

Introduction Time and Motion

- Time and motion are closely linked elements in art
- Most of the traditional art media are inherently motionless and timeless
- Artists who work in static media have found imaginative ways to indicate the passage of time and the appearance of motion
- New technology and media have evolved that allow artists to capture and express time and motion

Time

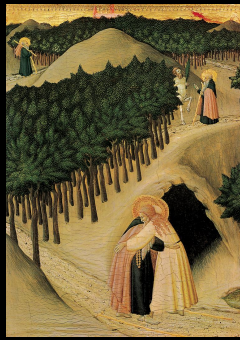


- Since events necessarily take place over time, any artwork that deals it must show how time passes
- Artists find ways to depict the passage of time and to remind us of its influence on our lives

One Way: Telling a Narrative

Workshop of the Master of Osservanza (Sano di Pietro?), *The Meeting of St. Anthony and St. Paul*, c. 1430–35. Tempera on panel, 18½ x 13¼". Washington, D.C.





Unknown Artist
The Meeting of
St. Anthony and St. Paul

Solved the problem of how to tell a story in a single painting by merging a series of episodes into one picture

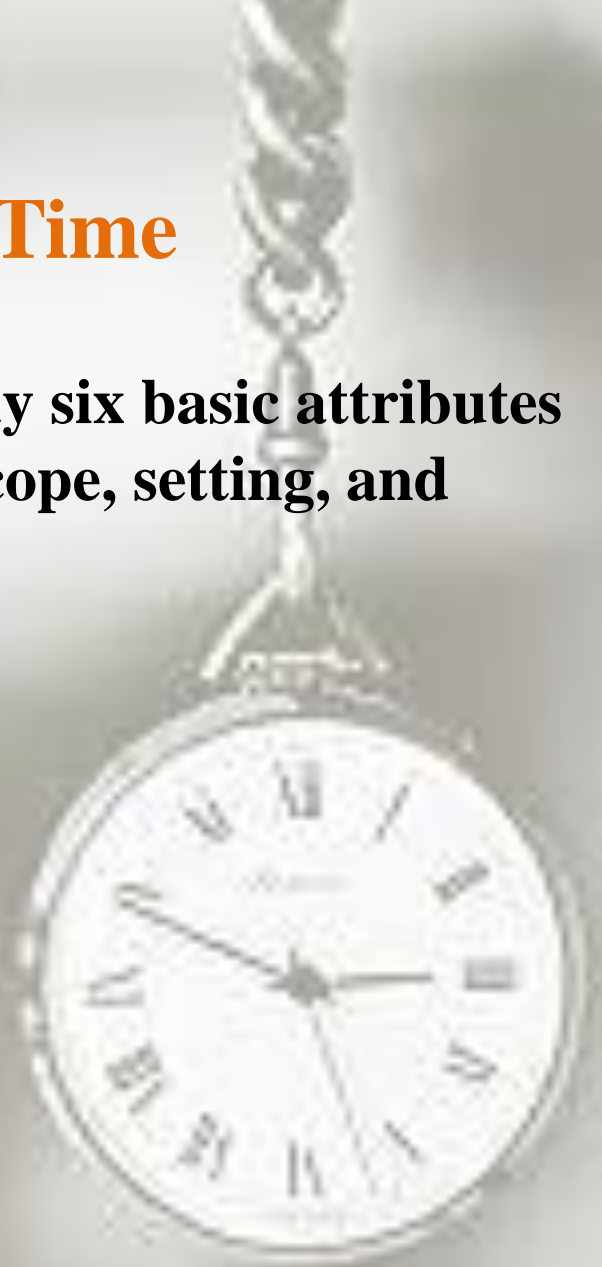
The story begins in the upper left-hand corner where St. Anthony sets out across the desert to seek St. Paul

- ◆ **Next, in the upper right, St. Anthony encounters a mythical creature called a centaur**
- ◆ **It culminates in the bottom right where the two saints finally meet and embrace**

