

**Milwaukee Art Museum JDSP**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Tour 2: Elements 1- Line, Shape, and Color**

**Pre-visit Mini Lesson**

We are looking forward to seeing your 3rd graders at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Here are some activities to help prepare the students for the visit.

**Introduce:** Elements 1. This tour will help us learn how artists use basic building blocks of art: "Line, Shape and Color" to create masterpieces.

**1. Vocabulary:**

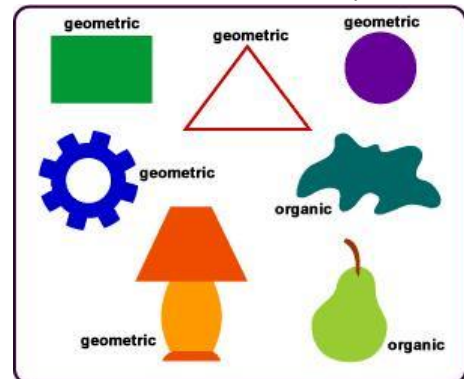
- **LINE:** A line is an identifiable path created by a point moving in space. It is one-dimensional and can vary in width, direction, and length.
  - Straight, Curved, Vertical, Horizontal, Diagonal.

**Ask students to draw these types of line in the air or locate examples around the room or on the bus ride to the Museum.** The students can use line to express different emotions. Draw lines in the air: "surprise", "anger", "happiness." (continue with more emotion words.)

- **SHAPE:** Shape is an enclosed space, the boundaries of which are defined by other elements of art like lines, colors, values, textures, etc. Shapes are limited to two dimensions; flat.

**Two types of shapes:**

**Geometric** shapes such as circles, triangles or squares have perfect, uniform measurements and don't often appear in nature, but we often see them in our Math books. Many of these shapes have straight lines that come together at a point and usually have a name.



**Organic** shapes are irregular in appearance and tend to have a curvy flow to them. Most shapes found in nature are organic in appearance. Examples are leaves, flowers etc.

**Ask:**

- **Who can spot some examples of geometric and organic shapes around the room or on the bus ride to the Museum?**

**Optional Follow-Up Activity:** Ask your students to share examples of line, shape, and color that they learned about during the tour on the bus ride back to school or when you return to your classroom as a closure activity. A printable post-visit activity sheet is available in the Teacher Appendix of the JDSP Resource Packet.