

Introduction to Line

A Point Set in Motion

3 Parts of Form:

- 1. Point* – no dimensions, no height and no width.
- 2. Line* – a point in motion, capable of infinite variety
 - * Line is the most common design element!
- 3. Contours*—shapes bounded or bordered by line; an outline

Types of Line

A. There are many types of actual lines, each varying in weight and character. The line itself can have many different properties.



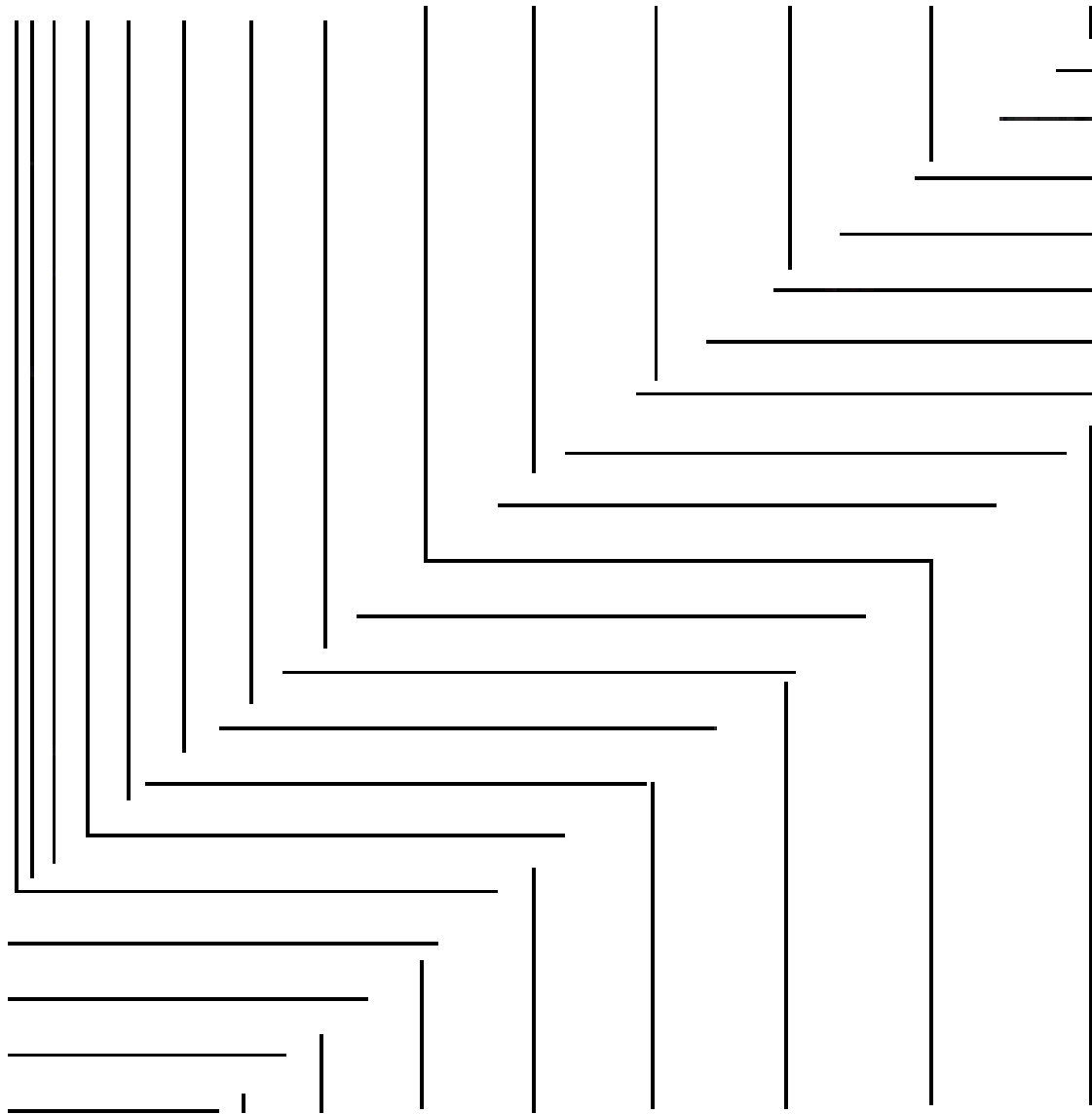
B. The points in an implied line are automatically connected by the eye.



C. When one object points to another, the eye connects the two in a psychic line. There is no real line, but the placement of the objects causes the viewer to look in a certain direction.



Actual and Implied Line



Implied Line



Lucy McKenzie, *The Danger in Jazz*, 2000

The direction of a line can lead the eye of a viewer.



Actual, implied, and psychic lines organize the composition.

Georges de La Tour. The Fortune Teller. Probably 1630s. Oil on canvas, 3' 4 1/8" 4' 5/8" (102 x 123.5 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund, 1960



