



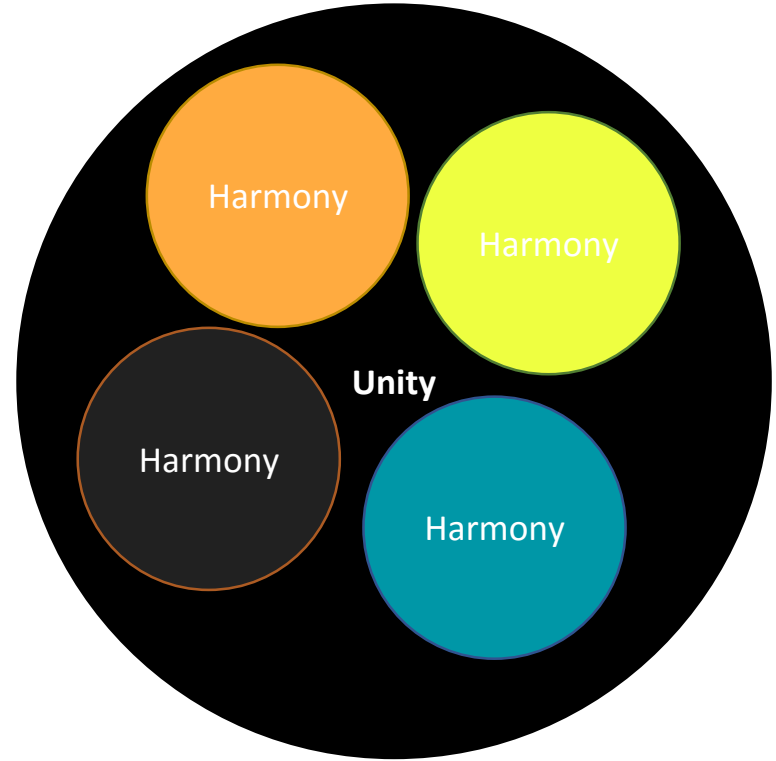
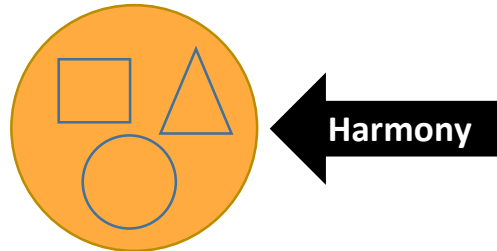
HARMONY Δ PATTERN Δ SIZE Δ SCALE Δ PROPORTION

BY

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Harmony vs Unity

- **Unity:** occurs when all of the elements of a piece combine to make a balanced, harmonious, complete *whole*.
- **Harmony:** brings together a composition with similar units. If your composition was using geometric shapes you would stay not put in just one geometric shape.



Harmony

- Harmony is a quality of compatibility and agreement in a composition
- Harmonious elements have a logical relationship or progression - in some way they work together and complement each other.
- When a jarring element is added - something that goes against the whole - it is said to be dissonant, just like an off-note in a musical performance.
- It gives visually satisfying effect of combining similar or related elements. For instance: adjacent colors on the color wheel, similar shapes, related textures etc.

Examples of Harmony

Harmony of Line



Raphael (1483-1520) Study after Michelangelo's St Matthew

Harmonious lines describing the figure and a delicate use of hatching to model the form.

The concentration of detail in the upper regions of the figure and the simple outline of the lower legs, draw the eye up to the head and shoulders gives a dynamic movement from bottom to top

Variation in line thickness emphasising the twist in the figure.

The contour and hatching lines reinforcing the movement from the legs up to the head

Harmony of Shape



Herbert Basedow (1881-1933) "Woman with Pet Possum on her Head" (1922)

The oval shape of the woman's head crowned by the smaller oval of the baby possum creates an almost symmetrical, harmonious composition reinforced by the harmonious shapes tells a great story of friendship between the woman and the possum

Harmony of Color



Edgar Degas (1834-1917) "Interior" (1868 or 1869)

The color temperature is predominantly warm with dominating browns and reds with subtly contrasting areas of cool green/grey.

In the wallpaper background, small patches of juxtaposed green and red blend to produce an animated field of warm.

This sounds like a recipe for strong color contrast, but the visual blending Degas color arrangement causes, creates a tight and very rich color harmony.

Harmony of Tone (Tonal Harmony)



Andre Kertesz (1894 – 1985) "Circus, Budapest" (1920)

The image has been processed with a limited tonal range, almost camouflaging the couple as they sneak a peak through a crack in the fence.

To have pushed the image to have strong darks and highlights would have destroyed the voyeuristic atmosphere he has created.

Harmony of Texture



The vibrant colors, shimmering gold leaf and graded neutrals of St. marks Cathedral, Venice, are harmonised by the blanketing texture of small tiles.

This same texture also visually links the arches to the walls and floor of the Cathedrals interior.

St Marks Cathedral Mosaic, Venice

Harmony of Direction



Details



Used a variety of wavering vertical lines contrasting with a single, distant horizontal line to develop this curtain like veil of birch trees.

The composition is very simple and held together by the strong, harmonious, vertical direction.

Gustave Klimt (1862-1918) "Beech Grove" (1902)

Harmony of Size



Egon Schiele (1890-1918) "Two Reclining Figures" (1912)

Both figures occupy the same amount of space. The figure with the yellow bonnet sits on a dark mat while the figure with the dark bonnet sits on a yellow mat.

Both bonnets and mats occupy the same amount of space.

It has an interesting harmony due to the size relationships of the various elements.

Ways to achieve Visual Harmony

- Repetition
- Rhythm
- Pattern

Ways to achieve Visual Harmony

- Repetition → reemphasizes visual units, connecting parts and creating an area of attention.
- Rhythm is the flow depicted in a visual → helps direct eye movement.
- Repeating patterns in an interesting arrangement → the overall visual image comes together.

Ways to achieve Visual Harmony

- **Repetition**
- Rhythm
- Pattern

Repetition

The repeating shapes, without variation can be taken in with one glance, the brain immediately knows the rest are identical.

Repeating visual elements such as line, color, shape, texture, value or image tends to unify the total effect of a work of art.

Repetition can take the form of an exact duplication (pattern), a near duplication, or duplication with variety.

Repetition → reemphasizes visual units, connecting parts and creating an area of attention.

