

Form

Form describes volume and mass, or the three-dimensional aspects of objects that take up space. Forms can and should be viewed from many angles. When you hold a baseball, shoe, or small sculpture, you are aware of their curves, angles, indentations, extensions, and edges — their forms.



The drawing above left is of a two-dimensional shape.

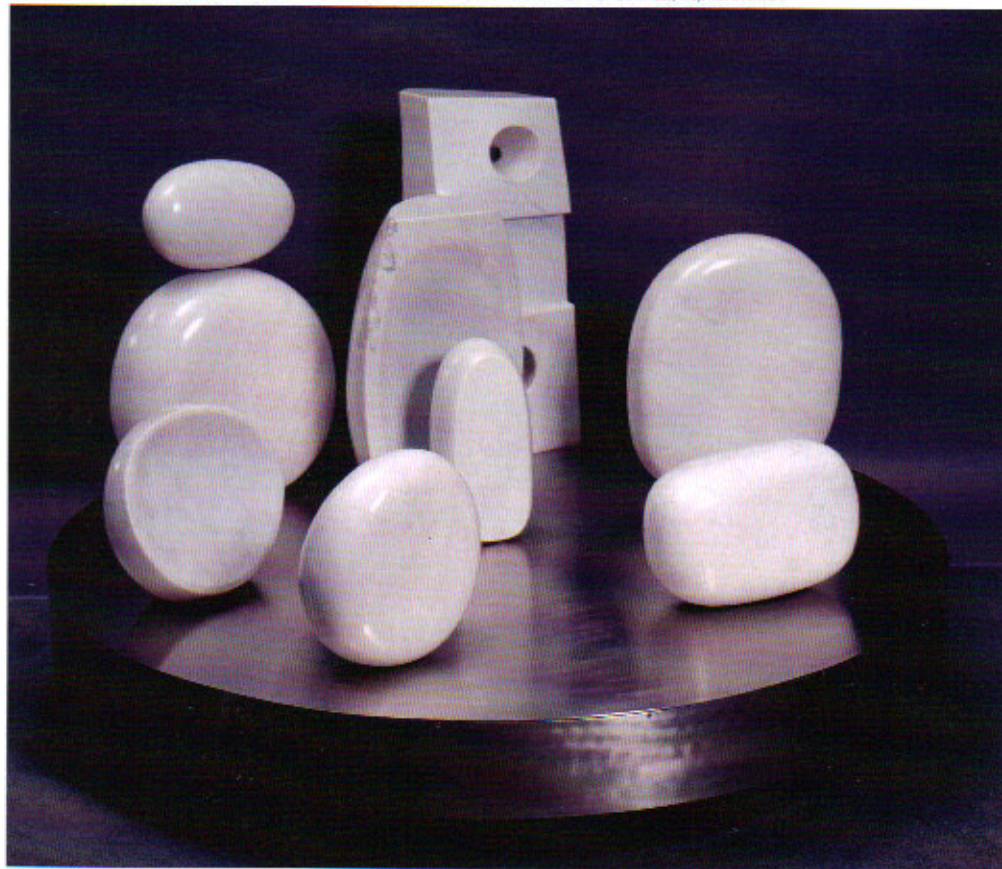
The drawing above right is of a three-dimensional form.



Space can be felt in Hepworth's sculpture group because of the clustering and overlapping of forms. Space is a strong element in establishing a sense of form.



Barbara Hepworth, English, 1903–1975. *Assembly of Sea Forms*, white marble, mounted on stainless steel base, overall: 47 1/2 in. high (108 cm); 72 in. diameter (182.9 cm). Norton Simon Art Foundation, M.19.74.12.1a h.s. © Sir Alan Bowness, Hepworth Estate



When looking at Barbara Hepworth's sculpture group, *Assembly of Sea Forms*, we think of underwater rocks and other sea-sculpted forms. When exhibited, these can be rearranged from time to time, similar to the way that nature rearranges rocks on a beach. How does value contrast help you "feel" the forms with your eyes?

Space can be felt between the forms in this grouping (even in a flat photograph). The space between and around objects helps us recognize and identify three-dimensional forms.