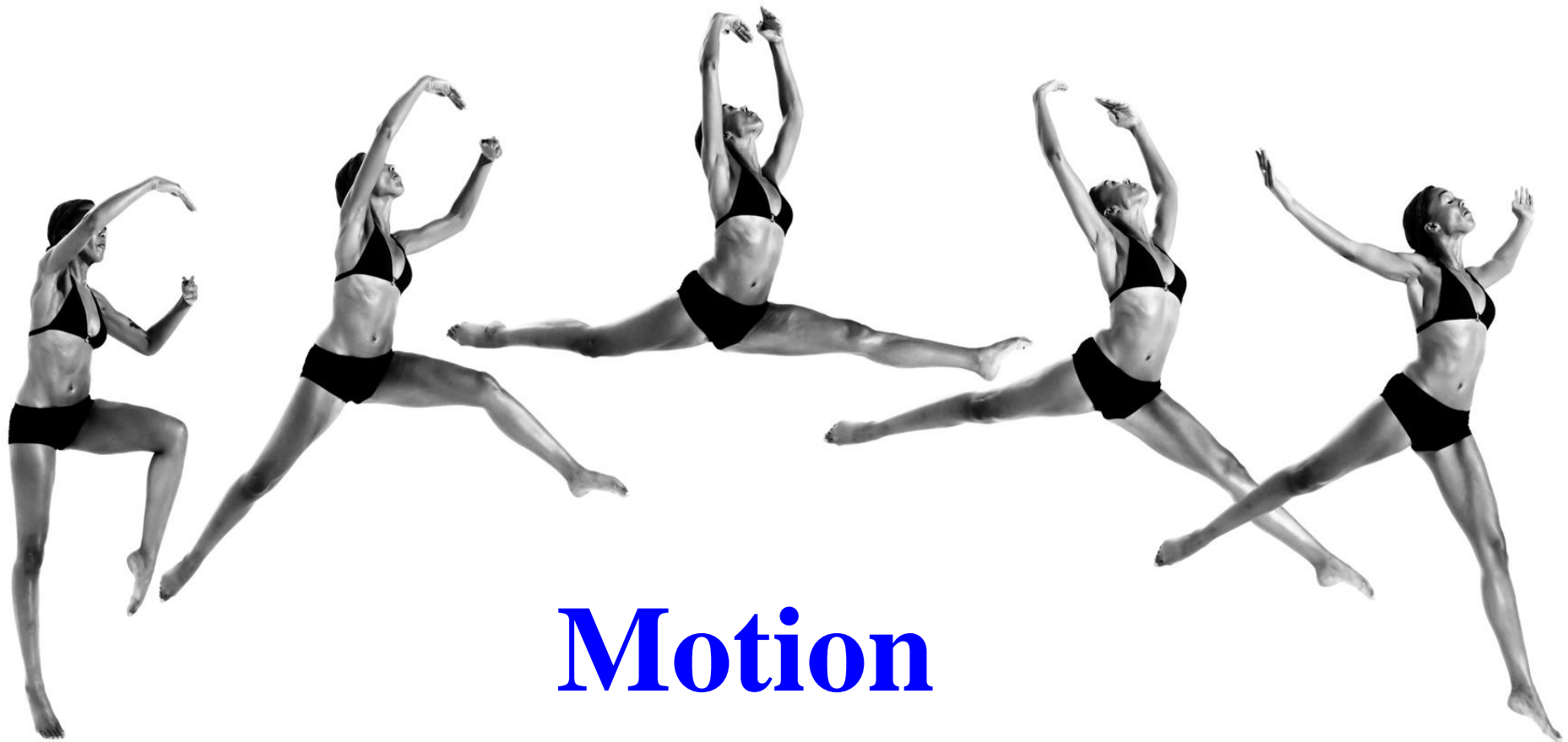
This linear method is still used by artists, comic-book writers, and designers who want to tell a story or express the passing of time

The Attributes of Time

- Time-based arts, such as film, embody six basic attributes of time: duration, tempo, intensity, scope, setting, and chronology



- Motion occurs when an object changes location or position
- This process occurs over **time**, so motion is directly linked to time
- To communicate motion without actually making anything move, artists can choose to imply time or, alternatively, create the illusion of time



Motion

Implied Motion

- Motion is implied when we do not actually see the motion happening, but visual clues tell us that it is a key aspect of the work- **NOTICE THE MOTION CREATED BY DIAGONAL LINES**



Illustrates a story from ancient Greek mythology in which the sun god Apollo falls madly in love with the wood nymph Daphne. To convey the action, Bernini uses diagonal lines in the flowing drapery, limbs, and hair. At the pivotal moment in the story, the scene is suddenly frozen in time.