Type of Repetition

Repetition of Line



Sainte-Chapelle, Paris (1242-1248)

Repeating vertical lines terminating in graceful arcs under the roof show a soaring upward thrust

The hundreds of long vertical supports separating the panels of stained glass give the building a delicate, almost floating appearance from inside.

Horizontal lines in the stained glass panels have been kept as thin as possible so as not to interrupt the soaring upward movement.

Repetition of Shape



Herbert Basedow (1865-1933) "Hut, Eastern Arrernte" (1920)

The simple composition of this photograph relies on the repetition of curved shapes:

- The arched shape of the old man
- the curved dark shape surrounding him
- the clump of grass at the opening
- the curve of the grass hut are all echoed in the dark silhouette of the distant hut.

Repetition of Color



Gustave Klimt (1862-1918) "Attersee" (1900)

Repeating patches of blue and green → give vitality and depth

Graduating size of the ripples → perspective

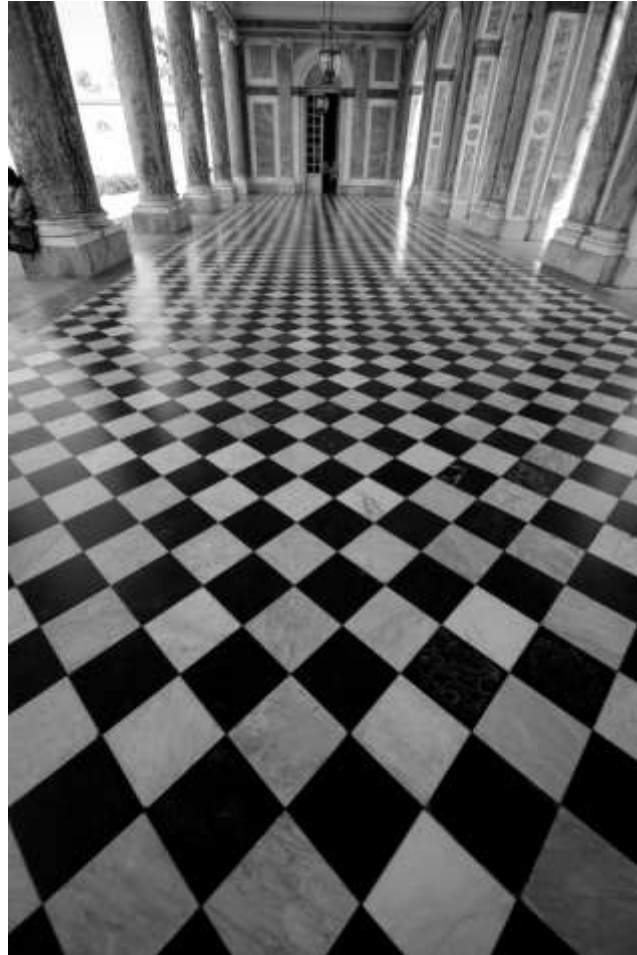
Contrast between the warm grey underpainting and the similar toned turquoise and blue ripples
→ shimmering effect on the water

The eye follows the line of ripples from the bottom right to half way up the left hand side of the painting, where it is re directed by the distant band of Ultramarine leading to the dark shape of the headland. From here attention drops back down into the water where the circuit starts over again.

Repetition of Tone

This tessellated marble floor is on the exterior veranda of the Grand Trianon at The Palace of Versailles, Paris

The huge expanse of checkerboard black and white marble has a dizzying effect as you walk onto the veranda



*Tessellated Floor,
Versailles, France*

Repetition of Texture

Individually, the tiny bud of needle like spines on this cactus is a vicious looking thing. When seen as a repeating texture over the surface of the cactus, it appears soft and harmless.

Texture through repetition often belies the appearance of the individual repeated element.



Cactus spine



Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba

The Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba, Spain is intricately decorated with numerous repeating Islamic patterns. Close up the patterns are detailed and complex, but when seen from a distance the complexity blends to become a variety of geometric textures

Repetition of Direction

Lewis Hine's photograph of workers on the Empire State Building gets its power from the three repeating diagonals cutting the image.

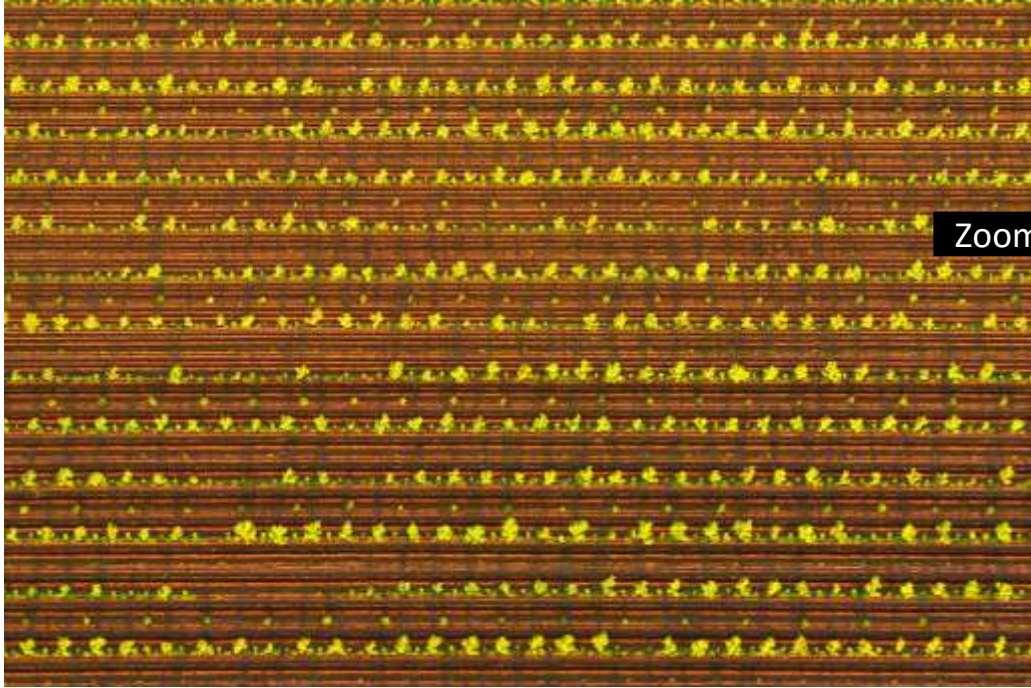
The angle of view emphasises the elevation of the workers while the opposing diagonal of the lower support plank, jutting into space, adds to the sense of danger to the image.

