

# Principles of Art: Rhythm/Pattern

Pattern is created by a combination of regular, repeated elements like lines, shapes, and/or colors. The elements that create the pattern are called *motifs*. Rhythm occurs when a motif is repeated, but with a variation. Pattern and rhythm help organize and unify an area, create texture, guide your eyes around the artwork, and provide visual interest.

There are several types of patterns and rhythms:

**Regular rhythm:** a pattern or rhythm that is continuous and predictable

**Random rhythm:** a motif is repeated in no particular order

**Alternating rhythm:** another motif is introduced or there is a change in spacing to break the monotony of regular patterning.

**Flowing rhythm:** repeated wavy lines or a large swooping movement

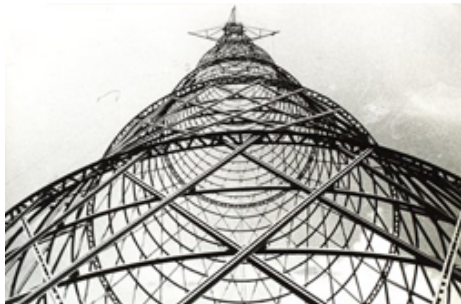
**Progressive rhythm:** a motif that changes in a predictable way, (e.g., steadily changing in size, color, or shape).

## 1. What type of pattern/rhythm is used in these examples?

*Storage bag*, c. 1850–1900,  
Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) artist



*Shuchov Transmission Tower*, 1929,  
Alexander Rodchenko



*Ornament*, one of a pair,  
7th–10th century, China



## 2. What is an example of a manufactured pattern or rhythm from daily life? (e.g., a tiled floor)

## 3. What is an example of a natural pattern or rhythm from daily life? (e.g., a field of grass)

**4. Find three artworks that demonstrate pattern or rhythm.**

Sketch it!	Type(s) of patterns/rhythm used: