

The Formal Elements & Their Design

Line, Space

Visual or Formal Elements:

Line & shape, light & color, space, time

LINE

- Direction? Orientation: horizontal, vertical, grid, angle?
- Divide or Connect?
- Thick or thin? Long or short? Smooth or Agitated?
Loose? Free? Controlled?
- Patterned?

describe the line



Andy Goldsworthy, *Hazel Leaves* (each stitched to next with grass stalks/gently pulled by the river/out of a rock pool/floating downstream/low water), Scaur Water, Dumfriesshire, June 5, 1991.

describe the line



Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, 1970

describe the line



Sol Lewitt, *Wall Drawing No. 681 C, A wall divided vertically*

OUTLINE & CONTOUR LINE

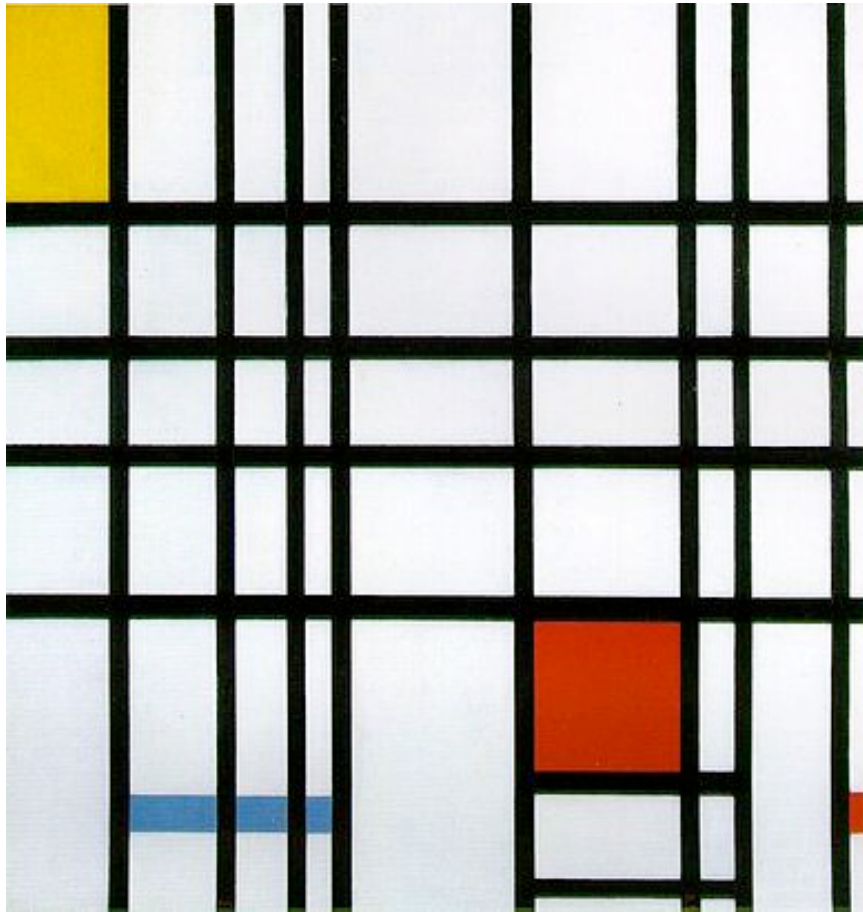
- Outline: Shape of a 2d form
- Contour Line: Edge of a 3d form

describe the line
contour line or outline?



Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, *Sketch of a Bison*, 1912-1913, drawing on paper, 21x34cm.

describe the line
contour line or outline?



Piet Mondrian, *Composition with Yellow, Blue, and Red*, 1937-42, oil on canvas, 72.5 x 69 cm.

describe the line
contour line or outline?



Sol Lewitt, *Three x Four x Three*, 1984, aluminum, enamel, Walker Art Center

IMPLIED LINE

a line created by movement or direction, such as established by a pointing finger, direction of eyes, or a body moving through space

describe the line



Alberto Giacometti, *Man Pointing*, 1947, bronze, 70 ½ x 40 ¾ x 16 3/8

Implied line



Alberto Giacometti, *Man Pointing*, 1947, bronze, 70 ½ x 40 ¾ x 16 ⅜

Autographic: recognizable style
Describe the lines



Vincent Van Gogh, *Starry Night*, 1889, oil on canvas, 29 x 36 ¼ in.