Gianlorenzo Bernini,
Apollo and Daphne,
1622–4. Carrara marble, 8' high. Galleria
Borghese, Rome, Italy





Marcel Duchamp

Nude Descending a Staircase, #2
1912

Futurist and Cubist influences
Became co-founder of Dada art
movement



Giacomo Balla, *Dynamism of a Dog on a Leash*, 1912. Oil on canvas, 35 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 43 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York



Giacomo Balla,
*Dynamism of a Dog
on a Leash*

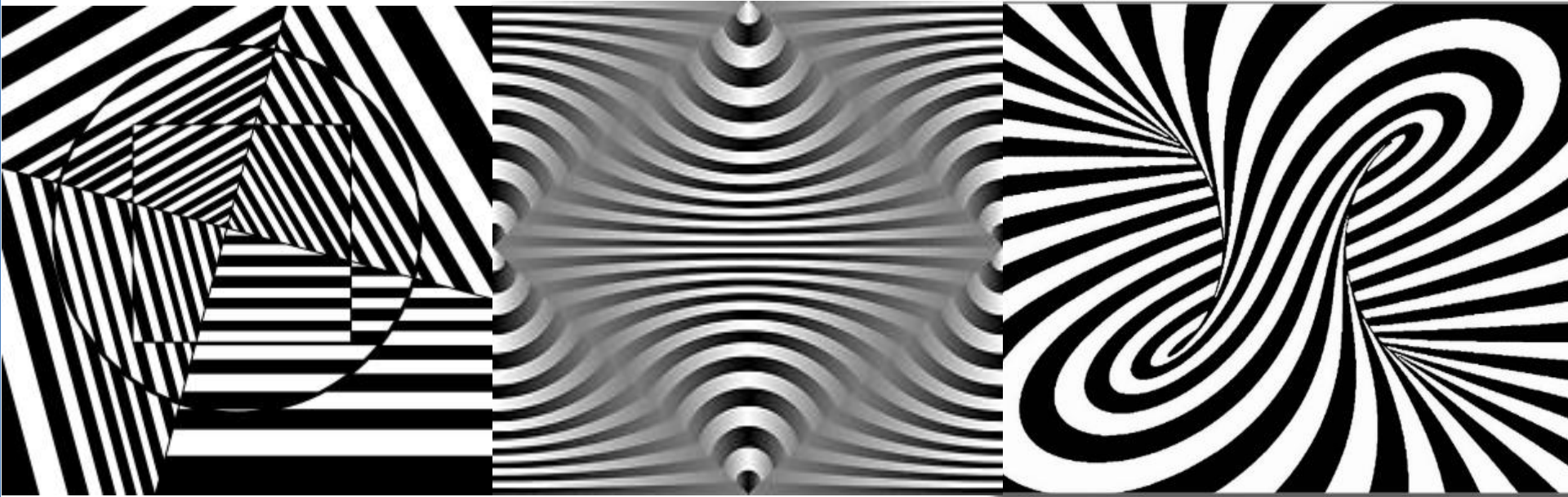
Balla paints a series of repeating marks to give the impression that we are seeing motion as it happens

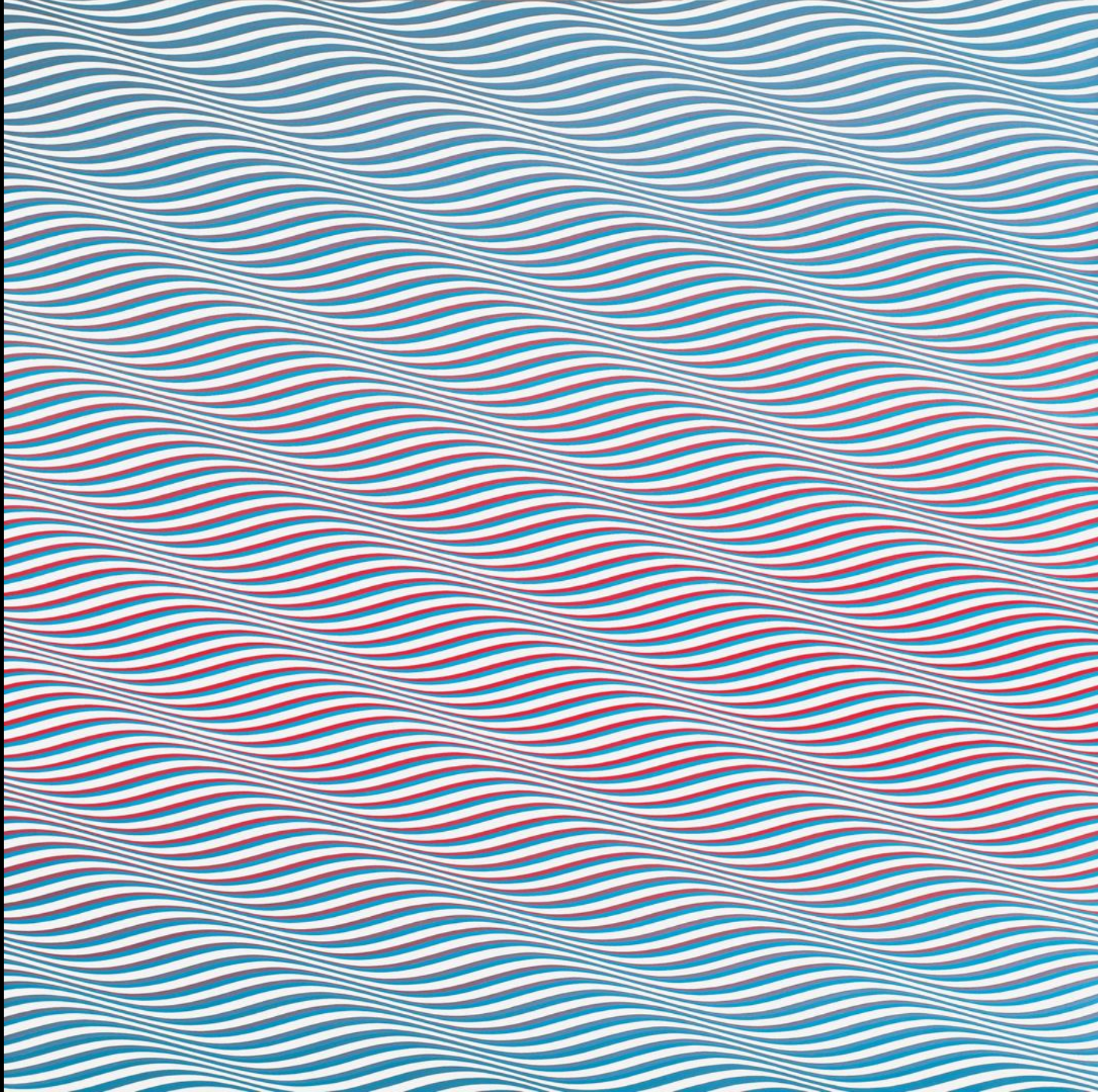
He paints the dog's tail in eight or nine different positions to communicate movement