The three workers are focused on a point right at the center of the image, but the strong repeating diagonals give the photo a powerful feeling of tension and movement.

*Lewis Hine (1874-1940) Three
Riveters, Empire State Building,
1931 Silver gelatin print*



Repetition of Size



Sandalwood Plantation – Kununurra, Western Australia

Zoom out



The patterns and textures built up, probably unknowingly, by farmers can be amazing creations.

The repeating sizes and the variation in that repetition tell interesting stories.

The repetition in size of the major trees here is obvious, but between these, in the same row, smaller trees are visible. Between the rows of major trees, every second row has been planted with well spaced younger trees.

Ways to Achieve Visual Harmony

- Repetition
- **Rhythm**
- Pattern

Rhythm

When motifs or elements are repeated, alternated, or otherwise arranged, the intervals between them or how they overlap can create a sense of movement.

Rhythm is the flow depicted in a visual → helps direct eye movement.

Categories of Rhythm

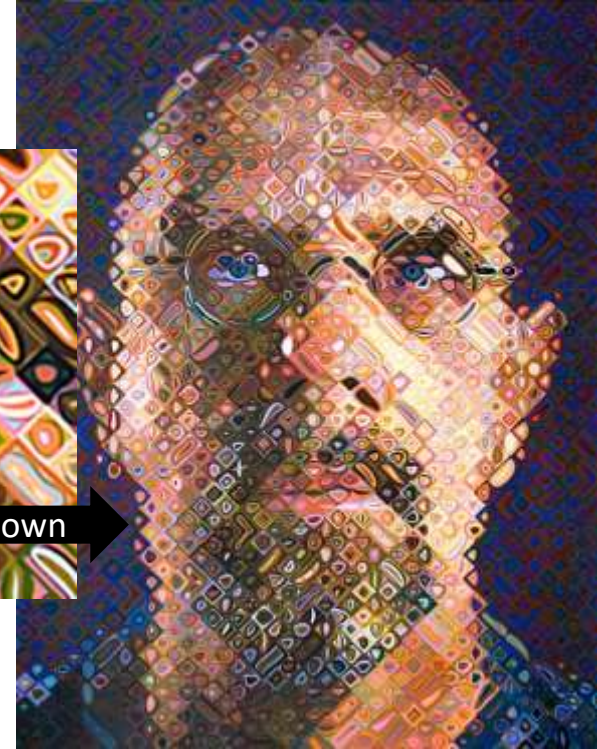
Random Rhythm

Created by groupings of similar motifs or elements that repeat with no regularity

What may seem random at one scale, however, may exhibit purpose and order at another scale.

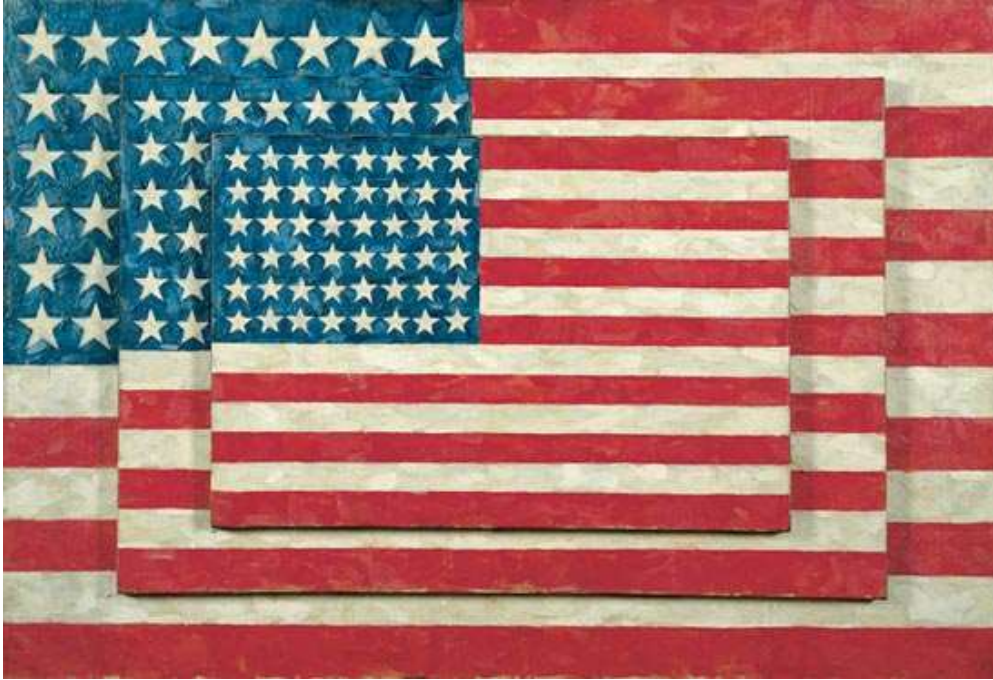


René Magritte - Golconde, 1953, oil on canvas, 81 x 100 cm



Chuck Close - Self Portrait 2007 Screenprint, 2007, Screenprint in 187 colors, 74.5 x 57.8 in.