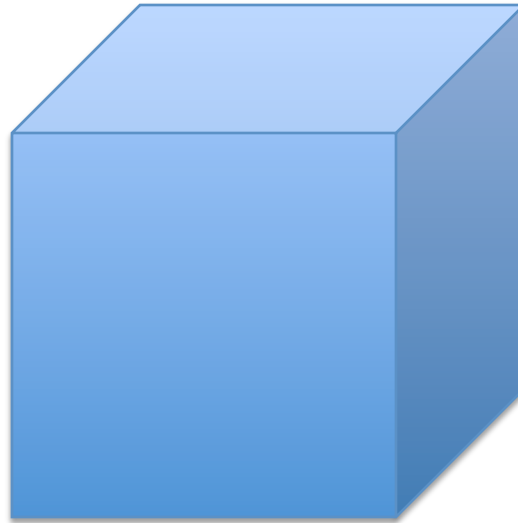
Autographic: recognizable style
Describe the lines



Vincent Van Gogh, *Self Portrait with Straw Hat*, Summer 1887, oil on pasteboard, 24.9 x 26.7 cm

SPACE

- Shape: Flat, a two dimensional area
- Mass: Solid, a three dimensional volume



Negative & Positive Shape

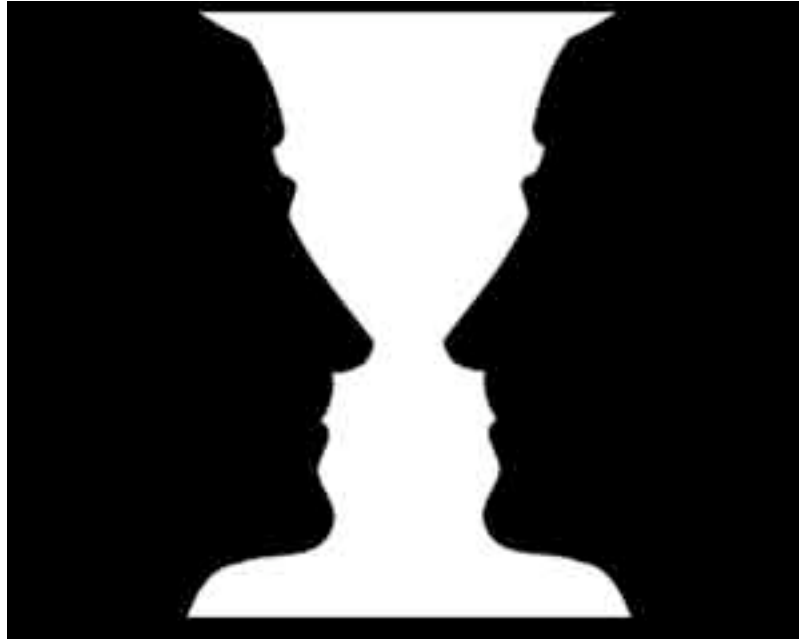
FIGURE/
GROUND



Donald Sultan, *Lemons, May 16, 1984*, 1984, latex, tar on vinyl over wood, 97 x 97.5 in.