Line and Shape

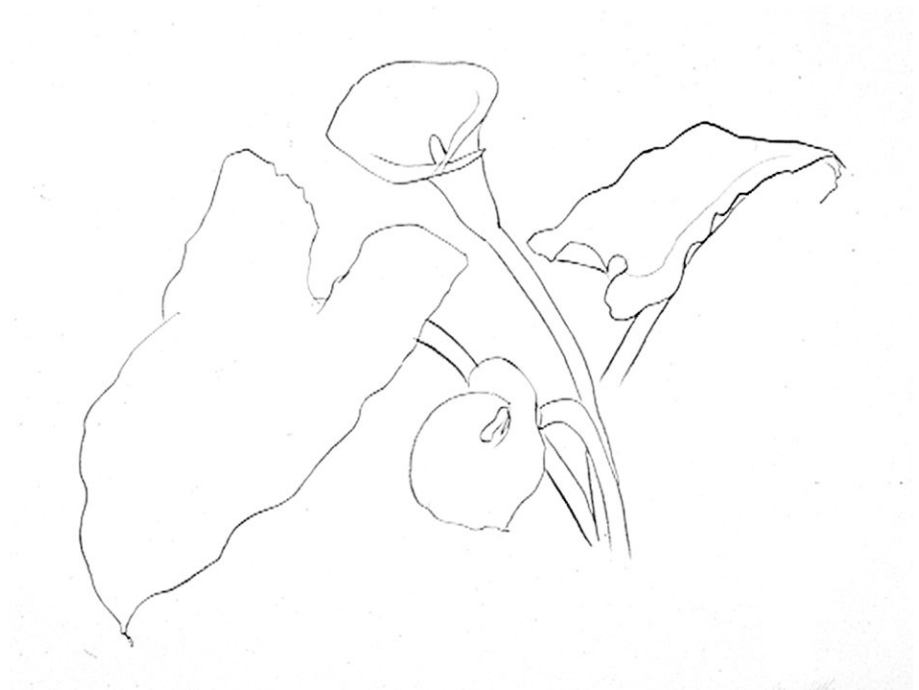
Defining Shape and Form

Line describes shape, and shapes describes objects.

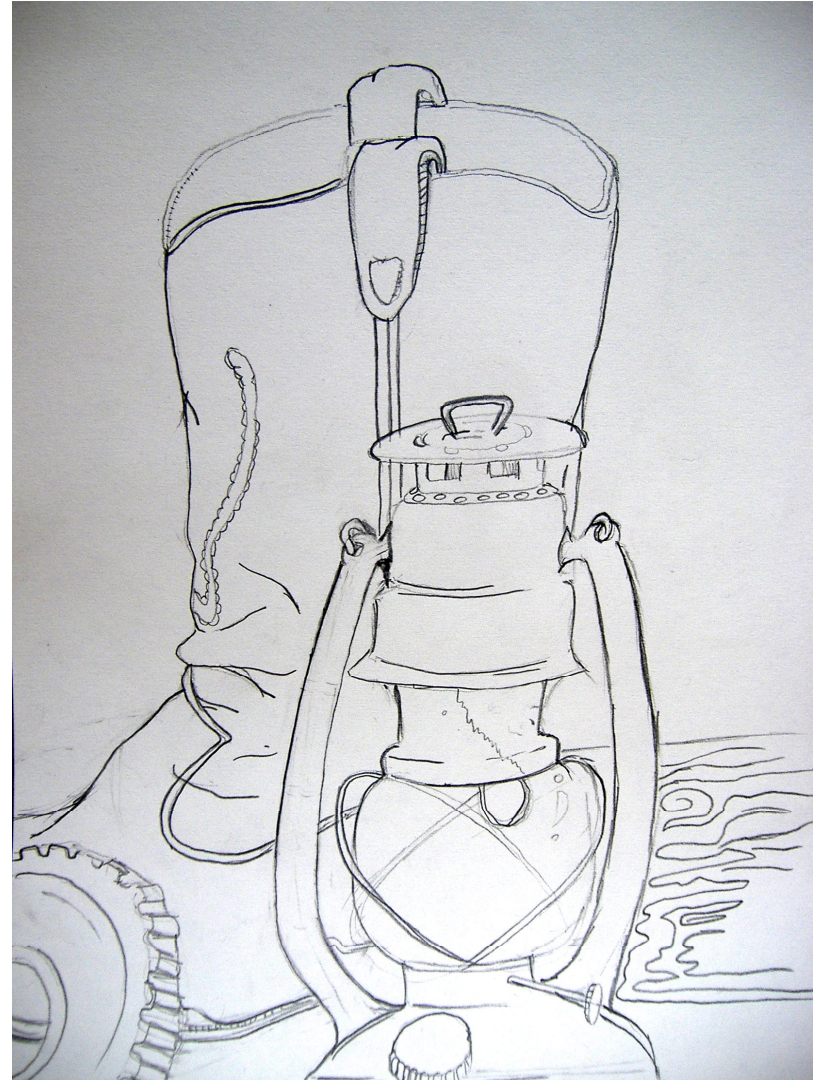
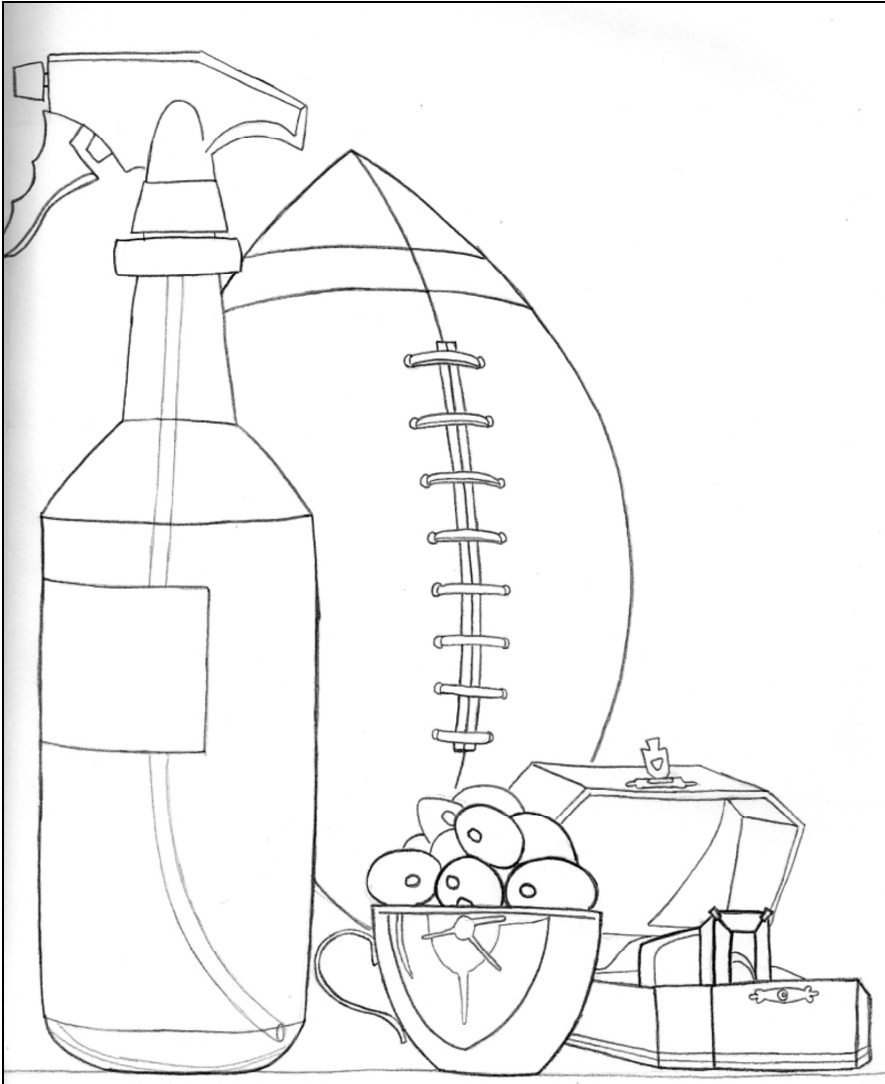
Artistic Shorthand -