Regular Rhythm

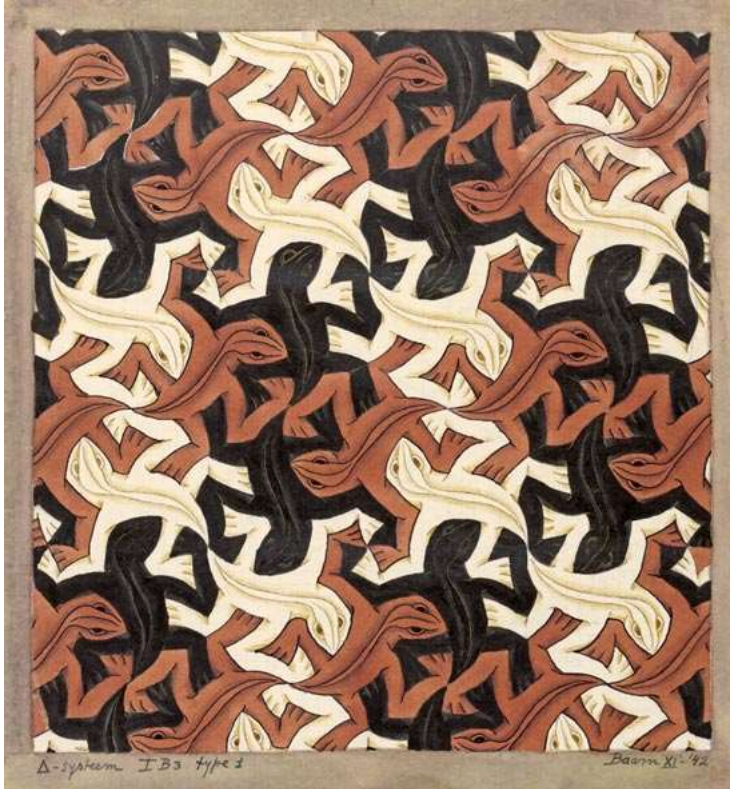


Jasper Johns - Three Flags, 1958, encaustic on canvas, 30 7/8 × 45 1/2 × 5 in. The flag stripes have alternating rhythm, but the stars and flags themselves have regular rhythm.

Created by a series of elements, often identical or similar, that are placed at regular or similar intervals, such as in grids.

Simple regular rhythms, if overused, can be monotonous.

Alternating Rhythm



M.C. Escher - Lizard, 1942

Two or more different motifs may be alternated, such as the black and red squares in a checkerboard; a single motif might be flipped, mirrored or rotated every so many iterations; or the placement or spacing between motifs can be alternated.

This is essentially a regular rhythm that has more complex motifs, or meta-motifs. The added variety can help lessen the monotony of a regular rhythm.

Flowing Rhythm

Flowing rhythm is created by undulating elements and intervals, bending and curving motifs and spaces.



Gloria Petyarre - Bush Medicine Dreaming, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 152 x 91 cm



Steven Hill - Melon Pitcher, 2010, 10.5 x 9 x 7.5 in.

Progressive Rhythm

In progressive rhythm, each time a motif repeats it changes a little, transforming and translating in a steady sequence - the motif progresses from one thing to another.



*Marcel Duchamp - Nude
Descending a Staircase (No. 2),
1912, oil on canvas, 147 x 89.2 cm*

Ways to achieve Visual Harmony

- Repetition
- Rhythm
- **Pattern**

Pattern

Definition: Patterns are groups of elements or motifs that repeat in a predictable manner.

Pattern uses the art elements in planned or random repetition to enhance surfaces or paintings or sculptures.

Repeating patterns in an interesting arrangement → the overall visual image comes together.

Classes of Pattern

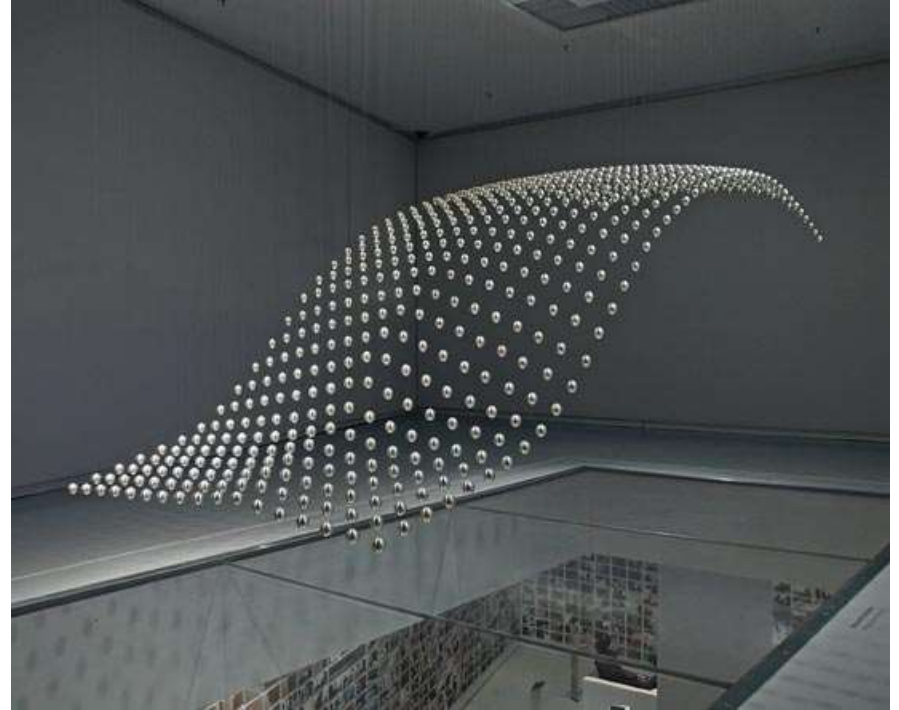
Sphere

Spheres fit or pack together in two and three dimensions

We can do a zillion things on their surface or by arranging them in different ways.



Wayne Mah - ball bearings, 2005



ART+COM - kinetic sculpture, 2008

Mosaics or Nests

Mosaics create patterns from tesserae, small pebbles or cut pieces of stone or glass (traditionally) in different colors.

Similar to pixels, these dots or units of color are arranged to create areas of color that form a desired image.

The lines and small areas of a composition may form random patterns, but viewed from a distance, their arrangement unites to form an image.



Detail, The Empress Theodora and Retinue, The Basilica of St. Vitale, dedicated in 547 A.D.