Negative & Positive Shape

FIGURE/
GROUND



Rubin Vase

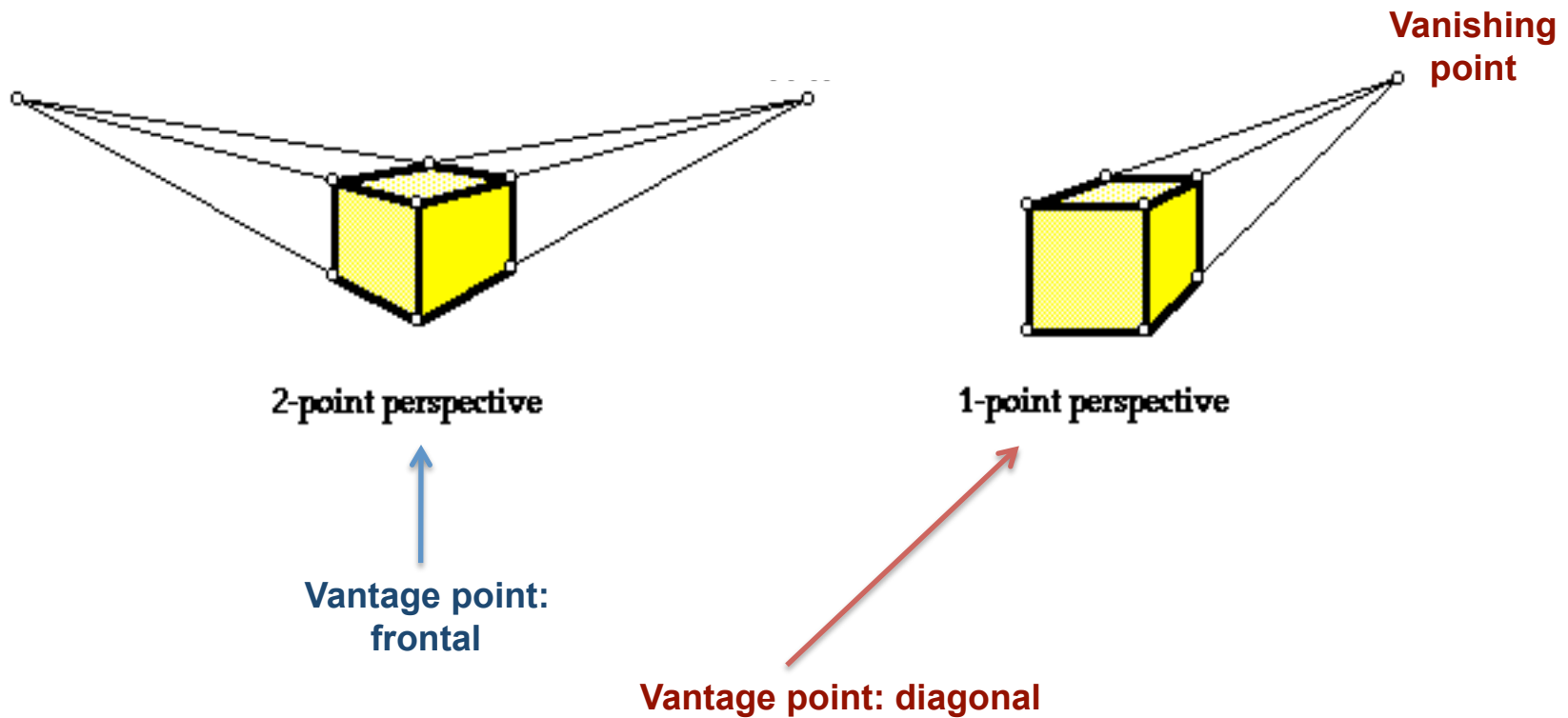
Negative & Positive Space (3d)



Barbara Hepworth, *Two Figures*, 1947-48,
elmwood and white paint, 38 x 17 in.

Methods of Representing 3D space

Linear Perspective



Methods of Representing 3D space

Linear Perspective

Draw
perspective
lines

Where are
the
vanishing
points?

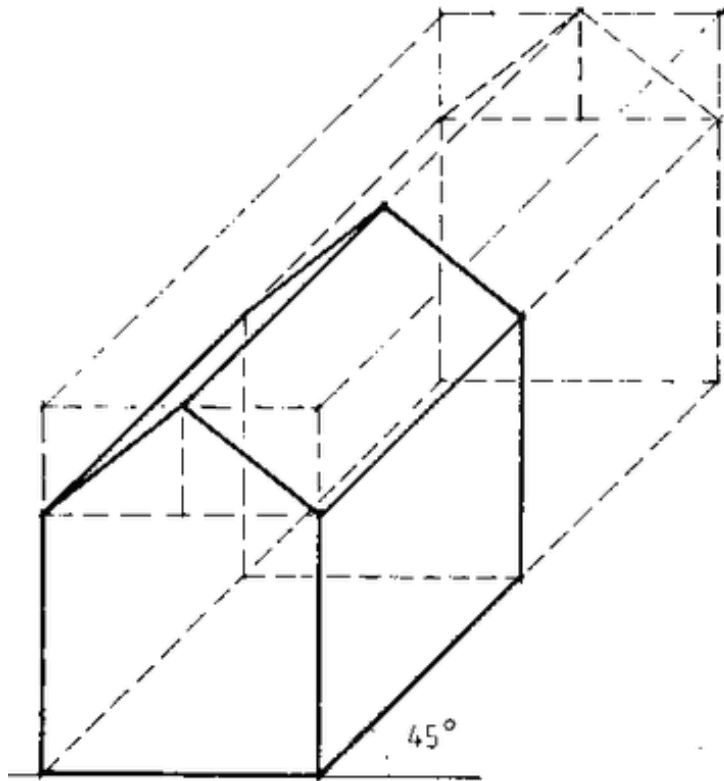
The
vantage
point?