The composition gives viewers a sense of ongoing forward motion even though the paint on the canvas is perfectly still

Illusion of Motion - Optics

Artists create this illusion through visual tricks and optics that deceive our eyes into believing there is motion as time passes, even though no actual motion occurs





Bridget Riley,
Cataract 3, 1967. PVA on
canvas, 7'3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 7'3 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
British Council Collection



Bridget Riley, *Cataract 3*

**In the 1960s, painters
experimented with
discordant positive–
negative relationships**

**There is a noticeable
sense of movement**

And a vibrating motion

**Riley understands that
the natural oscillation of
the eye, combined with
the passage of time,
makes us feel a sense of
motion**

Stroboscopic Motion

- When we see two or more repeated images in quick succession, they tend visually to fuse together

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wUU4O2a-bY>
Stroboscopic optical illusion



Zoetrope, 19th century. Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Film and Popular Culture, University of Exeter, England



Zoetrope, 19th century

Stroboscopic motion was used in a zoetrope, in which a series of drawings was placed in a slotted cylinder

When the cylinder was spun, the viewer could see an image appearing to move

Inventions like the zoetrope were early forms of animation

Computer Animation

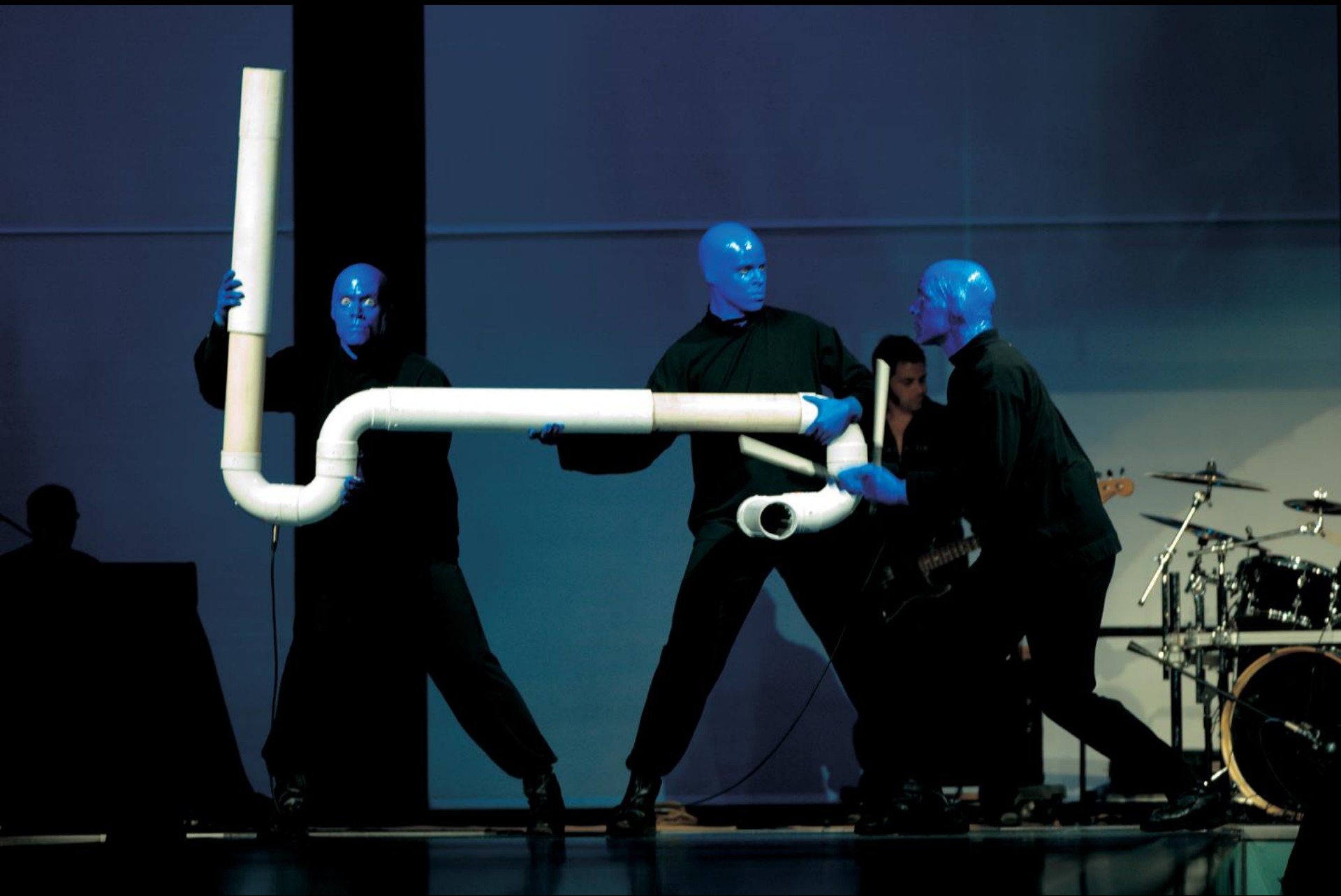
- The movie is compiled from individual frames that were computer-generated using 3-D modeling software
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1aDcjqYBNI-> Academy Award winning animated short-look how time and motion are slowed for emotional effect. Notice too the foreshortening!

There are 3 main types of animation:

Cel (drawn), computer and stop-action (or stop-motion)

Actual Motion

- We perceive actual motion when something really changes over time
 - ◆ **Performance art** is theatrical; the artist's intention is not to create an art object, but an experience that can exist only in one place and time in history
 - **Performance art** emerged as a specific form of visual art during the twentieth century
