

# ***ZAP 12 Composition*** - Clint Brill, MA/Art

## **ZAP 12 on Mt. Charleston** - Kyle Canyon Utility Box Art

The visual arts are a great way to proclaim the richness of what it means to be human. We are naturally creative and examples of it are all about us in the way mankind has transformed natural resources into the marvel of our functional environment. With two-dimensional art, the raw elements are both material and conceptual. Of course the physical materials are pencils, paints and brushes but conceptually we have the “elements of art”. They are: line, shape, space, size, texture, value, and sometimes color. These are the building blocks of visual art, and are used to create the special effects known as the “principles of art”.

The elements of art (line, shape, space, size, texture, value and color) were used to create special effects such as depth. Pattern and Rhythm are found throughout the designs on the pottery. Unity and Balance are other principles of art that most people have a subjective sense for as they create.

In my work as a Zap 12 Artist, on Mount Charleston, my use of “size” was limited as a tool for creating depth. This is somewhat like the situation where the artist would be creating a cityscape, or a mountain scene. The relational size of objects is not consistent with the phenomena that occur when things seem to decrease in size as they drop into the distance. This might be the case when the largest mountains (or buildings) are far away but appear closer because of their size; this is where other principles of art must be used to create depth. For example; I used overlapping of line to place shapes in relation to the picture plane. In this way I could define foreground, middle ground, and background. Then the element of art “color” was used to emphasize depth, because warmer colors such as red or orange tend to move forward and cooler colors drop back. Also, the element of art called “texture” can be used to define details in the foreground, while at the same time more diffused use of “texture” in the background helps to create depth. The chosen subject matter throughout the composition was intended to be pertinent to the area. Anasazi Pottery images were placed in the design as a format to off-set all the other activities portrayed.

It was a pleasure to participate in the project. Thank you.