Line is a quick way to show or define a shape.

Ellsworth Kelly. Calla Lily 1. 1984. Lithograph on Rives BFK paper, 2' 6 1/4" x 3' 3" (77 x 99 cm). Edition of 30. Courtesy of the artist and Gemini G.E.L.



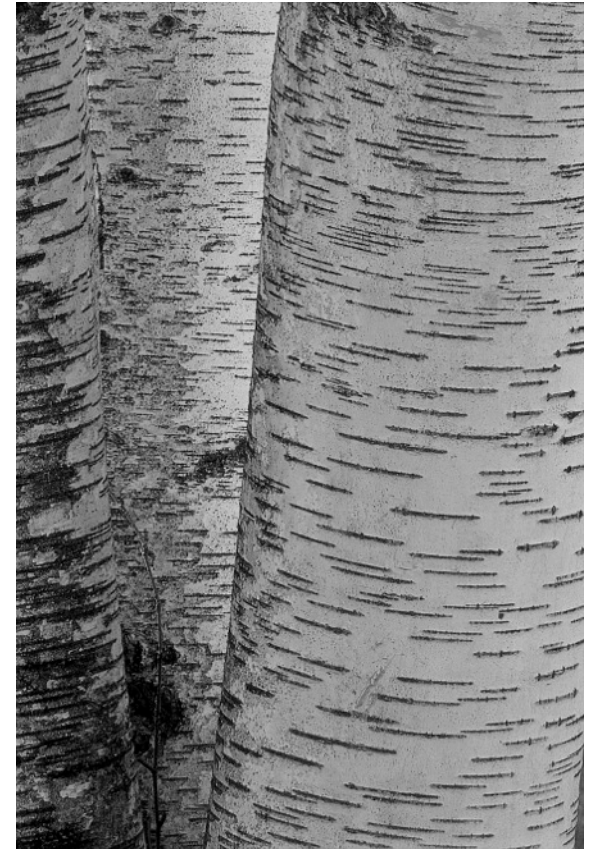
Contour Line



Cross Contour Describes Form

□ Jack Lenor
Larsen.
Seascape. 1977.

□ Lines in the
bark reveal the
cross contours of
the tree.



Mark Newman/
www.bciusa.com.

Expressing Mood and Motion

The quality of a line can imply a mood or emotion.

Types of line:

- Thick (heavy)
- Thin (delicate)
- Rough
- Smooth

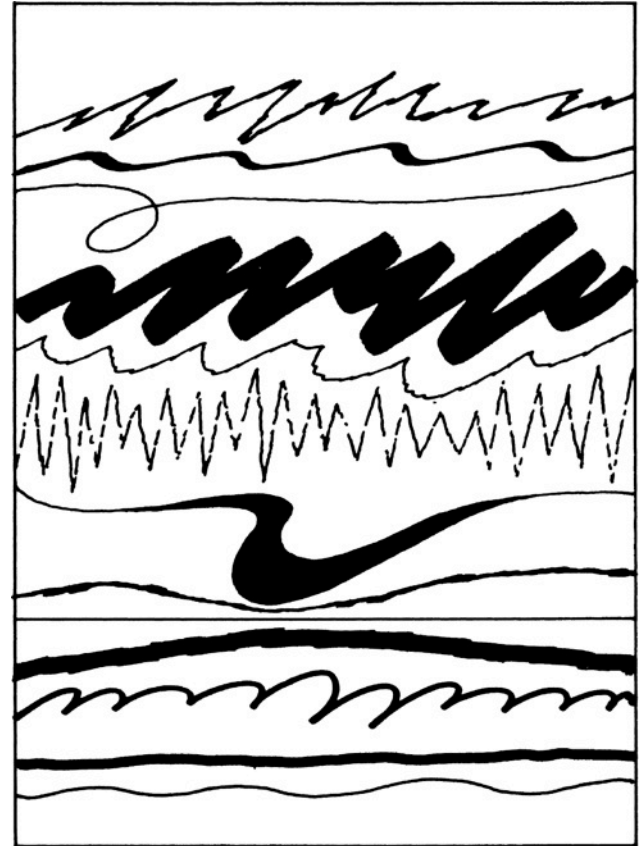


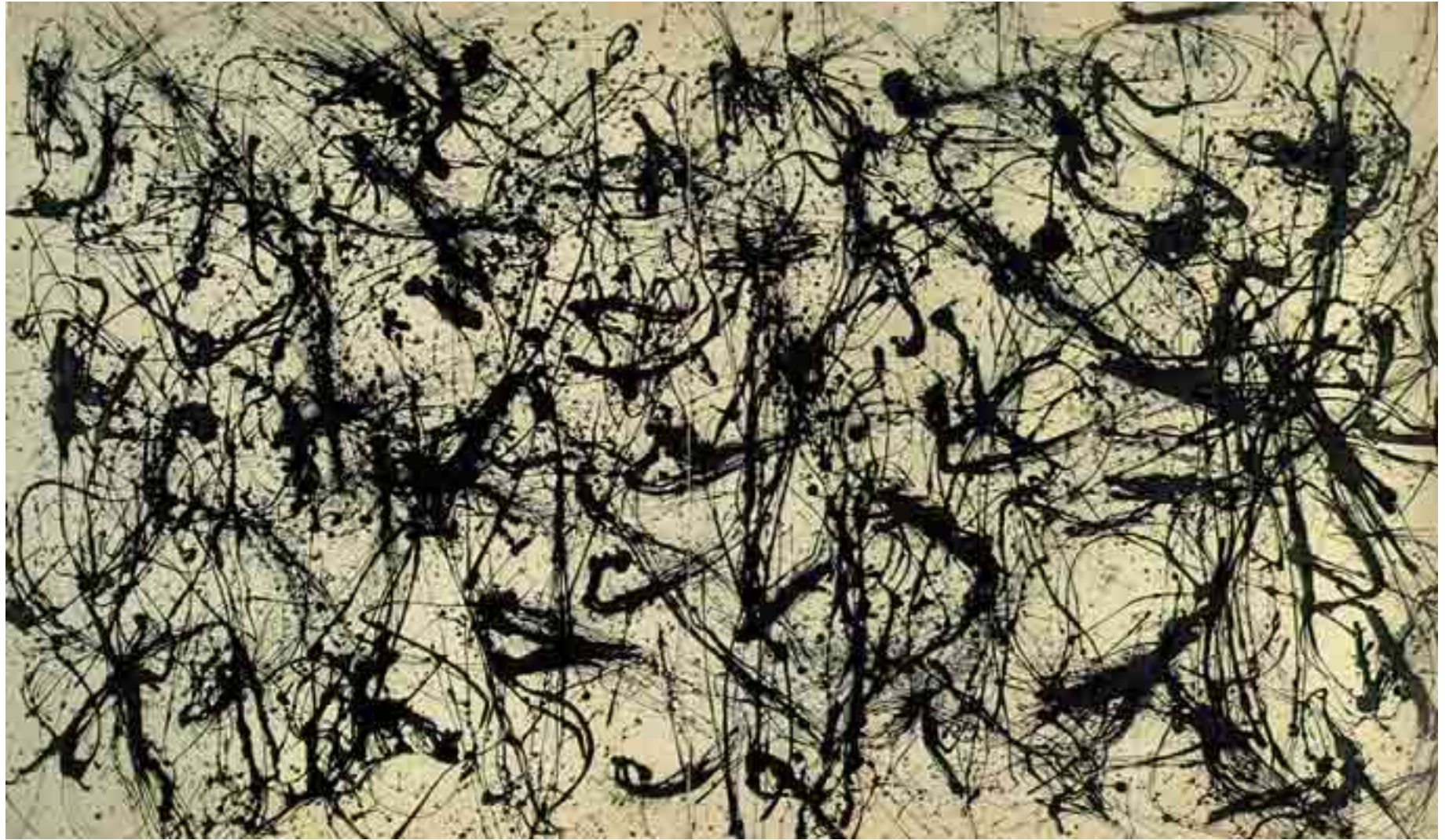
Lines Convey Mood and Feeling

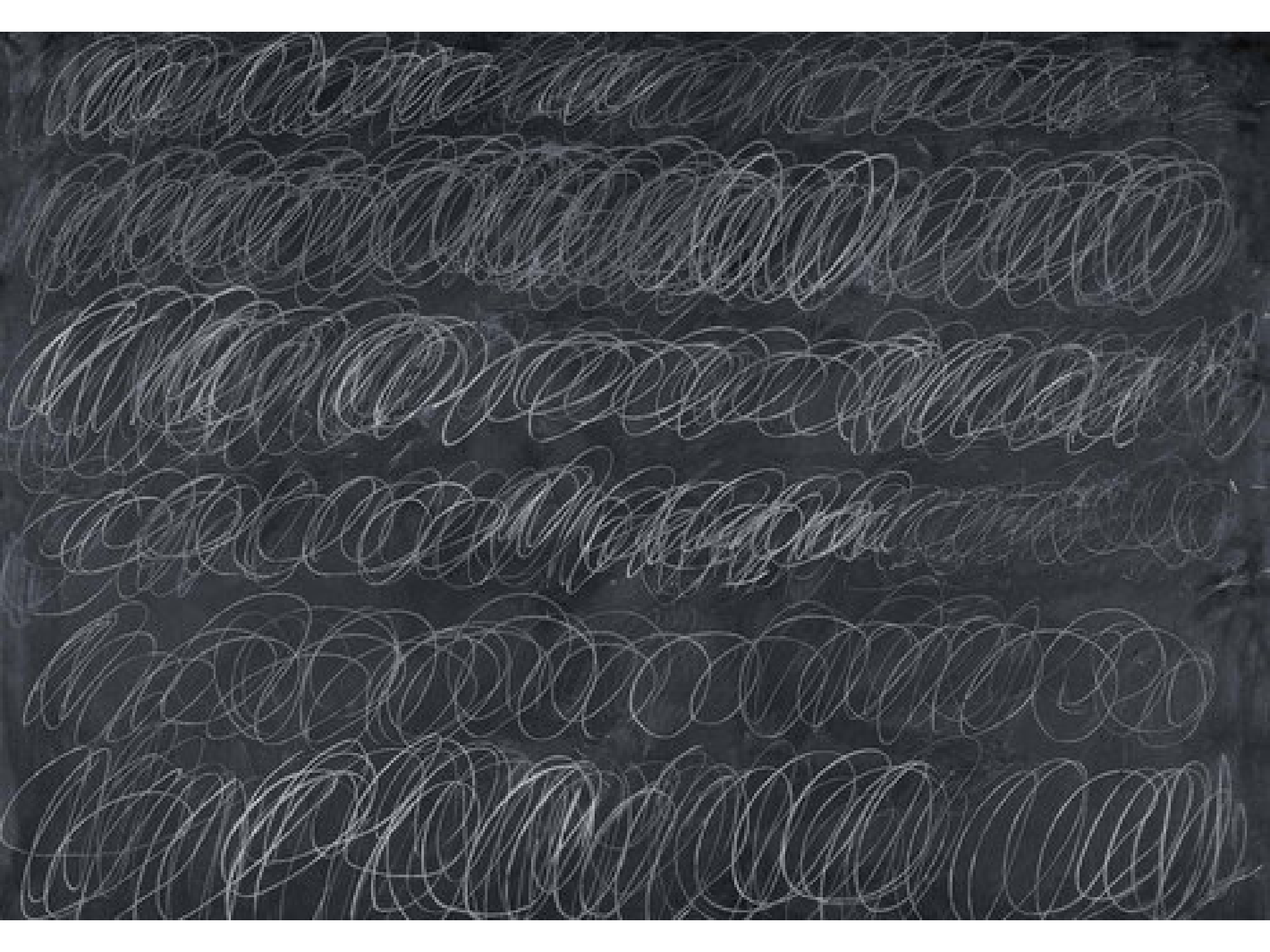
- Line is created by movement
- Line is capable of infinite variety.
- Our eye tends to follow line.

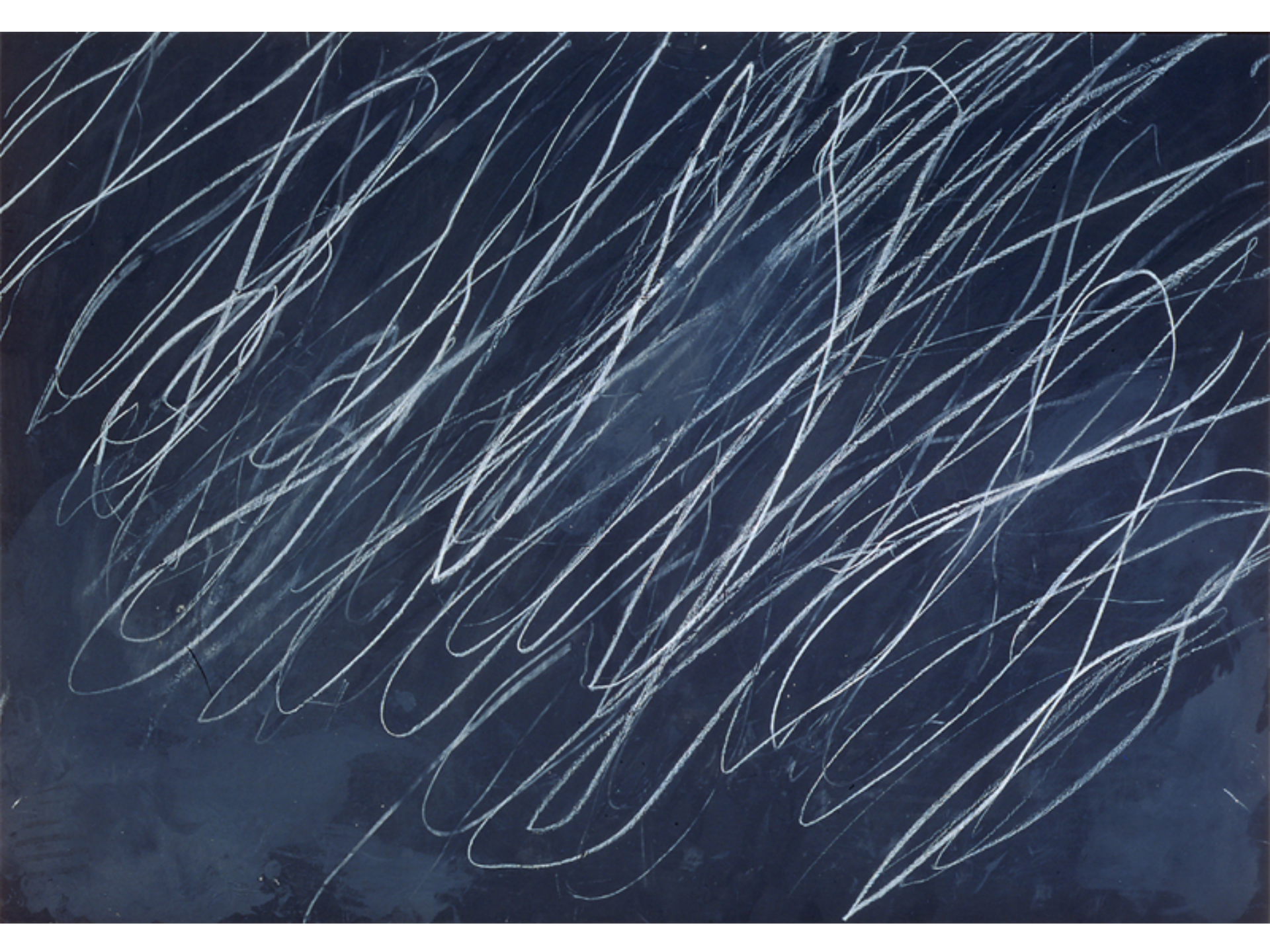
Descriptions for line:

- Nervous
- Excited
- Calm
- Graceful
- Dancing
- Artful

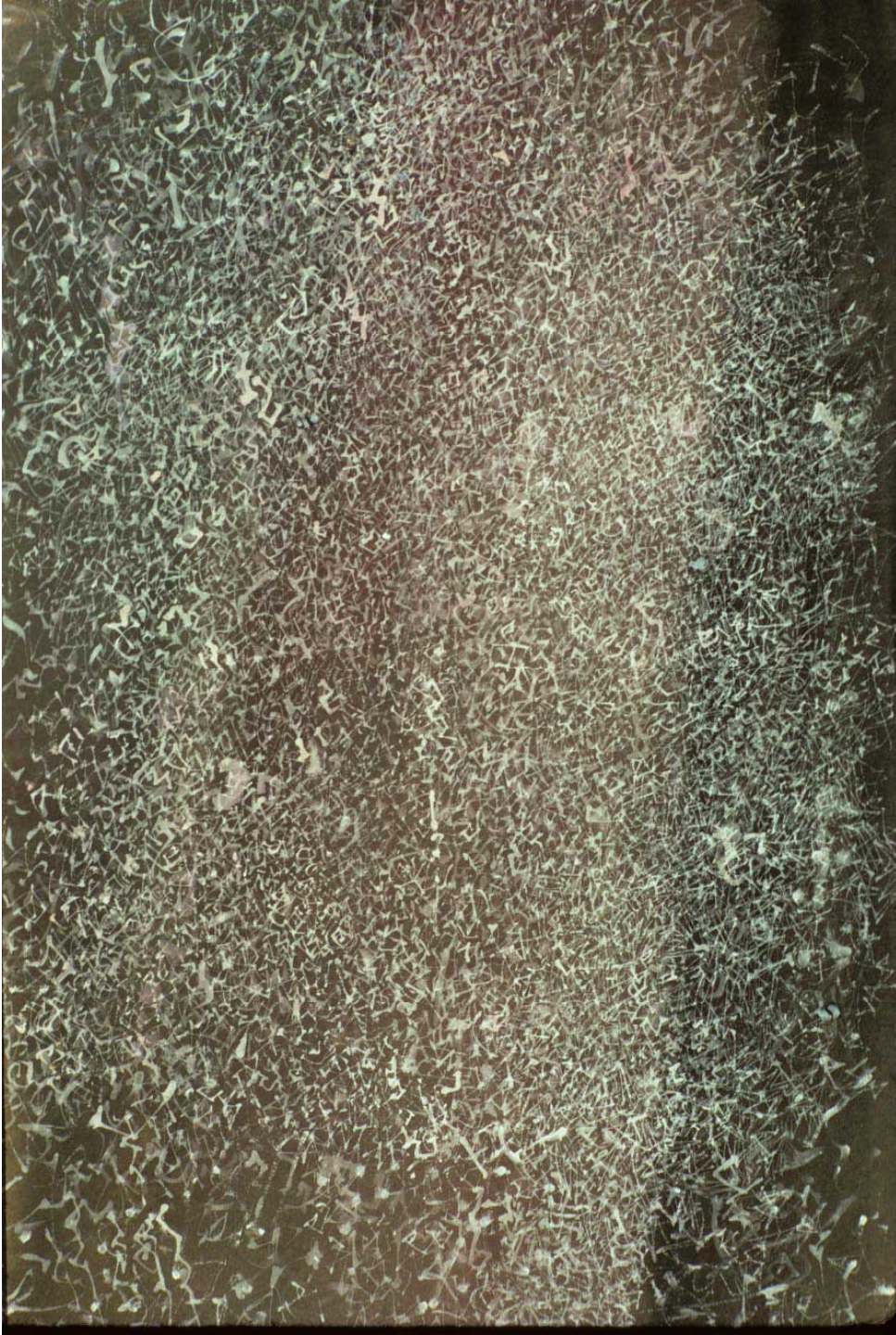