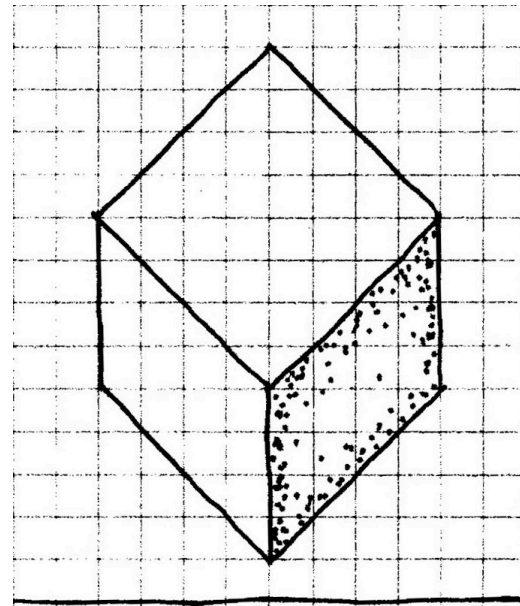
Gustave Caillebotte, *Place de l'Europe on a Rainy Day*, 1876-77

Methods of Representing 3D space

Projection



OBLIQUE PROJECTION
one face is parallel to
picture plane



AXONOMETRIC
PROJECTION

Methods of Representing 3D space

Projection



Theo van Doesburg and Cornelius van Eesteren, *Color Construction*, project for a private house, 1923, gouache and ink on paper, 22.5 x 22.5 in.

Methods of Representing 3D space

Distortion & Manipulation



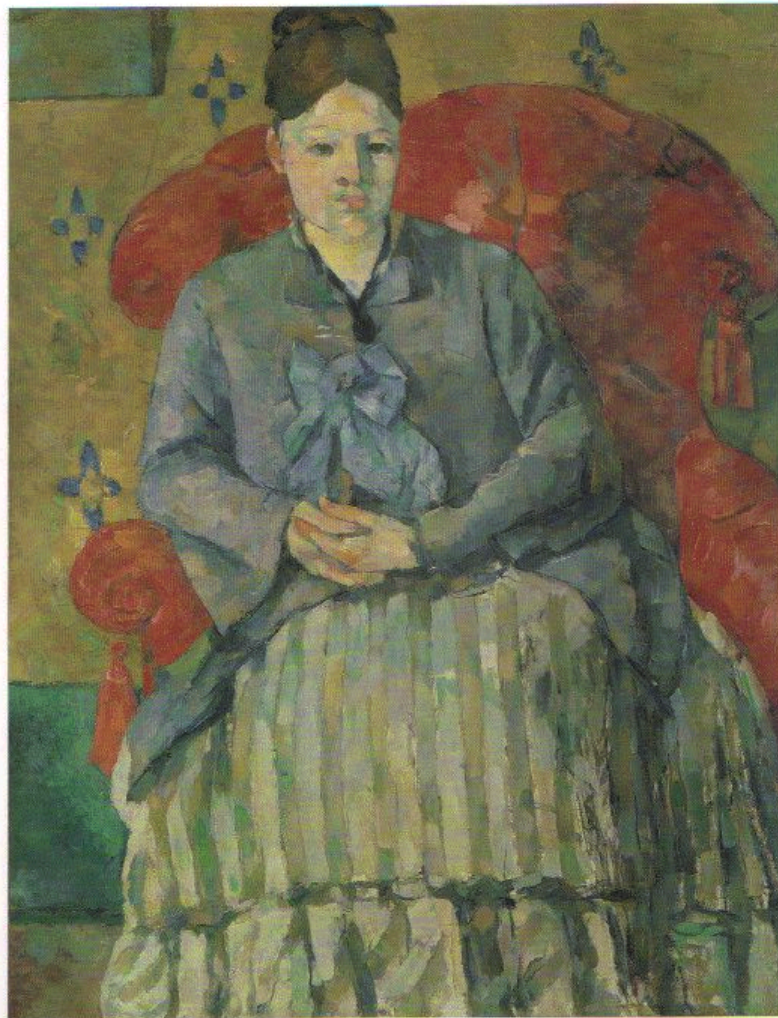
Unknown photographer, *Man with Big Shoes*, 1890

This image needs FORESHORTENING to be realistic

FORESHORTENING: The modification of perspective to decrease distortion in order to convey the illusion of three-dimensional space as perceived by the human eye

Methods of Representing 3D space

Distortion & Manipulation



REDUCE DEPTH

Paul Cezanne, *Mme. Cezanne in a Red Armchair*, 1877,
oil on canvas, 28.5 x 22 in.

Methods of Representing 3D space

Distortion & Manipulation



DIFFERENT VIEW POINTS

Umbo (Otto Umbehr), *Weird Street*, 1928, gelatin silver print, 11.5 x 9.25"

Virtual Space

Virtual Reality: an artificial 3d environment, generated by computers, that the viewer experiences as real

Digital art: artistic works and practices that use digital technology as an essential part of the creative and/or presentation process

Digital Painting video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3zYO1z95ug&feature=related>

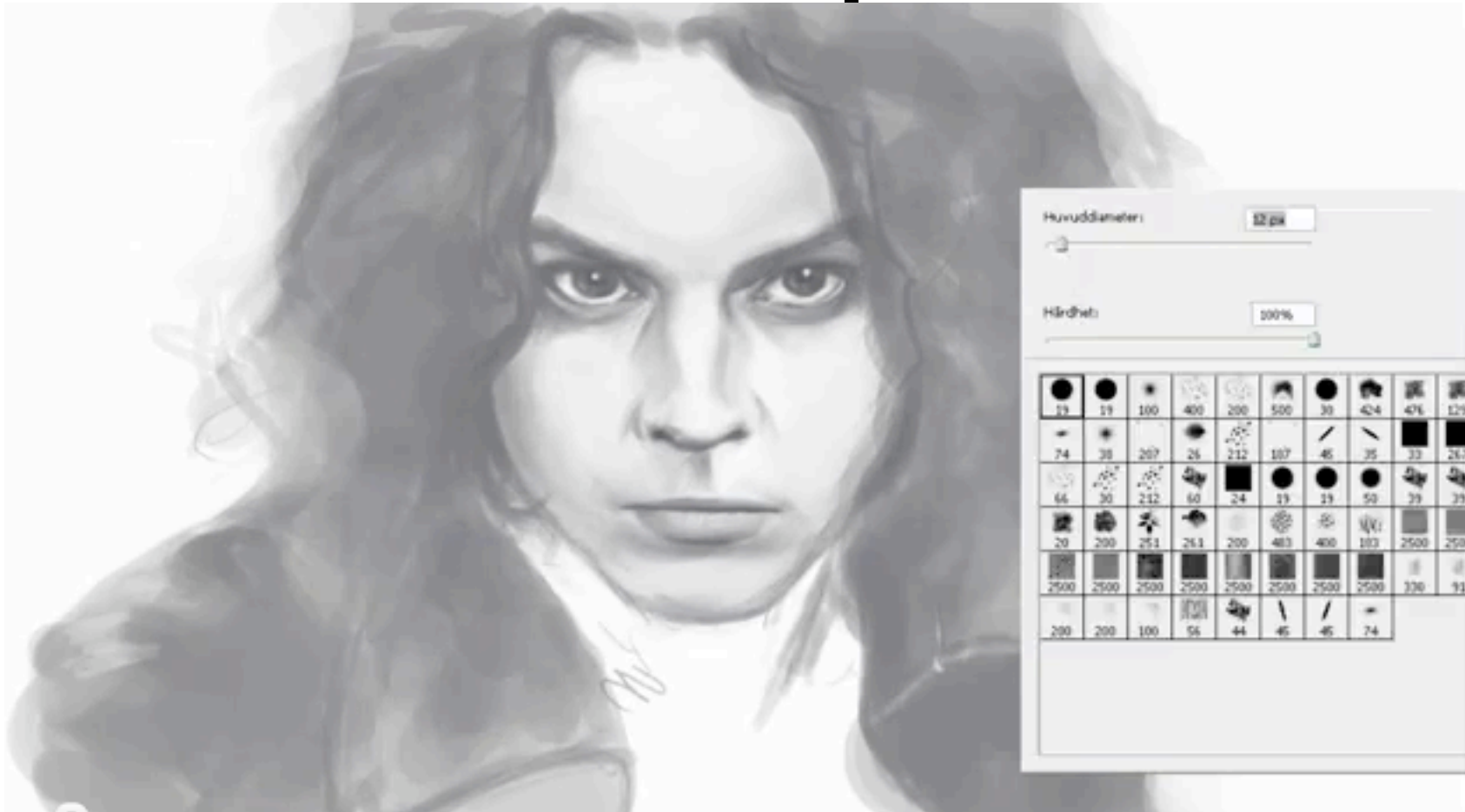
Virtual Space



Art in second life video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoNKi_lu7Pc

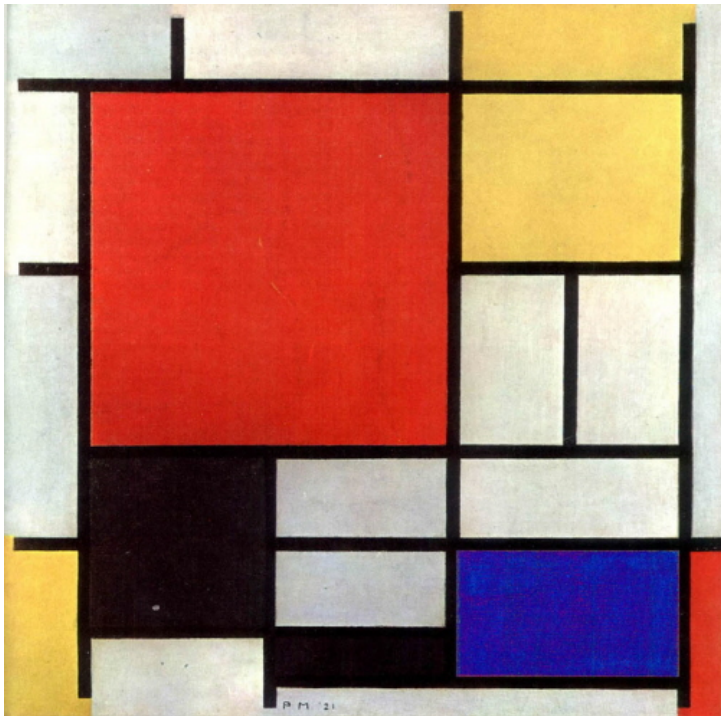
Virtual Space



Digital Painting video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3zYO1z95ug&feature=related>

Compare & contrast

- Subject matter
- Line
- Shape, Mass
- Positive / negative Space
- Perspective
- Color



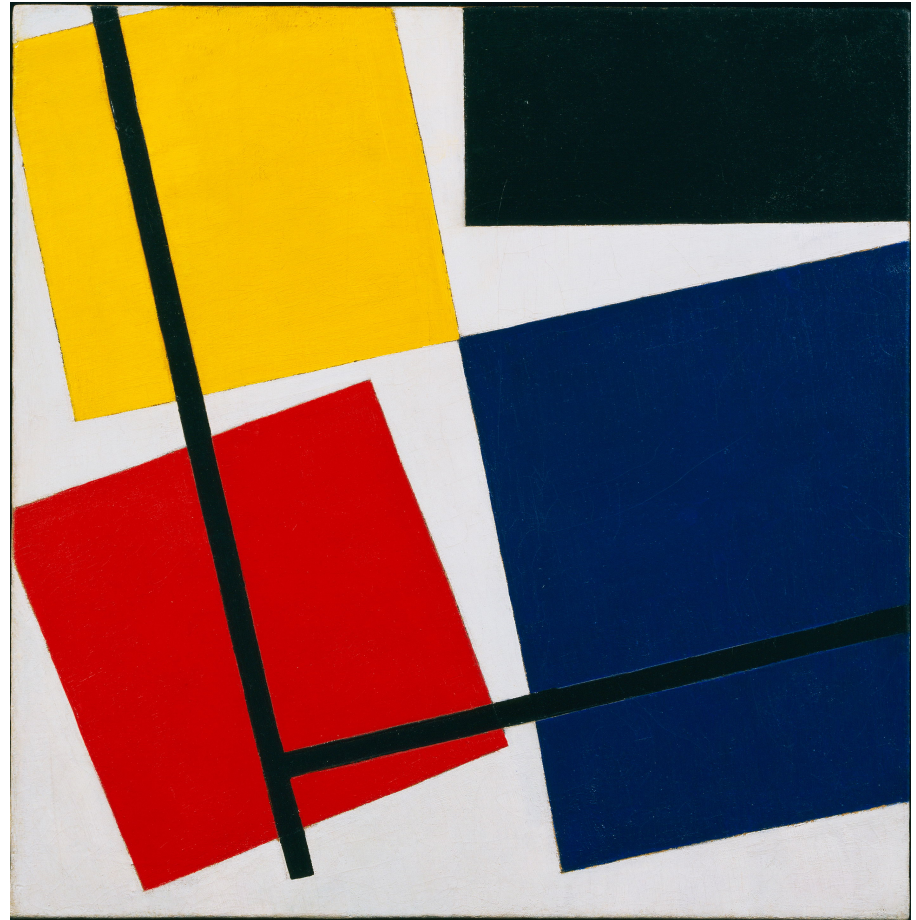
Piet Mondrian, "Composition with Red, Yellow, Blue, and Black" (1921)



Theo van Doesburg, Cornelis van Eesteren, "Model Maison d'Artiste" (1923)



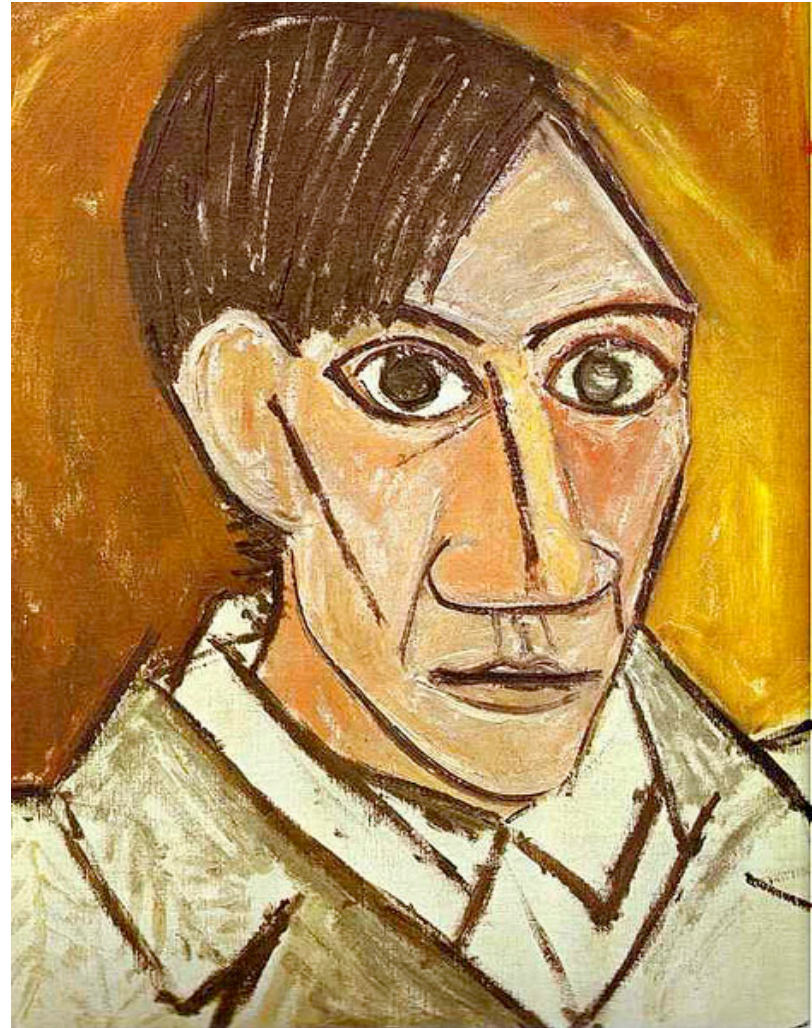
Theo van Doesburg, "Portret van Pétro" (Nelly van Doesburg), ca. 1922



