

PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

ELEMENTS OF ART: LINE



Saul Steinberg, (American, b.Romania, 1914–1999), *Birds and Insects*, 1945, Ink and pencil on paper (Strathmore), Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Saul Steinberg Foundation, 2019.6.1 © 2019 Saul Steinberg Foundation/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

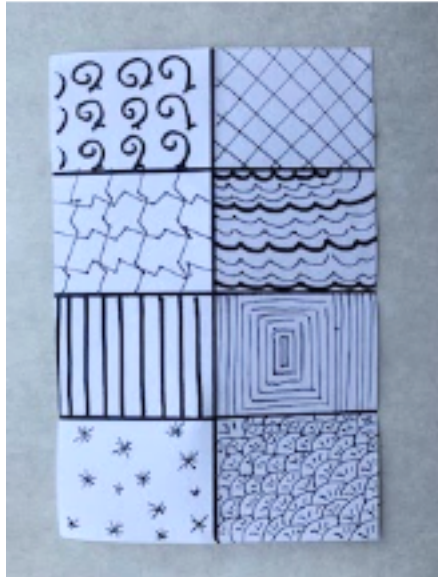
Line is an element of art and is defined as a path created by a moving point. In this section we will take a close look at different types and uses of line. Lines can be thick, thin, wavy, straight, broken, cross-hatched, zig-zagged, fuzzy, or crisp edged. It all depends on the effect you want to achieve in your art. The type of line you create can also change depending on the medium, or material, you use. A pencil line will have a different appearance from a painted line, or one made with crayon, marker, or cut from paper.

Materials

Paper

Pen

DAY 1



For this project, we will be exploring line by creating different patterns and line variations. You will need a square or rectangular piece of paper, a pencil, pen, or anything you'd like to use to create a drawing. Fold your paper in half vertically, open it, and fold it half horizontally. Open it again. You can keep folding if you'd like to have more sections in which to draw. This example has 8 sections. Each section displays a particular line: thick, thin, etc. Patterns are created when the lines are repeated. See how many different kinds of line you can create, and how you might use them to enhance your art!

DAY 2

Now that we have explored the use of line and created our own line exercise, let's take a close look at Saul Steinberg's wallpaper, titled *Trains*. Steinberg uses a variety of lines to create this fanciful image: thick and thin, curving and straight, squiggled, and crosshatched. Those different lines keep our eyes moving all around this very busy train station. Do you see the many whimsical details, large and small, that Steinberg has included?

Get your pencils ready! Let's draw an image using all the types of lines you drew in your line exercise. Try to use many different lines. Use the Train Station for inspiration!

Right: Saul Steinberg, Saul Steinberg, (American, b.Romania, 1914–1999) American *Trains*, 1950, Wallpaper for piazza prints. Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Saul Steinberg, Foundation, 2019.6.4 © 2019 Saul Steinberg Foundation/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



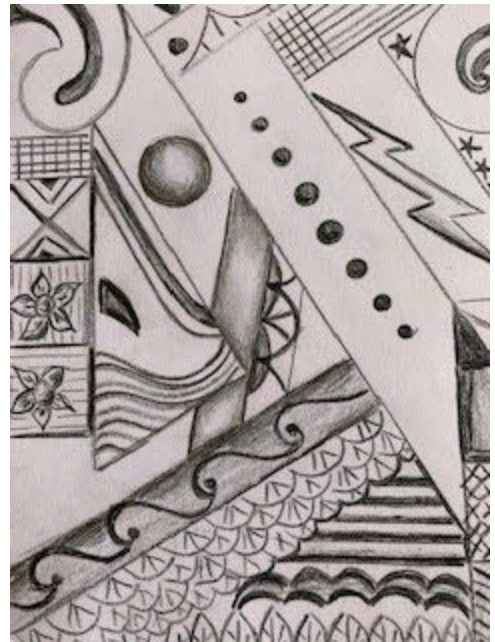
DAY 3

Let's take it one step further and create an abstract artwork by using various types of lines. Here are two types of drawings you may want to try!



The image on the left is made by creating one long, rounded line. To create a similar drawing, you will start by creating a dot on your page. Once you have your dot, you will "take your dot for a walk." This means that you will use your dot as the starting point to create a long, looping line. Let your line wiggle and wind all along the page. Be sure to let your lines overlap, as this will create new and interesting shapes. Your line should end at the point where it began. Lastly, you will fill in all of the shapes you made with different colors, lines, or patterns, as shown here.

You could also start with more geometric shapes, as seen in the image on the right. Use a ruler or a straight edge to create large triangles, rectangles, or squares. Experiment with overlapping, layering, and connecting these shapes. Create smaller details and patterns inside each section. Finish your masterpiece by adding some shading or pops of color!



We would love to see what you made!

To share, post your artwork on Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudios