

Silhouettes

Silhouettes are graphic design illustrations that mostly use only the color black and depict certain objects, people, animals, and places in shadow-like figures. They project an outline of an object cast on a lighter background, just like an actual silhouette of something or someone standing against a brightly lit landscape or horizon such as the sunset.



Silhouettes Definition & Meaning

Silhouettes are digital art or images that depict things, creatures, people, and places in a shadow-like form; they project perfect solid shapes of anyone or anything with featureless interiors all in color black.

Silhouettes are dark castings of a person, a city, a tree, or any object that's standing against a bright light like sunlight or street lamp lights.

What Is a Silhouette?

A silhouette is a digital drawing of someone or something but with only a black shading to appear like it's a shadow. Other than a digital drawing, a silhouette also refers to the dark casting of an object as a result of standing in front of a brightly lit area or a ray of light.

10 Types of Silhouettes

Person Silhouette

A [person silhouette](#) is exactly that, a silhouette of a person or a group of people. Person silhouettes can depict dancers dancing, football players, people standing side by side, or a famous personality. They're clipart that perfectly showcases the outlines and frames of human beings like all-black paintings of portraits.



Two Hearts Silhouette

Heart icons and heart-like patterns are symbols of love and are perfect themes for Valentine's Day and other romantic events. And there are also [two hearts silhouettes](#) that look just as adorable. They may not have the usual red and pink colors of heart-shaped drawings, but they effectively evoke the feeling of love and carry out the message of caring for one another.



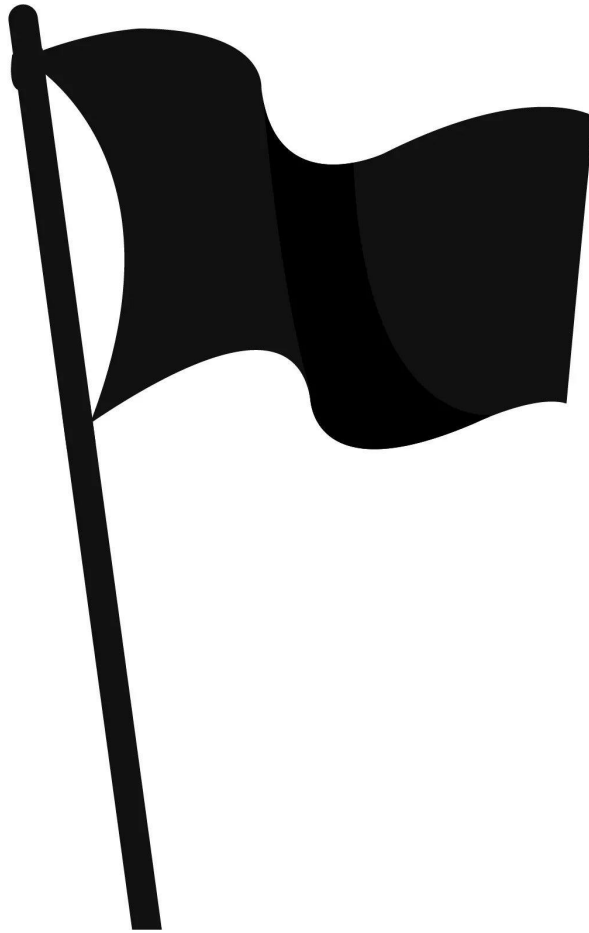
Bride and Groom Silhouette

Weddings are among the most beautiful special gatherings in the world. The elegance of the invitation cards and menu cards of weddings can be perfectly complemented by [bride and groom silhouettes](#). They're an excellent choice of design for weddings with a black-and-white motif, and because of their minimalist aesthetics.



Waving Flag Silhouette

Flags are a symbol of the unity of a society, a community, an organization, or a special group of people, and so are [waving flag silhouettes](#). These types of silhouette art beautifully depict flags flapping in the wind and being raised proudly by their subjects. They can be used as clipart or illustrations in history books, product labels, camp brochures, magazines, and many more.



Save the Date Silhouette

[Save-the-date silhouettes](#) are perfect additions to invitation cards and announcement posters. They can entice people to mark their calendars as a reminder of upcoming events such as store discounts, concerts, parties, conventions, and more. These types of custom silhouette designs are also great tools for promoting major events on Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms.



