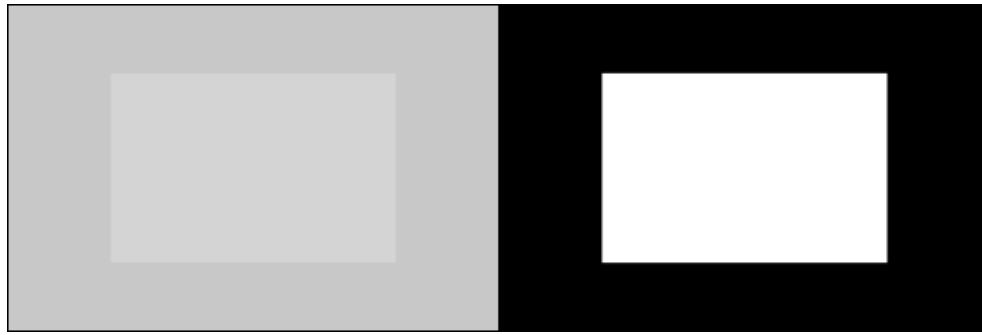


# *The Elements and Principles Of Design*

## *Contrast*



### **Contrast**

Contrast is the juxtaposition of opposing elements, like the extremes of light and dark values that create shapes and patterns in your composition. **Contrast** occurs when two related elements are different. The greater the difference the greater the contrast. Contrast adds variety to the total design and creates unity. It is what draws the viewer's eye into the painting and helps to guide the viewer around the art piece.

*Contrast* also adds visual interest. Most designs require a certain amount of contrast. Too much similarity of the components in any design becomes monotonous. In other words too little contrast can cause a design to be bland and uninteresting. On the other hand too much contrast can be confusing. Just the right amount of contrast engages the viewer's participation in comparing various components of the work. For instance, the viewer will compare light and dark areas of a painting, wide lines and thin lines, light-weight forms and heavy forms, filled spaces and unfilled spaces, etc. The key to working with contrast is to make sure the differences are obvious. The most common ways of creating contrast are by creating differences in:

- size
- value
- color
- type
- texture
- shape
- alignment
- direction
- movement



Make an 8" X 10" quilt to explore the use and effect of Contrast in design.

Here is a picture of my little Contrast quilt.

Easy enough...  
Now you try....