

# HANDOUT

## LINE

We see line as we look at the branches of a tree, a plowed field, a road going off into the distance, or on the horizon. Movement and direction, energy, and restfulness can be depicted through the use of line, which is often used to lead the eye to the main subject in a work of art.

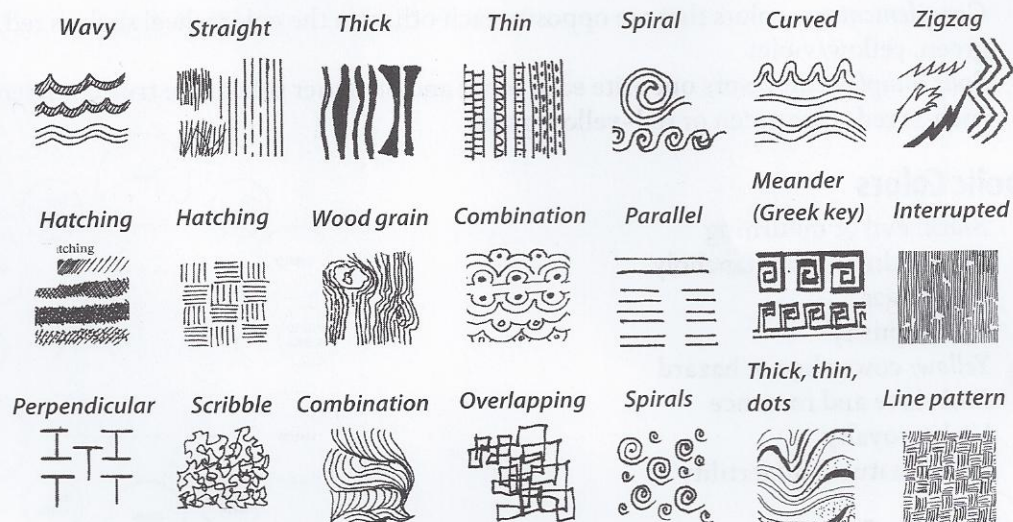
*Line styles:* angular, bent, bold, blurred, broken, continuous, converging, criss-cross, coiled, curving, delicate, dynamic, expressive, flowing, heavy, implied, interrupted, long, meandering, parallel, radiating, rhythmic, scribble, short, solid, spiral, static, straight, thick, thin, wavy, zigzag

### Emotional Qualities of Line

*Diagonal lines* produce tension, suggest movement and action, and dominate attention

*Horizontal lines* are restful and calm, used to represent horizons

*Vertical lines* are formal and suggest poise, balance, or support



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### How to Use Line Styles

*Calligraphic:* add grace to a composition with gently curving lines

*Character:* make variations in thin or thick, emphasized or delicate lines

*Contour:* outline a subject with a single line

*Cross-hatch:* make sets of hatched lines set at different angles over the first for density

*Density:* control the darkness of an area by spacing lines more or less closely

*Expression:* communicate ideas by emphasizing some line qualities

*Gesture:* quickly draw lines to define the subject

*Hatch lines:* draw parallel lines closely or farther apart to control value

*Implied:* create an interrupted line that is implied as complete

*Perpendicular:* use to add stability or to frame a subject

*Stipple:* make dots closer or farther apart to control value

*Weighted contour:* make differences in the thickness of a single line for emphasis