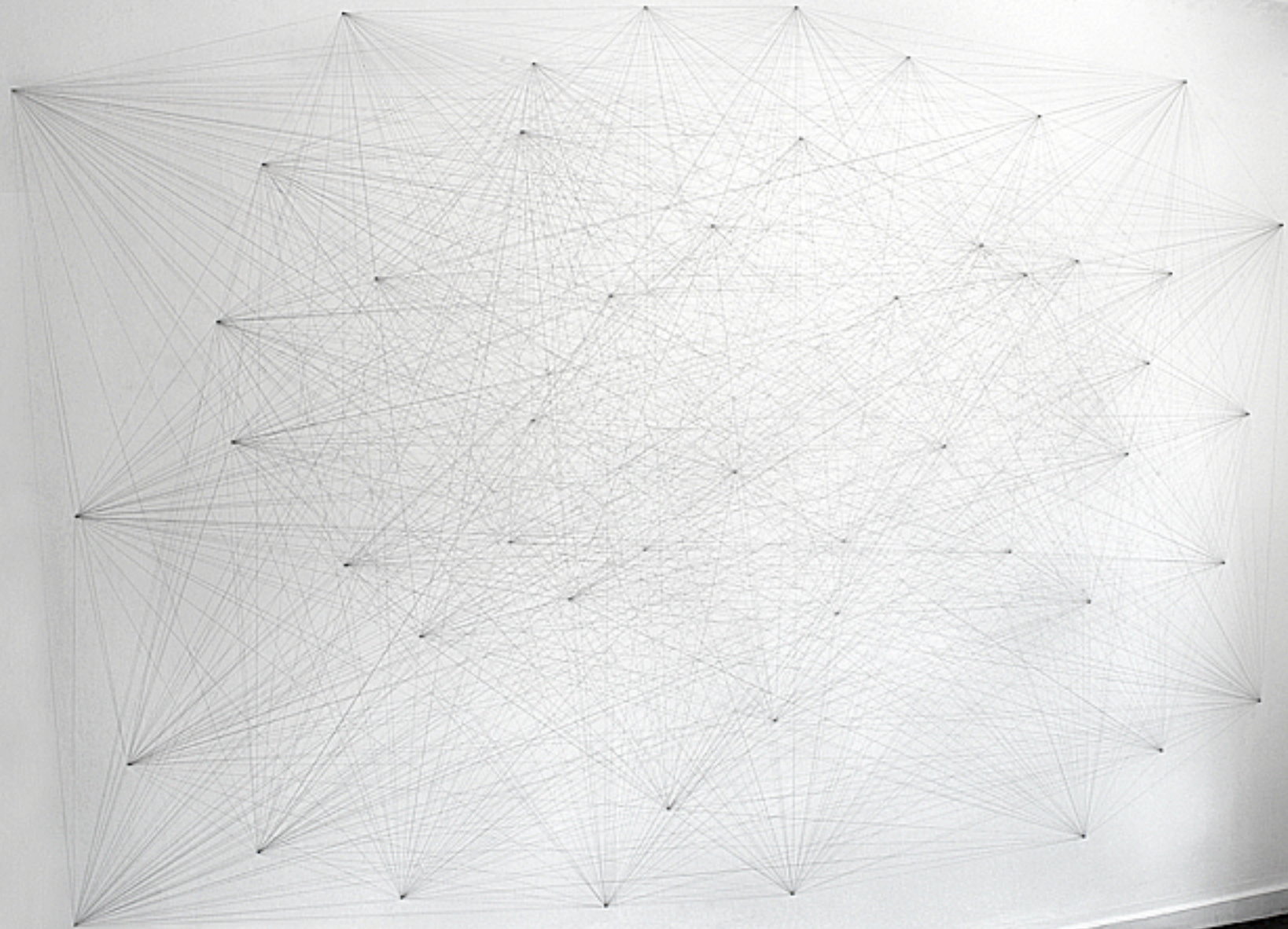


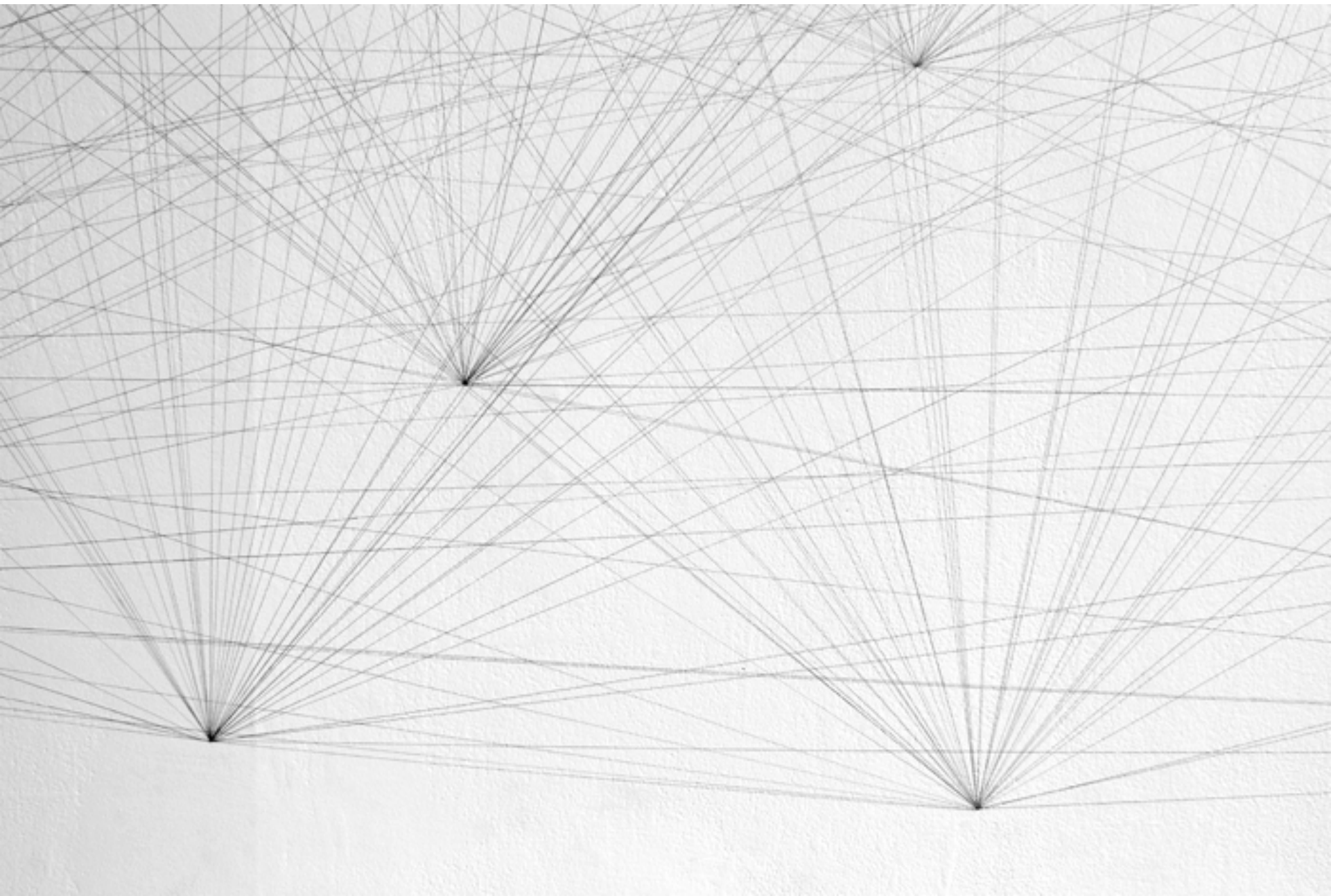