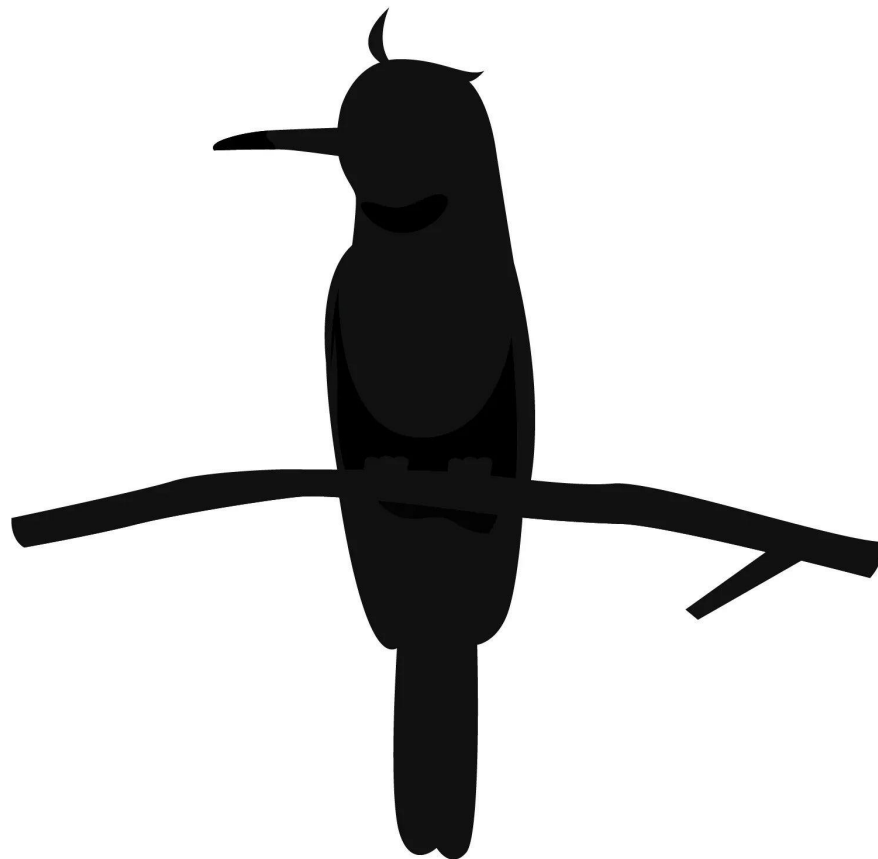
Bear Silhouette

Bears are beautiful subjects for animal photography because of their intimidating size and sheer superiority in the forest. While bear photos showcase the majesty and power of bears, so do [bear silhouettes](#). There are also plenty of other animal silhouettes such as wolf silhouettes, deer silhouettes, tiger silhouettes, and many more.



Sitting Bird Silhouette

A sitting bird is a cute bird, and so are [sitting bird silhouette](#) drawings created by talented artists. Sitting bird silhouettes depict the adorable frames and outlines of little birds sitting on thin tree branches. People who love seeing little birds resting on tree branches can use them as simple wallpapers for their computer desktop or smartphone backgrounds.



TEMPLATE 11

Wedding Silhouette

[Wedding silhouettes](#) mostly feature monochromatic drawings of a newly-wed couple. Of course, they look lovely and adorable as a wedding-themed work of art should, and they make for a good illustration on wedding posters, wedding invitation cards, and wedding menu cards. Wedding silhouettes are fairly easy to create and can be complemented with wedding flower clipart to make them even more romantic.



Lion Head Silhouette

Lions are the kings and queens of the wild, and so fittingly, [lion head silhouettes](#) have a royal beauty in them that catches the eye. Anyone who admires lions can use lion head silhouettes as wallpapers or have them printed as posters and hung as wall decorations. Lion head silhouettes are some of the best-looking animal silhouettes you can find in any online silhouette art gallery.



Butterfly Wings Silhouette

When seeing a butterfly, we can't help but stop and admire the beauty of its wings—a work of art by nature. It's not every day we stumble upon a butterfly, but at last [butterfly wings silhouette](#) artworks exist on the internet. We can look at them anytime to our heart's content through our computer screens or mobile screens, or better yet, have them printed as posters.



Silhouettes Uses, Purpose, Importance

If you look at silhouette artworks, they look very simple and very random and they're not as colorful as other forms of art. However, their simplicity and the way they're made have their uses and purposes.

Visual Communication Tool

Silhouettes are great tools for visual communication. A prime example would be the signages on streets such as stop signs, no U-turn signs, pedestrian lane signs, no left turn/no right turn signs, and many more. Such communication tools need to look simple and straightforward—traits that are present in silhouette artworks.

Complementary Illustrations

Books with illustrations are quite expensive to print. So to cut costs, publishers and other print media companies opt to have their illustrations printed as silhouettes since they're cheaper thanks to their colorless aesthetic. We often see silhouette illustrations as complementary visuals to topics and chapters in novels and textbooks, helping the readers grasp the context of the passages they're reading.