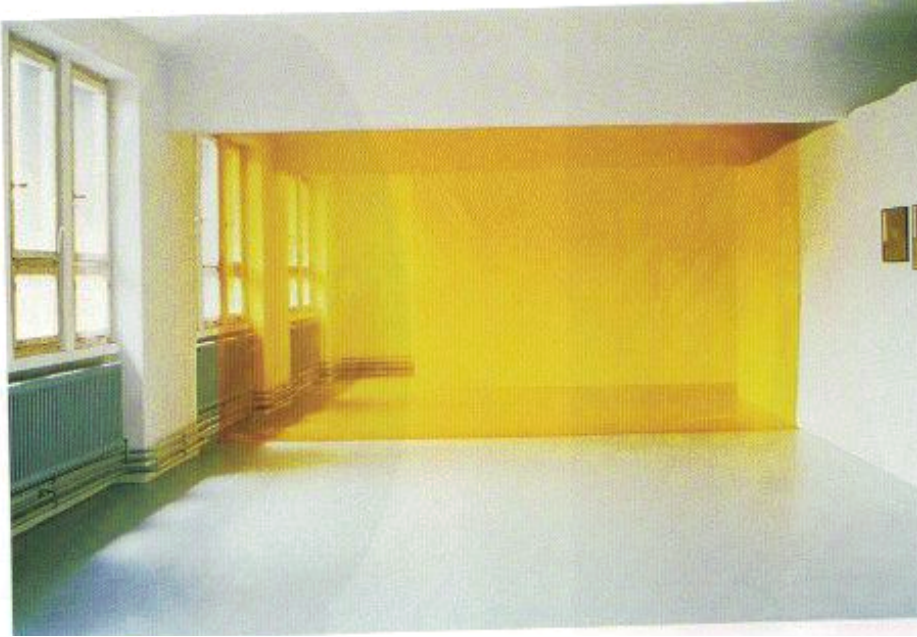
Theo van Doesburg, "Simultaneous Counter-Composition," 1929-30, oil on canvas



Vincent Van Gogh, "Self Portrait with Straw Hat," 1887



Pablo Picasso, "Self Portrait," 1907



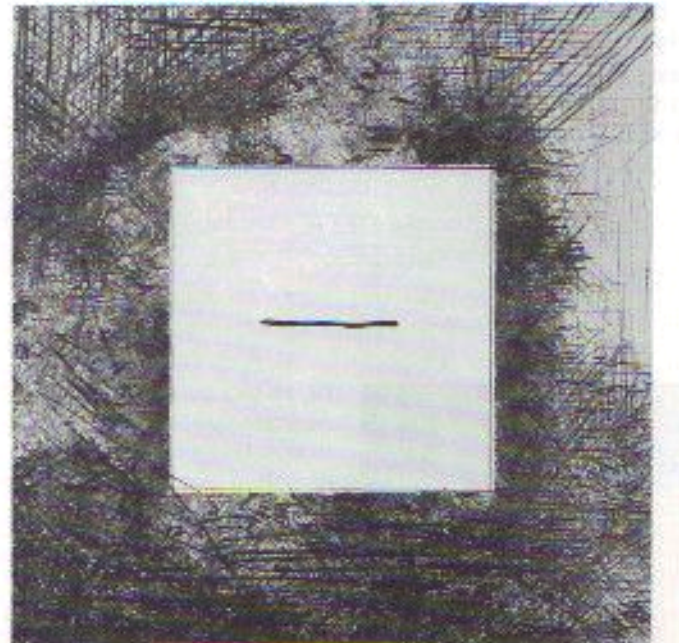
Olafur Eliasson, *Suney*, 1995, mylar sheet



Sol LeWitt, "Wall Drawings
#631 (left) and #614 (right)



Sol LeWitt, *K 1 2 3 4 5 6 #2*, 1997, painted wood construction



Pat Steir, *Drawing Lesson Part 1, Line #1*, 1978