

Visual Elements

COLOUR

Pattern

Line

SHAPE

TONE

Texture

FORM

Artists use visual elements and principles like line, colour and shape as tools to build works of art.

When looking at the objects in the collection try to find as many examples of the visual elements as you can. For example:

Line



A line is a mark made by a pen, pencil or a range of media onto a surface. There are many different types of line: thick, thin, jagged, broken, dark and light. Many different lines can be used to describe an object.

This is an example of **Coral** from the **Bell Pettigrew Museum**. Discuss the variety of lines that you can see here.

Texture



Everything, including a work of art, has a texture or surface. It can be spiky, smooth, rough, fluffy or soft. Texture is something you can see, or touch and feel.

This is an example of the texture from a **Porcupine Fish** from the **Bell Pettigrew Museum**. Discuss the texture that you can see here. How do you think it would feel?

TONE & FORM

Tone is the light and dark of any colour. Tone (sometimes called shading) will give a drawing form i.e. make the drawing appear three-dimensional.

This is an example of the tone & form on a **Nautilus shell** from the **Bell Pettigrew Museum**. Discuss the 3-D quality that you can see.

