Light as Value

June 12, 2019

Light as Value

Light has a dramatic psychological effect on how we experience the world!

Film Nior – Touch of Evil 1958, Orson Welles

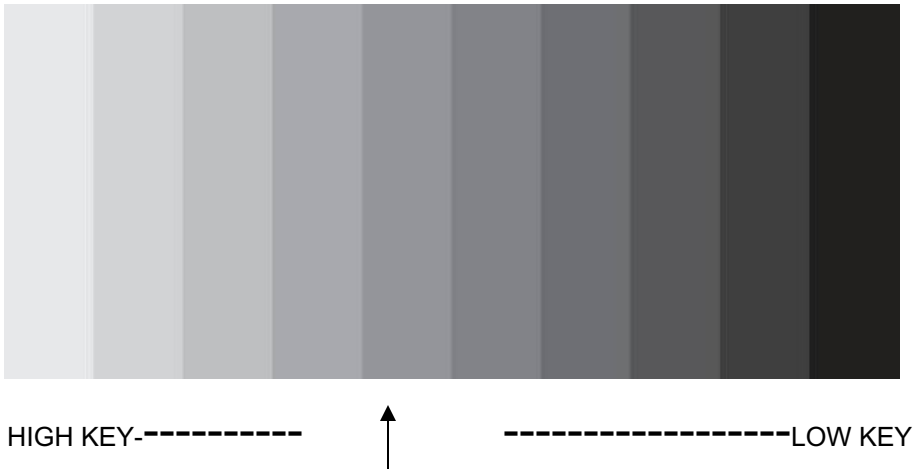
Light as Value

Clint Eastwood: *Million Dollar Baby*
2014, Motion Picture

Caravaggio: The Calling of Saint Matthew,
1599–1600, Oil on Canvas, 127 in × 130 in
San Luigi dei Francesi, Rome

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_RsHRmIRBY

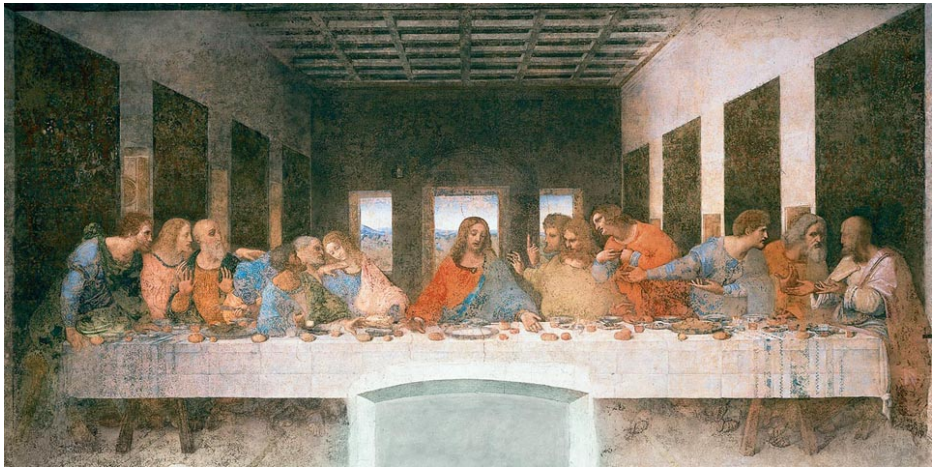
Light as Value



- Black & White
  - Achromatic: Without Color
- Value as a tool
  - helps model the form
  - light source
- Value's emotive qualities
  - mood based on % of high key and low key values

Light as Value

- CHIAROSCURO
  - term developed out of the renaissance to describe the subtle shift in value from light to dark
- TENEBRISM
  - Dramatic use of chiaroscuro
  - Concerned with the way light affected mood or emotional expression