Logos

A [logo](#) with pure black shading and featureless interiors are basically silhouettes. Silhouettes can be used as simple company/organizational logos; they're subtle but with a powerful personality that can carry the brand of a business. Great examples of silhouette logos are the Puma logo, the Addidas logo, the Apple logo, and the Johnnie Walker logo.

Shape Assessment in Fashion Design

Fashion designers sketch the outline of their envisioned clothing before working on its textures and fabric. Their sketches are silhouettes and it helps them assess the shape of their garments. It allows them to make some adjustments to the flow of the clothing from top to bottom and other visual elements that only they can comprehend.

Simple Poster Art

The purpose of some if not most silhouettes is to please our eyes. Silhouettes are minimalist art with a compelling identity. Some of them were created by professional artists and are even displayed in museums; some are printed as posters and used as decorations on living room walls and bedroom walls.

What's in a Silhouette? Parts?

The Outline

The outline is simply the outer line that defines the shape of the drawing/sketch and gives it an actual form. In silhouette art, it's the very structure of the object, person, or creature it's depicting but without the black shading.

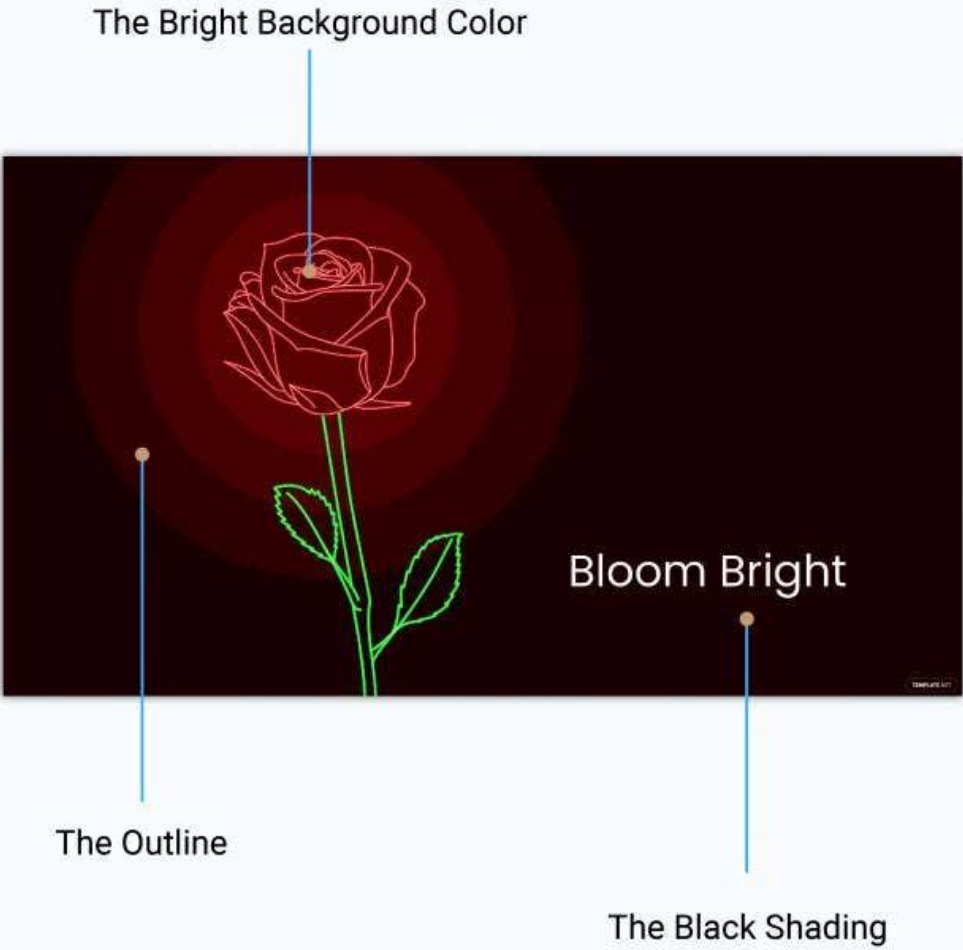
The Black Shading

Without the black shading, a silhouette isn't a silhouette but merely a transparent outline. The black color of the interior of the outline is the visual element that transforms it into silhouette art.

The Bright Background Color

It's essential for silhouette art to have a bright background color to emphasize its dark color and to create the illusion of an actual silhouette. The background color is ideally white, but other bright colors will do such as yellow.

