

ART 101 2D Design & Color Theory

Handout Rhythm

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RHYTHM

Rhythm as a design principle is based on repetition, it involves a clear repetition of elements that are the same or only slightly modified.

Legato Rhythm

Some rhythms are called legato, meaning connecting and slowing. Georgia O'Keeffe's artwork on the right demonstrates this rhythm with the soft, smooth flowing transitions of lines and shapes. This work gives a feeling of relaxing and calm.



Staccato Rhythm

A second type of rhythm is called staccato, meaning abrupt changes with a dynamic contrast. The bottom right design demonstrates this rhythm.



Alternating Rhythm

in which the same elements reappear in a regular order. In such a design the elements alternate consistently with one another to produce a regular (and anticipated) sequence.



Progressive Rhythm

Rhythm. Again, this rhythm involves repetition, but repetition of a shape that changes in a regular manner. There is a feeling of a sequential pattern. This type of rhythm is most often achieved with a progressive variation of size and shape.



Progressive rhythm is a sequence or transition of lines produced by increasing or decreasing in or more quantities through a progression of steps. Progression is ordered systematic change: radiation and in a context, gradient line in terms of colors that