Leonardo da Vinci, *Last Supper*
Fresco, c. 1495-98

Tintoretto: *Last Supper*
Oil on Canvas, 1592-1594

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhsjS5CtCTE

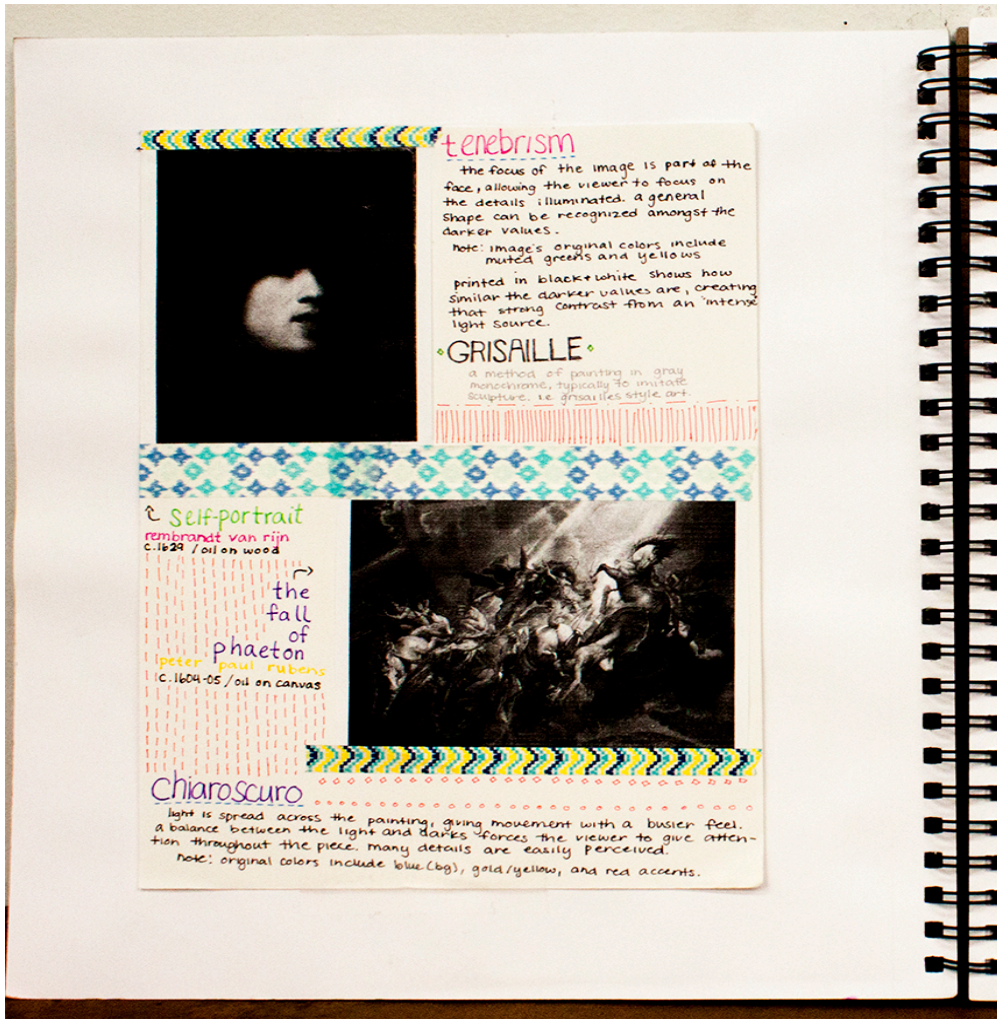
The Third of May, by Francisco de Goya
1746-1824

Artemisia Gentileschi
Judith Decapitating Holofernes, c. 1620.
Oil on canvas, 6'6⅜" × 5'3¾". Uffizi Gallery,
Florence, Italy

Caravaggio
Judith Decapitating Holofernes, 1599.
Oil on canvas, 4'9" x 6'4 ¾ ",
Galleria Nazionate de' Arte Antica, Rome, Italy

Homework: Due 6/18

- Select one artists/painter who specifically uses **CHIAROSCURO** and one that uses **TENEBRISM** in their paintings. Be prepared to share the artists you have selected in class on 6/18.
    - You will also print an image of each artists' work and attach them in your sketchbook. Write a short notation why you selected the two artists. Make sure to label the images with the artist name, title of the work, date created, and media used.



What is Grisaille?

The French word “grisaille” means “gray tones” and is essentiality a monochromatic painting executed in gray tones ranging from dark to light.

So why do a Grisaille?

This technique was used by many of the Old Masters, including Rembrandt, to achieve a sculptural form using various shades of gray as tonal values.

