

# SHAPES & FORMS - GEOMETRIC & ORGANIC

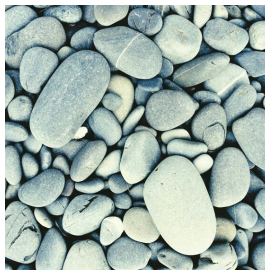
**Shape:** Two-dimensional (2-D) - length and width - circles, squares, rectangles, triangles (geometric) and odd (organic) shapes formed by a line that connects to itself and encloses a space. *Positive space* is the inside of the shape. *Negative space* is the empty area outside a shape.

**Geometric shapes** are those that are defined in mathematics and have common names. They have clear edges or boundaries and artists often use tools such as protractors and compasses to create them, to make them mathematically precise. Shapes in this category include circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, polygons, and so forth.



**Organic Shapes:** While geometric shapes are well-defined, **biomorphic or organic shapes** are just the opposite. Draw a curving, semi-circular line and connect it where you began and you have an amoeba-like organic, or freeform, shape.

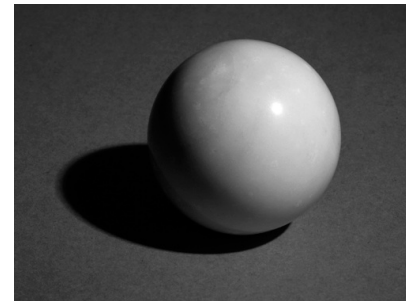
Organic shapes are individual creations of the artists; they have no names, no defined angles, no standards, and no tools that support their creation. They can often be found in nature, where organic shapes can be as amorphous as a cloud or as precise as a leaf.



**Form: Three-dimensional (3-D)** - length, width, and depth - objects that are defined by shadows or "deepness"; something that is three-dimensional and encloses volume, having length, width, and height, versus *shape*, which is two-dimensional, or flat. A form is a shape in three dimensions, and, like shapes, can be geometric or organic.

**Geometric forms** are forms that are mathematical, precise, and can be named, as in the basic geometric forms: sphere, cube, pyramid, cone, and cylinder. A circle becomes a sphere in three dimensions, a square becomes a cube, a triangle becomes a pyramid or cone.

Geometric forms are most often found in architecture and the built environment, although you can also find them in the spheres of planets and bubbles, and in the crystalline pattern of snowflakes, for examples.



**Organic forms** are those that are free-flowing, curvy, sinewy, and are not symmetrical or easily measurable or named. They most often occur in nature, as in the shapes of flowers, branches, leaves, puddles, clouds, animals, the human figure, etc.