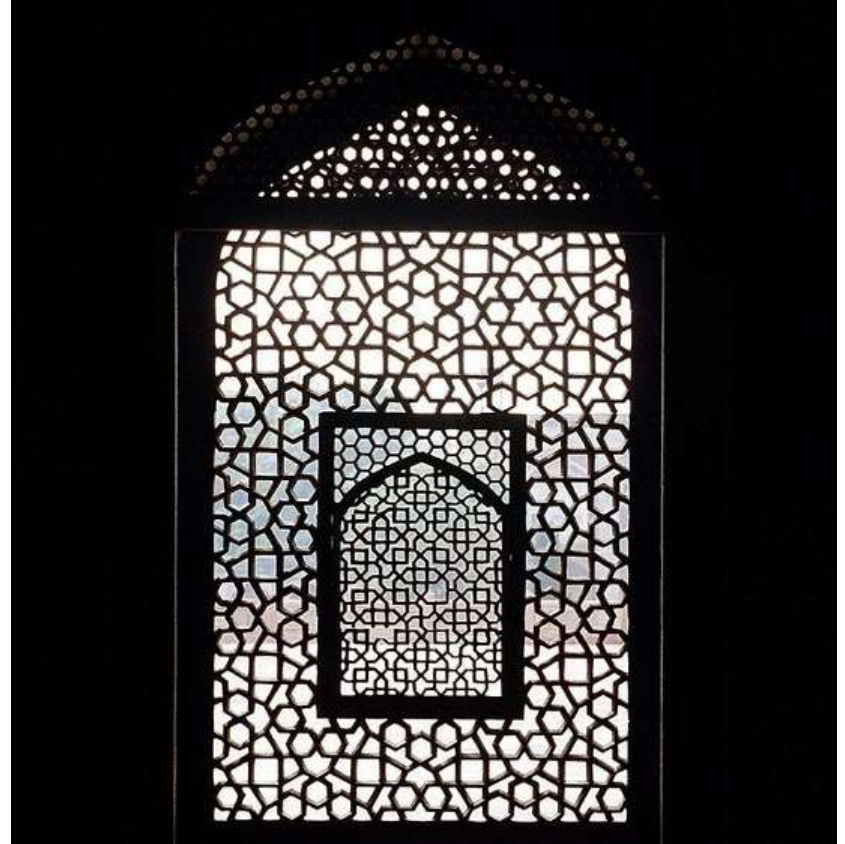
Zac Freeman - Garrett, 2009, Assemblage on board, 26.25 x 33 in.

Lattices

Based around the idea of a two or three-dimensional array of regularly spaced points. Lattices can be classified by the shapes formed between their points. In art and architecture, one form of lattices are (or resemble) screens of thin woven or carved materials that usually display a regular structure



Siddi Sayyed Jali



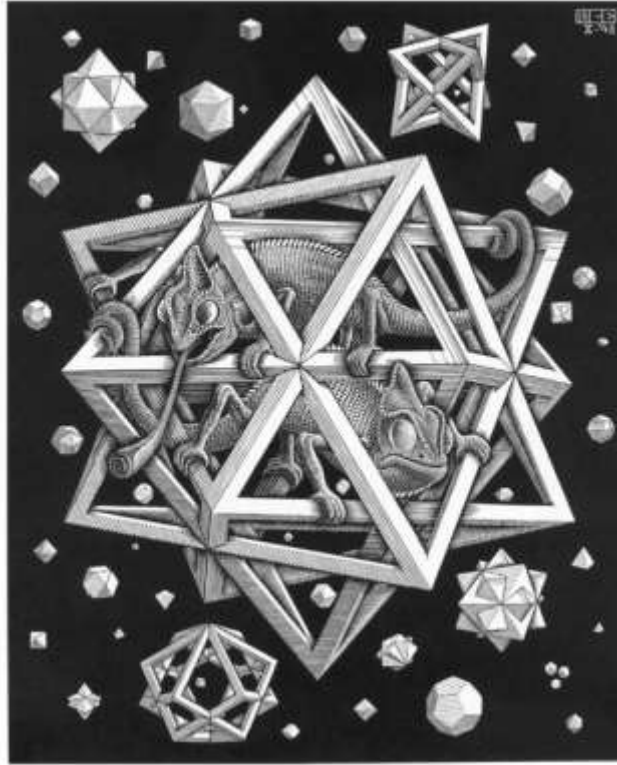
Jali, Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

Polyhedra

Polyhedra are three-dimensional objects whose surfaces are defined by polygonal faces or facets, whose edges are in turn defined by straight line segments.

These straight line edges meet at points called vertices; each edge joins only two faces and two vertices.

Many polyhedra are very symmetrical, but symmetry is not necessary.



M.C. Escher - Stars, 1948, wood engraving



Fra Giovanni da Verona - Intarsia Panel From The Church Of Santa Maria In Organo, Verona, circa 1520

Spirals - Volutes

Volutes are a fancy name for flat spirals



Gustav Klimt - The Tree Of Life, 1909, mural



Terracotta jar with three handles - Minoan, 1600-1500 B.C., 13.5 in.

Spirals - Helices

Helices and double-helices are three-dimensional spirals



Andy Goldsworthy, 1997



Olafur Eliasson - Umschreibung, 2004, steel, 9m high. Photo by Philipp Klinger

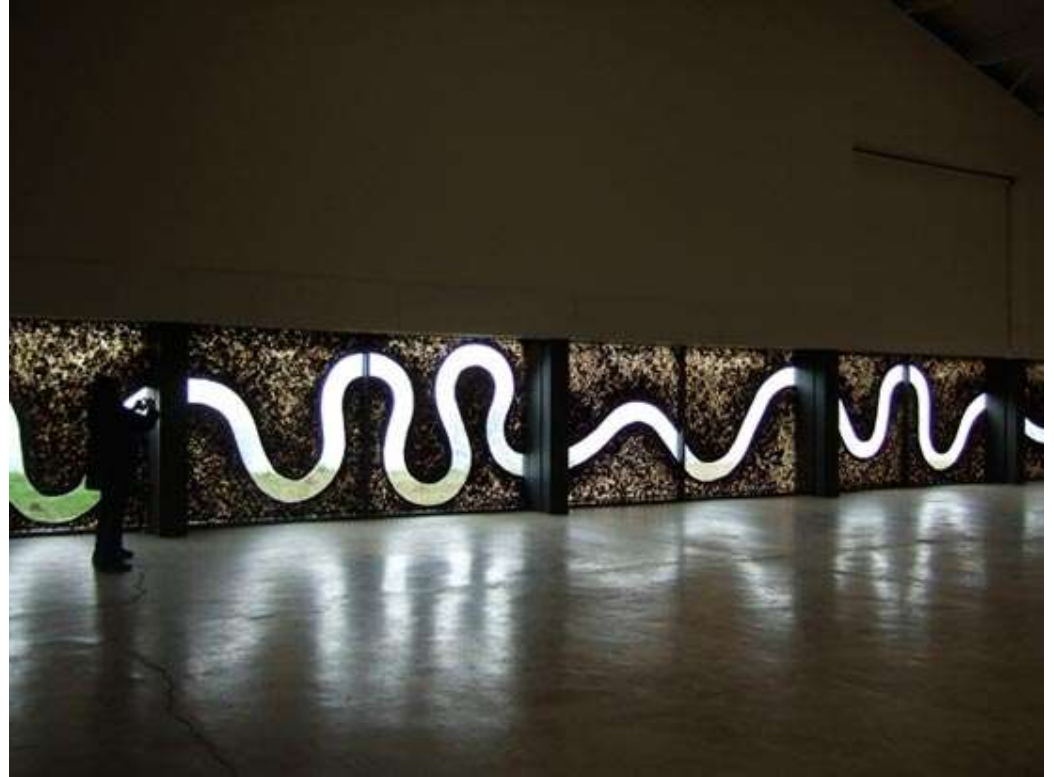
Meanders

Meanders are the sinuous bends that streams and rivers sometimes make, which lend the name to anything with a snaking, winding, convoluted path.