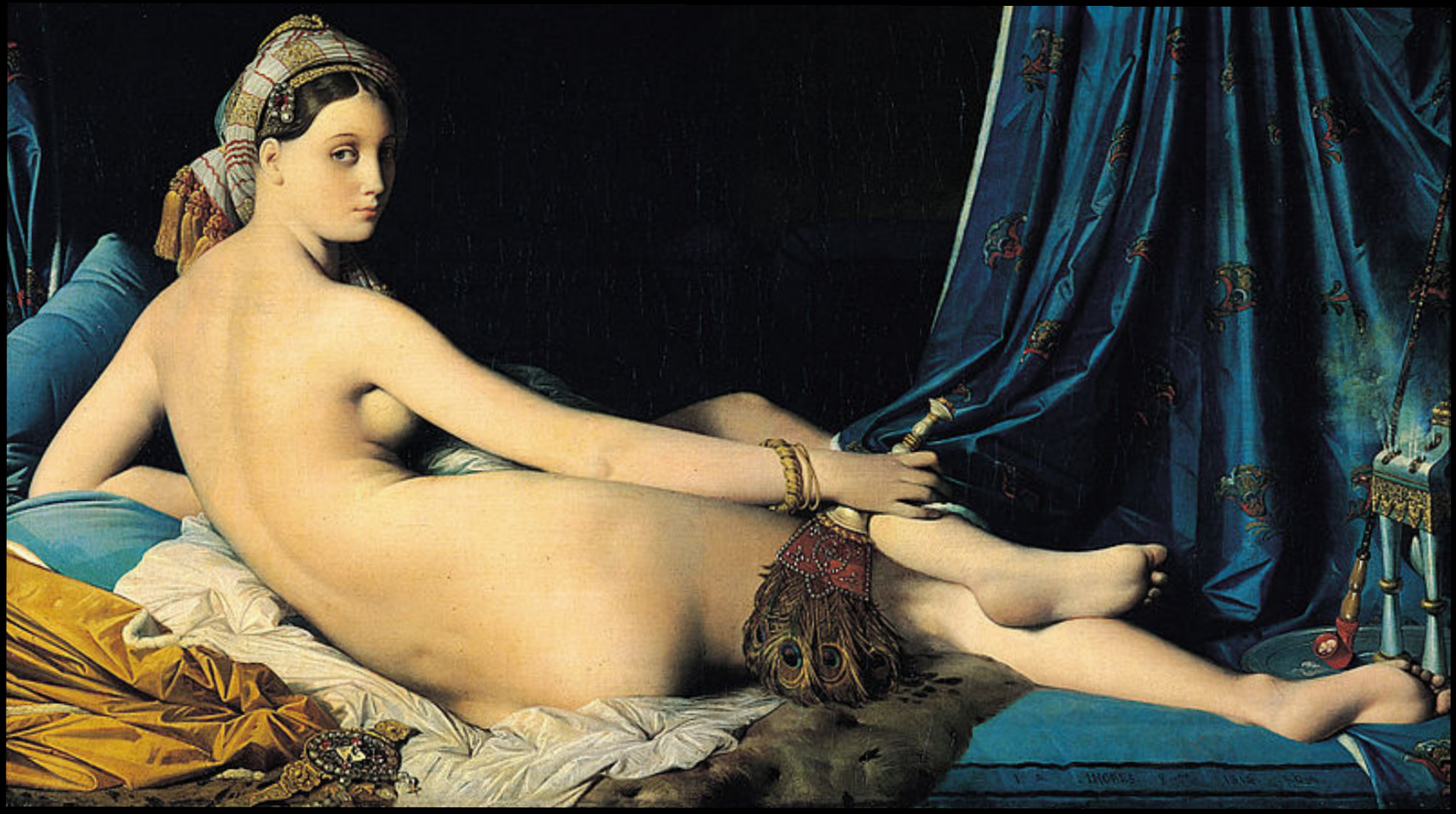
For painters of all skill levels, a grisaille will help you translate the subject matter into **form** without the complications of color.

Renaissance artists often used grisaille as a classicizing effect, trying to capture the 3D form of sculpture.

In addition, the Grisaille will assist you in modeling with even more authority as you develop a deeper understanding of the spatial structures you see.