Architectural forms usually contain enclosed spaces for various activities.



In nature, forms are easily identifiable because we are surrounded by them. Mountains, trees, rocks, animals, and people are examples of **natural forms**.



David Smith, *Cubi VII*, 1963. Stainless steel, 107 1/2 x 64 1/2 x 48 1/2 inches. Dallas Museum of Art. The Eugene & Margaret McDermott Fund, 1966.32. © Estate of David Smith / Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.

Sculpted **geometric forms** are angular and straight-edged as in this sculpture by David Smith. Sculpted **organic forms** are rounded and flowing as seen in Barbara Hepworth's work above.



The appearance of a sculpted form changes as we walk around it.



Abstract forms such as this Eskimo stone carving simplify natural forms.



Realistic forms depict people, animals, birds, and plants as they may actually appear.

1. Organic Form

Draw an animal on a piece of paper to make a two-dimensional drawing of an organic shape. With a piece of clay, model the same animal into a three-dimensional form. This is an organic form.



2. Wire Sculpture

Make a three-dimensional wire sculpture of an animal as an example of an organic form created with a different medium.



3. Natural Forms

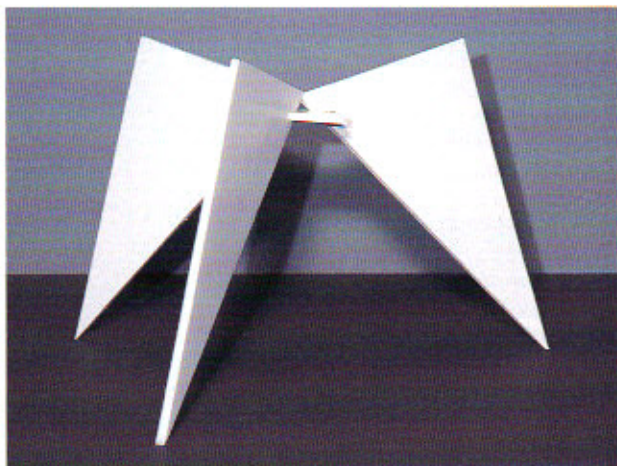
In nature there are many natural forms. These include everything from rocks, flowers, trees, shells, animals, and vegetables. Collect some natural forms and make a still-life drawing using them as the subject.



Gail Price

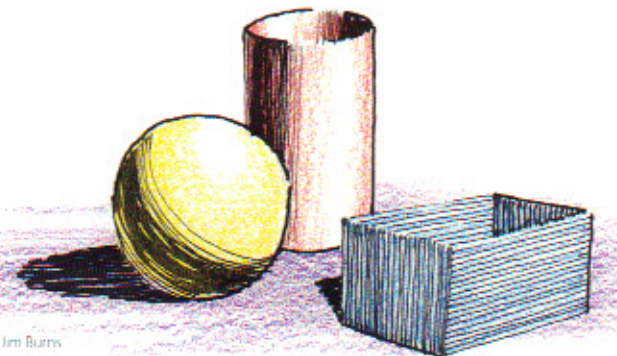
4. Geometric Forms

Using pieces of wood, cardboard, or foam core, construct a sculpture using geometric forms which are angular or squarish, and have straight edges.



5. Shading to Create Three-Dimensional Form

Make a two-dimensional drawing of a sphere, cylinder, and rectangular box. Choose a light source and add shading to the drawing to create three-dimensional forms.



Jim Burns

Draw a still life with curved or geometric objects and add shading to the shapes to create three-dimensional forms.



Student work, Bernardo Heights Middle School

Form

Barbara Hepworth, English, 1903–1975, *Assembly of Sea Forms*, 1972. Marble, mounted on stainless steel base, 42½-in. high, 72-in. diameter (overall). Norton Simon Art Foundation, Pasadena, CA. © 2000 Estate of Barbara Hepworth.

David Smith, American, 1906–1965, *Cubi XVII*, 1963. Stainless steel, 107¼ x 64¾ x 38¾ in. Dallas Museum of Art. The Eugene & Margaret McDermott Fund, 1965.32. © Estate of David Smith / Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.

Kent Ullberg, *Majestic Blue*. Bronze, 30½-in. high.