 - ◆ **Kinetic art** plays out the passage of time through an art object, usually a sculpture, which moves



Blue Man Group perform at the Venetian Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, September 17, 2005

Performance Art

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKw7LuEqUVs>
- **Performance clip** "Marina Abramović is a Belgrade performance artist who began her career in the early 1970s. Describes herself as the grandmother of performance art. Abramović's work explores the relationship between performer and audience, the limits of the body, and the possibilities of the mind."





Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler. *Detached Building*. 2001.
5 min. 38 sec. video loop.



The non-stop story
volleys between the
musicians in the
building and the woman
outside who is throwing
stones outside from
their garden at another
home. She never
enters the musicians'
workshop.
So, how do they two
narratives relate?

Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler. *Detached Building*. 2001.
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Alexander Calder, *Untitled*, 1976. Aluminum and steel, 29'10 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 75'11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Kinetic sculpture has evolved during the twentieth century and is a notable example of art that moves

**Some mobiles rely on air currents to power its movement;
Untitled uses a small motor**

The result is a constantly changing visual form



**Kinetic Sculpture-
Alexander Calder,
*Untitled***

Natural Processes and the Passage of Time

- **Some artists use biology and organic materials to create their artwork**
- **Organic materials grow and degrade with the passage of time, so work by “bioartists” is always changing**

Made of human tissue
which Krasnow felt was
the only media to
convey the suffering the
Bush Administration
caused in the Middle
East with over-reaching
nationalism, trampling
of human rights and
restrictive foreign
policies



2012. Human tissue

Andrew Krasnow, Shitkickers



Sand sculpture, food art

These media are transitory
And meant to be viewed quickly
Yet their form changes over time
As they are exposed to the elements