Meanders can be thought of as irregular waveforms, as opposed to regular sine waves.



*Meandering river: Williams River in Alaska
(photo by N.D. Smith)*



Andy Goldsworthy - Cow dung on glass, 2007

Branching and Circulation



*Natalie Blake -
Fiddlehead, large,
porcelain, 15 x 5.5 in.*



*Sabine+Jones -
Ars Electronica
exhibition, 2009*

Waves

Design in which the visual is inspired by ocean waves, sine waves, sound waves, ripples, etc.

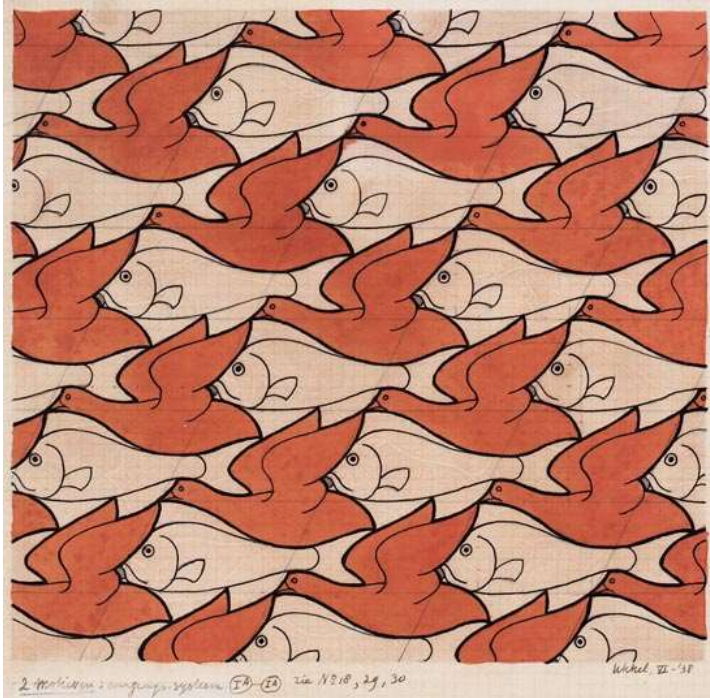


*Akira Satake - kohiki
teapot, 8.5 x 5 x 4.5 in.*

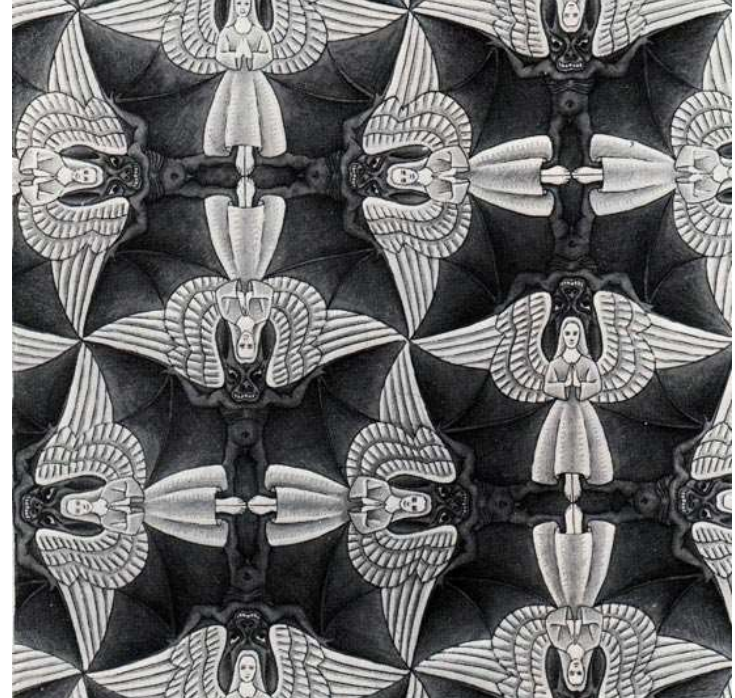
Symmetry

Tessellation and Tiling : Created when motifs repeat on a plane without any gaps between the motifs (tiles), and also without overlapping. E.g. Common ceramic tiles.

Symmetries of Planar Patterns : The four types of planar symmetries, or isometries (transformations that preserve distance) are translation, reflection, rotation, and glide reflection symmetry (involves flipping the sample along an axis and then sliding it along the axis into place).



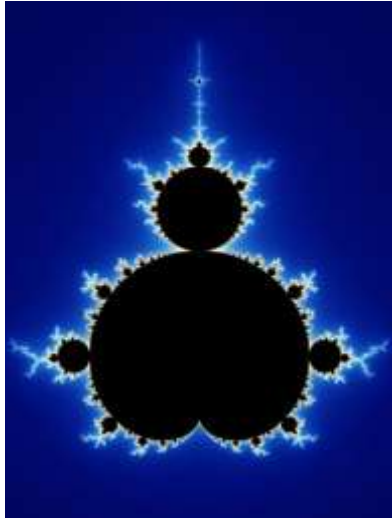
M.C. Escher - Bird Fish, 1938. This pattern has only translational symmetry. It can be slid along two axis, which is the minimum for the pattern to fill a plane. (If the pattern only slid in one direction, it would form a strip.)



M.C. Escher - Study of Regular Division of the Plane With Angels and Devils. This pattern has both reflective and rotational symmetry.

Fractals

Fractals are shapes or forms that divide into smaller-scale copies of themselves, so that they appear similar at any level of magnification.



Mandelbrot set



Mandelbrot set



Jock Cooper - Limited Palette Fractal

SIZE





(Sculpture by Bruno Catalano)

- An absolute measurement
- physical dimensions of an object
- Does not tell us much until it is compared to something

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The size of an element as it relates to its usual physical size.