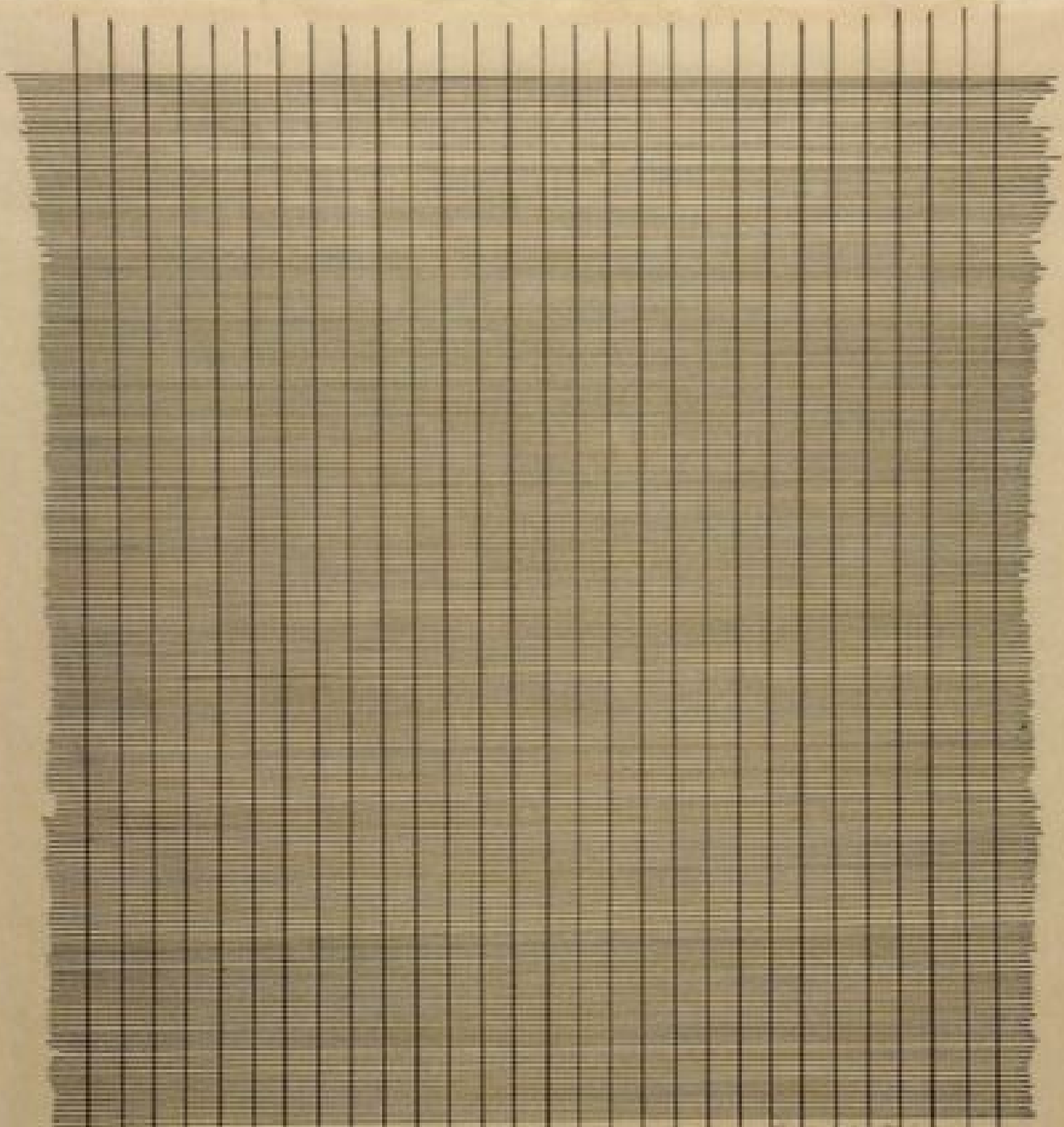












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