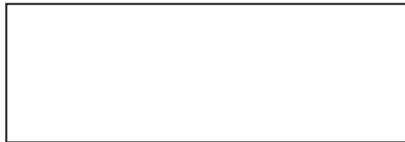
Put some beautiful lines in this box

Shape

Like I said lines can be used to make shapes, but you don't have to use line to make them. Take a paint brush and blob it on your paper and you make a shape without using line. Lots of times we think of shapes the way we learned in geometry class triangle, circle, square, oval etc. But there are also shapes that don't have names. These shapes are part of the elements of design too.
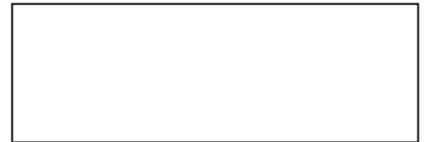
Put 5 triangles in this box.

Put 3 circles and 2 squares in this box

Put some nameless shapes in this box

Value

Value is how light or dark something is. Think of a black and white movie or a gray scale image. The reason you can still tell what is going on is because of the values. Values tell us a lot of stuff, like where the light is coming from, where forms change direction, if it's a sunny or overcast day, and lots of other things. Often the I see paintings that aren't quite working it's because there is some problem or other with the values.

Fill this box with a Dark Value

Fill this box with a light value

Make this box light on one side and dark on the other side.

Texture

Texture is how something feels. Rough, smooth, furry, slimy etc. Texture can be real, or implied.

Real texture: is the texture of the paper, or the ridges and bumps you get on an oil painting because of the brush strokes etc. It's a texture that is really there.

Implied texture: is what you indicate in your picture. If you paint a tree trunk and it looks rough that is implied texture since the rough bark isn't really there, it only looks like it is.

Fill this box with an implied smooth texture.

Fill this box with an implied rough texture.

Fill this box with an implied furry texture.

Color

Red, Yellow, Blue, etc. Right? Yep. That's right. You know what color is. I've created an indepth worksheet on how color works. You can download it for free when you sign up for my mailing list.

To do that go to www.manelleoliphant.com and look for the sign up form at the bottom of the page or follow this link. http://eepurl.com/cbroq5

Now Take what you learned and go make some pictures.