More Examples:

Painting Reproduction of Odalisque in Grisaille, Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres



Help understand variations of highlights and shadows.

Let's get Started! Project 1B:

Step 1: Gesso (3-4 coats) 15" x 15" watercolor paper

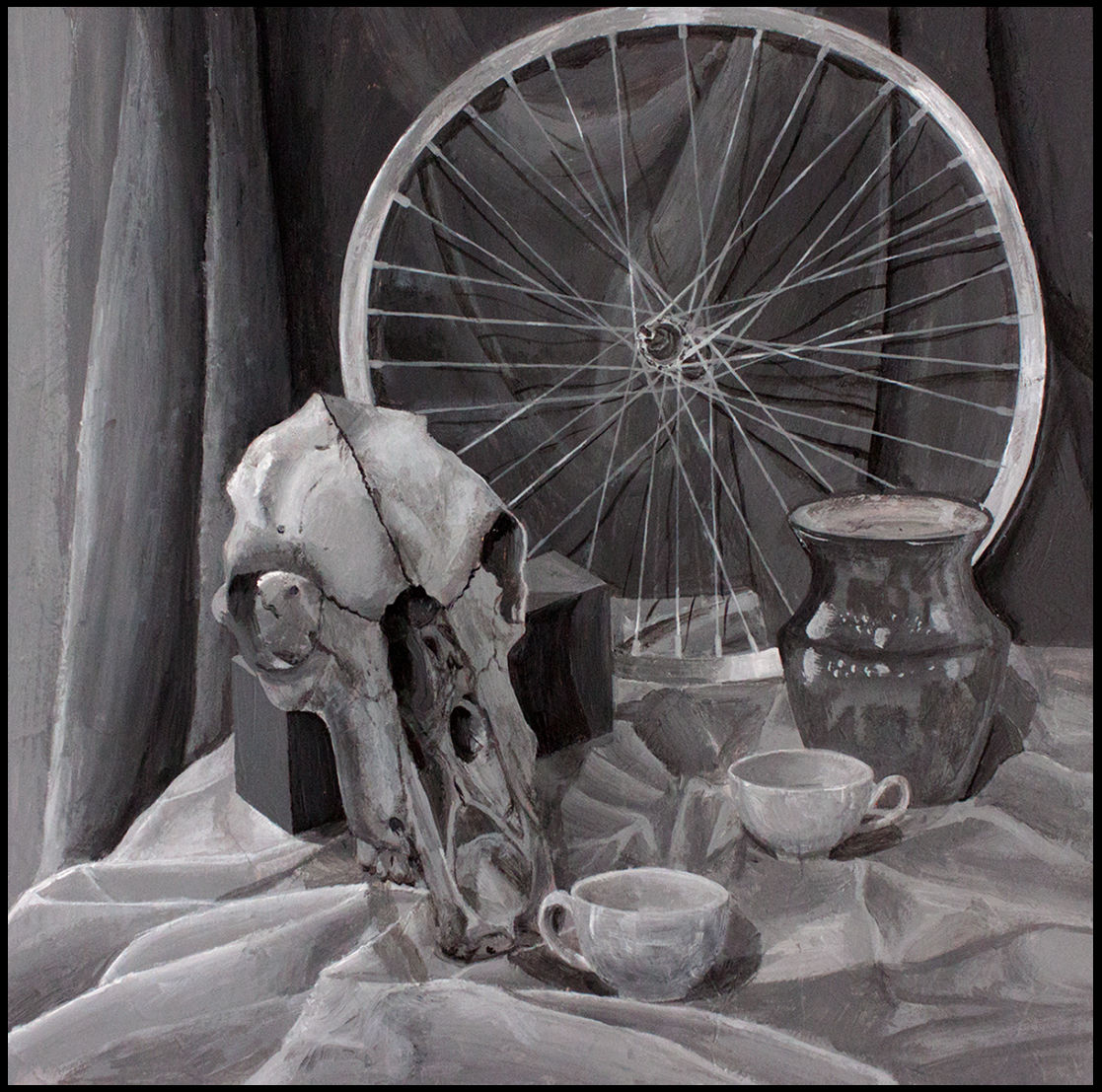
Step 2: (3) 3" x 3" studies along side of the painting (3+ objects)

