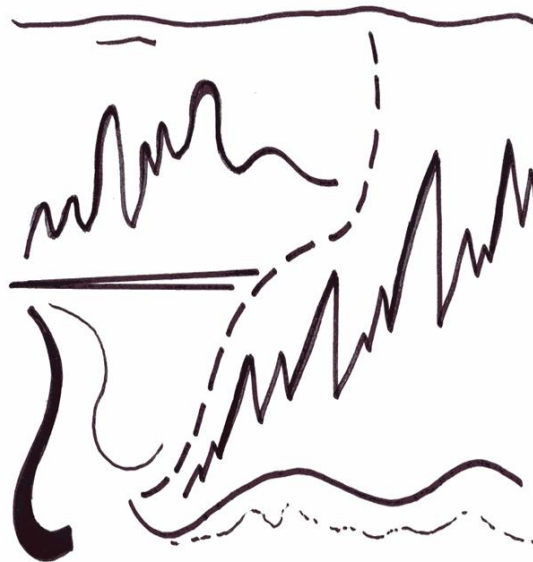


## Line

Line is the basis of all types of artwork. We draw lines with pens, pencils and markers. We paint lines with brushes and palette knives. We sculpt lines with our hands, chisels and knives. **Lines** can be **any mark made with a pointed moving tool**. They are everywhere and a part of everything. Artists use lines to direct our eyes to certain parts of an artwork. Sometimes you don't even know that it's happening, but as you look at a piece of art, your eyes dart from place to place. Lines are a big part of why this happens.

Lines are considered to be one-dimensional. A **dimension** is a **measurement**, like length, height or depth. **The one dimension that lines have is length**. You can easily measure how long a line is, but the width of most lines is so small that it isn't really important.

All lines tend to fall into one of two categories – **actual** or **implied** lines. **Actual lines are real lines that actually exist**. You can see them, you can touch them, and they are unbroken. **Implied lines** are not lines at all, but rather **a series of items put into a row so that they appear to be a line**. Your eyes will automatically connect them making you think that it is a line. Look at the illustration below. Can you tell which lines are actual and which lines are implied?



There are **5 main kinds of lines** – **horizontal, vertical, diagonal, curved and zigzag**. Each one has a different look and feeling associated with it. Yes, lines can not only help to direct our eyes, but they can also convey feelings and emotions.

## 5 BASIC TYPES OF LINES

- **HORIZONTAL** – RUNS SIDE TO SIDE, PARALLEL TO THE GROUND, SEEMS TO BE AT REST, QUIET AND CALM



- **VERTICAL** – RUNS UP AND DOWN, APPEARS TO BE AT ATTENTION, SHOWS DIGNITY OR STRENGTH



- **DIAGONAL** – ANGLED OR SLANTING FROM CORNER TO CORNER, APPEARS TO BE RISING OR FALLING, UNSTABLE



- **CURVED** – SMOOTH, FLOWING, CHANGES DIRECTION GRADUALLY, EXPRESSES MOVEMENT GRACEFULLY



- **ZIGZAG** – SHARP OR POINTY, CHANGE DIRECTION SUDDENLY, SUGGESTS ACTION, NERVOUSNESS, EXCITEMENT



Now that we have discussed the different types of lines that artists use, it's time to learn how they use them to create a variety of drawings. There are 5 main types of line drawings. They are as follows...

## 5 MAIN TYPES OF LINE DRAWINGS

**BLIND CONTOUR** - DRAWINGS MADE WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE PAPER, IMPROVES HAND/EYE COORDINATION

These drawings tend to look very messy, but do improve with practice. The point of blind contour is to force the artist to concentrate on the shape of the object being drawn instead of the drawing itself.



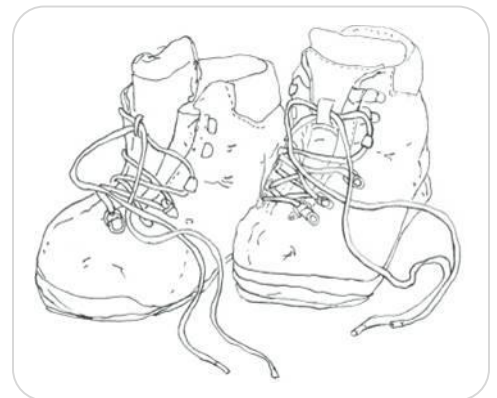
**CONTOUR** – OUTLINE DRAWINGS ONLY, NO DETAILS

Contour drawings look like shadows or silhouettes that aren't colored in. Think of tracing around an object then removing it. What's left would be an outline, or contour drawing.



**MODIFIED CONTOUR** – DETAILED, REALISTIC DRAWINGS

Modified contour is just a fancy way of saying a detailed drawing. This is the most common way that people draw.



**CALLIGRAPHIC** – DETAILED DRAWINGS THAT USE THICK AND THIN LINES TO SHOW EMPHASIS

Calligraphic drawings look realistic, just like modified contour; but calligraphic goes one step further. By varying the pressure used when drawing, you can create dark, thick lines and light, thin lines.



**GESTURE** – DRAWINGS THAT SHOW MOVEMENT OR MOTION, VERY SKETCHY

These drawings should look very light and airy. Wispy or sketchy lines help to show a freedom of movement or motion.