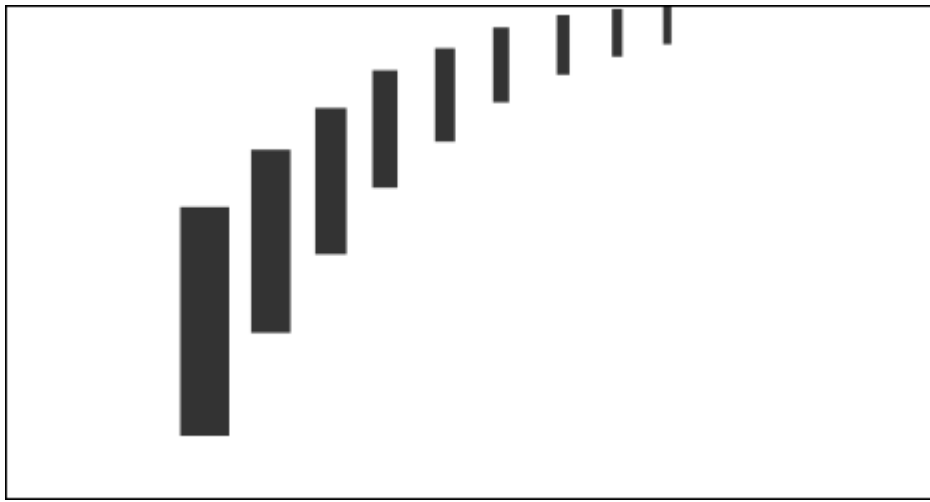
(Art by Jim Denevan)



(Street art by Natalie Rak)

Why is scale important?

- Communicates relationship between elements
- Shows contrast

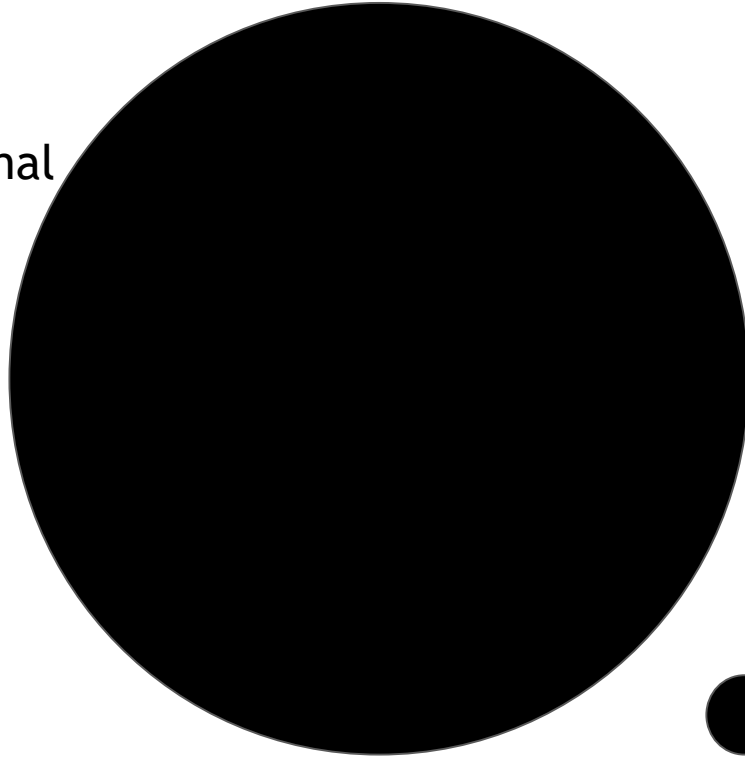


- Scale can be used to create depth
- Bigger objects look nearer and smaller ones look like they recede into the background.



(The Scream by Van Gogh)