Step 3: Create Underpainting with Burnt Sienna

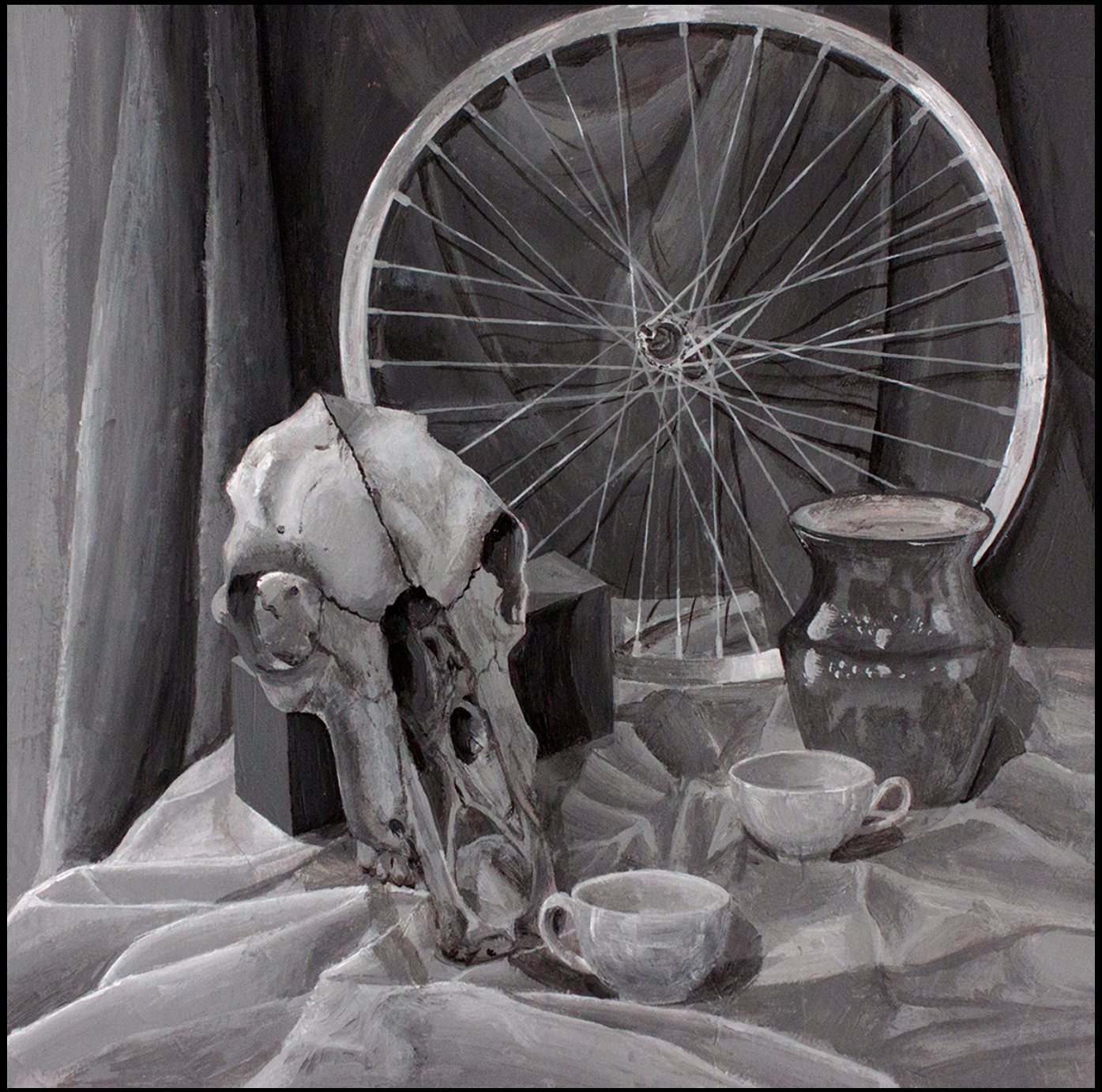
- Apply thin layer of burnt sienna with glazing medium
- Build up your values by layering the burnt sienna glazes on top of one another. Remove the burnt sienna to lighter/high key values.

Project 1B, Let's get Started!

Step 4: Apply black and white values



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3