

- 
- **Please review the below information regarding form, shape, and variety and select your paintings that give the most consideration to those 3 design fundamentals.**
  - **Submit 1 or 2 images for critique consideration to: [AZR@nwws.org](mailto:AZR@nwws.org)**
  - **File size: .5 to 1 MB**
  - **DUE DATE: JANUARY 31.**
- 

My first painting tool is the emotion I feel toward the subject. The second is my physical tools: paper, paints, brushes, etc. A good painting requires the third tool, the right balance of the seven elements of design: Line, Value, Color, Shape, Size, Texture and Direction. These seven elements I learned from studying with many masters. Design tools are applicable to all kinds of visual design, even setting a table for your guests or arranging your paintings on the wall.

In a painting, design is the most powerful tool that touches the viewer's emotions.

### **SHAPE**

Shape is created when the beginning of a line connects to its end or intersects with another line. Our eye sees the big shapes first and then our attention cascades to the smaller shapes. When designing my painting, I first consider the big shapes and their variety. Shapes are flat, geometric, or uniquely organic. Very distinctive geometric shapes do not interest me in a painting. I like shapes that the viewer does not know, something exciting, unexpected, and a wide variety of them.

### **FORM**

A variation of the design elements is form. I personally see form as a 2-dimensional version of shape. We create a form in our painting from the shape we chose. When shape gets a 2<sup>nd</sup> dimension of depth it becomes a form. Form takes space in either a real way—such as sculpture—or an implied way, as an illusion within a painting.

To create a form from a shape on a flat surface is an illusion and we use many different techniques, including light and shadow, contrast, color, and whatever the artist creates so the painting is powerful to the viewer.

### **VARIETY**

VARIATION is a key design principle along with dominance, balance, contrast, gradation, alternation, harmony, and unity. Variety and unity are two that I focus on from the very beginning of the painting.

Variety is the quality or state of being different or diverse, the absence of uniformity, sameness, or monotony. Variety is nothing more than change. Our eye likes change. Without change, everything becomes boring including life. :-) Change is exciting! Change leads the eye through the painting, allowing the viewer to discover more to love. Our goal is to keep the viewer inside our painting, to have it on their wall, and to look at it forever with renewed interest.