Confrontational
Intimidation



Scale used to imply meaning

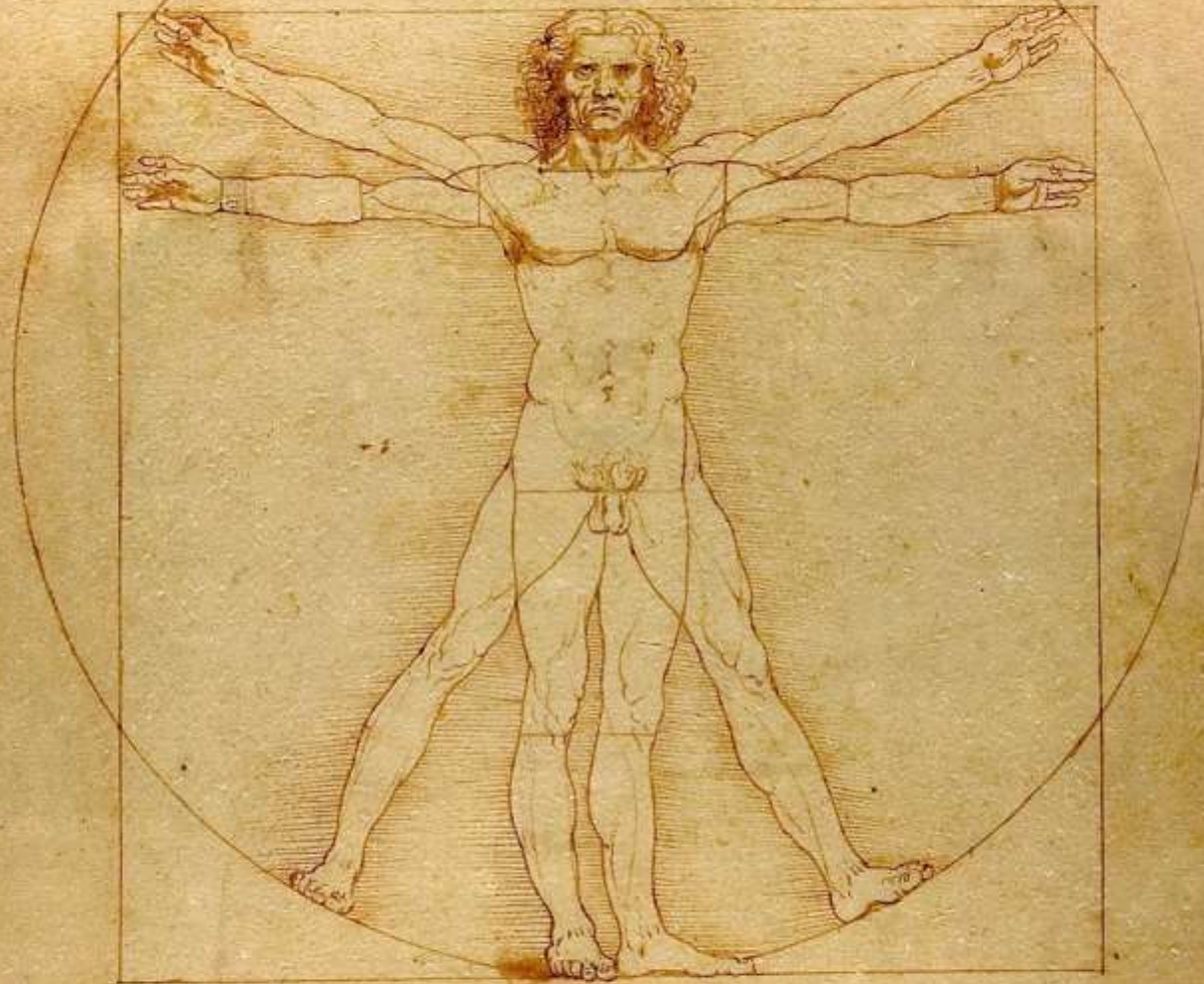


Timid
Fear



Ron Mueck's sculpture : Mask II

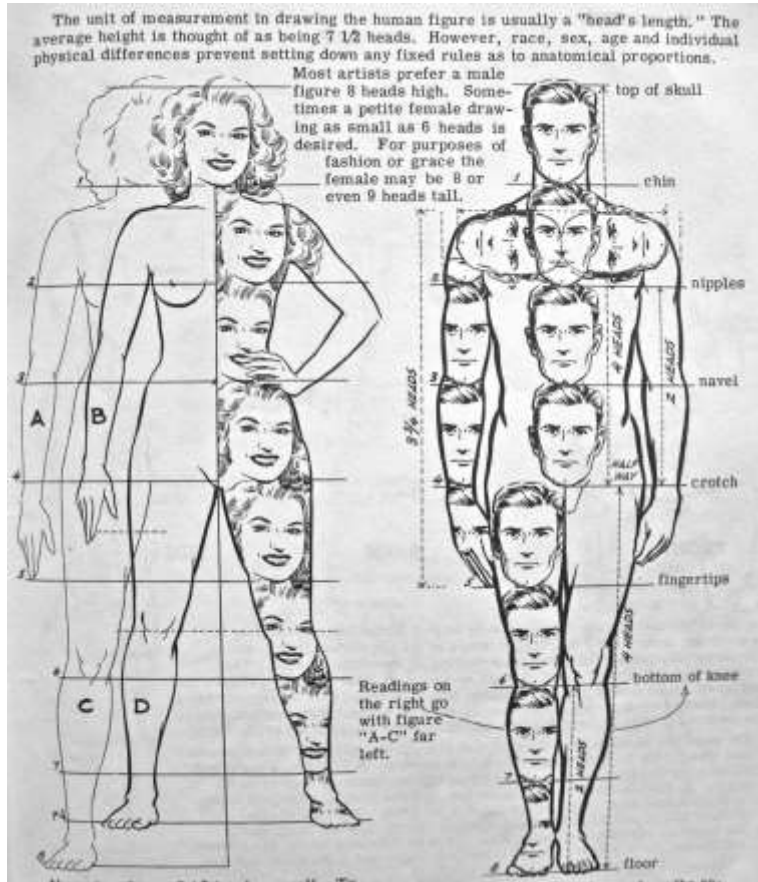
- Plays with scale



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- Relationship between elements with respect to a comparative [magnitude](#)
- Informs us whether our scale and size are in harmony and balanced



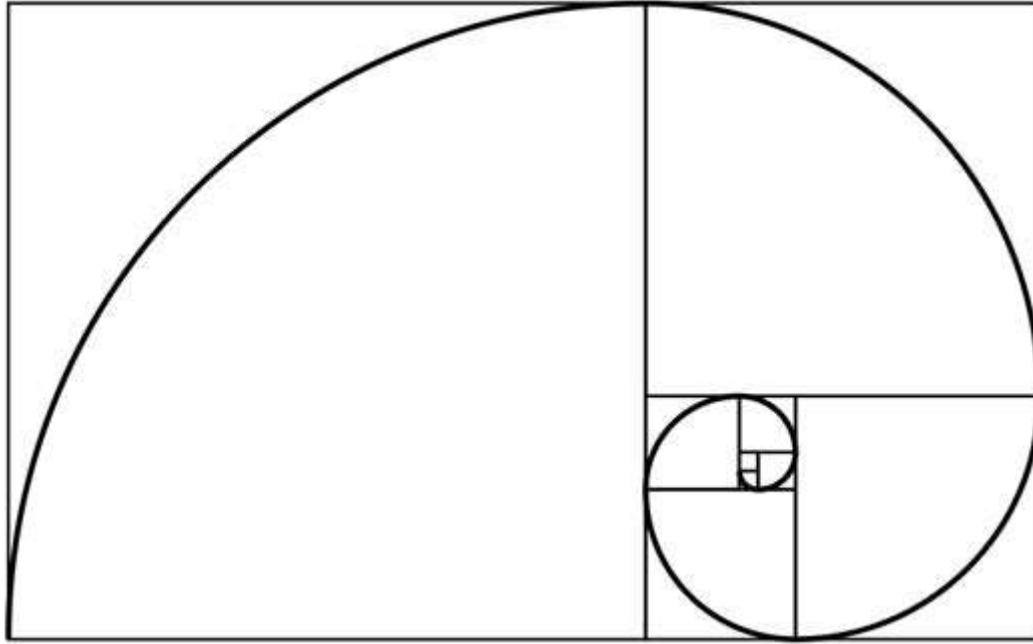
- Proportion in humans
- When it is out of proportion, it gives viewers a sense of unease (Which works if that is what you want to convey)



“Black Goddess” by Todji Kurtzman



“Wendy's Shoes” by Todji Kurtzman



Golden Rule Ratio

- Used in designs, photography, architectures and so many things
- Keeps it interesting and leads viewers eyes to the focal point

SIZE

- Dimensions of the object

SCALE

- Relative comparison between objects
(Consists of sizes being compared to each other)

PROPORTION

- Relationship of size and scale in a composition

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