Silhouettes Anatomy



How to Design a Silhouette

1. Select the most fitting [Silhouette Size](#).
2. Identify the type of silhouette you need to create.
3. Choose the best [Silhouette Template](#) to start with.
4. Customize your selected silhouette template.
5. Insert more visuals if needed.
6. Save and download your custom silhouette art.

How to Design a Silhouette

DATA
01

Select the most fitting Silhouette Size.

Identify the type of silhouette you need to create.

STEP
02

DATA
03

Choose the best Silhouette Template to start with.

Customize your selected silhouette template.

STEP
04

DATA
05

Insert more visuals if needed.

Save and download your custom silhouette art.

STEP
06

Silhouettes vs. Stickers

Silhouettes are beautiful handmade or digital drawings of objects, people, animals, and places depicted as shadow-like figures.

[Stickers](#) are printed or digitally illustrated artworks that are meant to be attached to certain objects or additional decorations to existing digital works of art.

What's the Difference Between a Silhouette, a Profile, and an Outline?

A silhouette is a drawing made by hand or with digital tools depicting things, animals, people, and places in a solid outline with a dark shading in the interior, typically a black shading.

A [profile](#) is a complete and thorough description of the identity of a person or an organization including the full name and contact details, and it's often complemented with a profile picture or a company logo.

An outline is the structure of a drawing or the line that forms its comprehensible shape; it's basically the transparent version of an artwork minus the colors and shadings.

Silhouette Sizes

Choosing the right [silhouette size](#) is an important first step in creating silhouette art. The appropriate size can positively affect the quality of your silhouette and enable it to serve its purpose effectively.

- 1600 x 1200 pixels
- 2592 x 1944 pixels
- 3264 x 2488 pixels
- 4288 x 3216 pixels

Silhouette Sizes

Size (pixels)

1600 x 1200 pixels

2592 x 1944 pixels

3264 x 2488 pixels

4288 x 3216 pixels

Silhouette Ideas and Examples

Since there are many types of silhouettes we can create, it's quite challenging to decide what sort of silhouette art to work on. Fortunately, we can always look up [silhouette ideas](#) to get inspiration and get started.

- [Bridesmaid Silhouette Ideas and Examples](#)
- [Family Tree Silhouette Ideas and Examples](#)
- [Vine Silhouette Ideas and Examples](#)
- [Human Heart Silhouette Ideas and Examples](#)
- [Anniversary Silhouette Ideas and Examples](#)

- Red Double Heart Silhouette Ideas and Examples
- Heart Basketball Silhouette Ideas and Examples
- Cartoon Wedding Silhouette Ideas and Examples
- Old Tree Silhouette Ideas and Examples
- Jungle Tree Silhouette Ideas and Examples

Silhouette FAQs

What can you do with a silhouette?

There are many things you can do with a silhouette work of art; you can use them as a logo for your startup business, a decoration on invitation cards, poster art for your bedroom, or a simple background photo for your desktop or smartphone.

What are silhouettes in design?

In graphic art and graphic design, silhouettes are drawings with a single hue or tone, typically black or dark, and they depict a sharply outlined shadow of certain objects or people.

How do you describe a silhouette in a dress?

In fashion design, a silhouette is the overall shape of a garment or a dress as it's worn by a model or displayed on a mannequin; it outlines the form of the dress, allowing fashion designers to assess its shape and make adjustments to its measurements if needed.

What is a portrait silhouette?

As its name implies, a portrait silhouette is a drawing or a photograph depicting/showing imagery of a silhouetted object or person presented in portrait orientation or vertical orientation.

What are the three types of silhouettes?

There are many thinkable types of silhouettes, but there are only three basic types of silhouettes and those are the following: cut-out, hollow-cut, and painted.

What makes a good silhouette?

A good silhouette needs to be simple and must be easily understood or grasped by the viewers; they should be able to see what the silhouette is depicting at a glance.

What is the silhouette technique?

In art, the silhouette technique is the use of light backgrounds to project drawings and objects like shadows; it's a common technique in photography and painting portraits.

What does the silhouette symbolize?

Silhouette works of art symbolize the mystery of something or someone, especially when it comes to its character, its texture, and its physical appearance; silhouette evokes a sense of wonder about the unknown that's at the same time interesting.

Why and how were silhouettes used?

Back in the 18th and 19th Centuries in the United States of America, silhouettes were a common and popular form of art because they are easy and inexpensive to create, and they can conveniently be sent to friends or relatives as complements to friendly letters or invitation cards.

What creates a silhouette?

The three things that create a silhouette work of art are the outline of the drawing, the black/dark shading of the object being depicted, and the light background.