

Presenting Art to Children





Looking at Art through Its Basic Elements

- **Subject:**
What is represented in the picture?
- **Composition:**
The arrangement of visual elements (line, shape, color, textures, space)
- **Expressive Content:**
What is the work really about?

Subject



Composition

- Main interest shouldn't be in center
- Many older (and new) works follow the formal composition known as the Golden Section or Divine Proportion

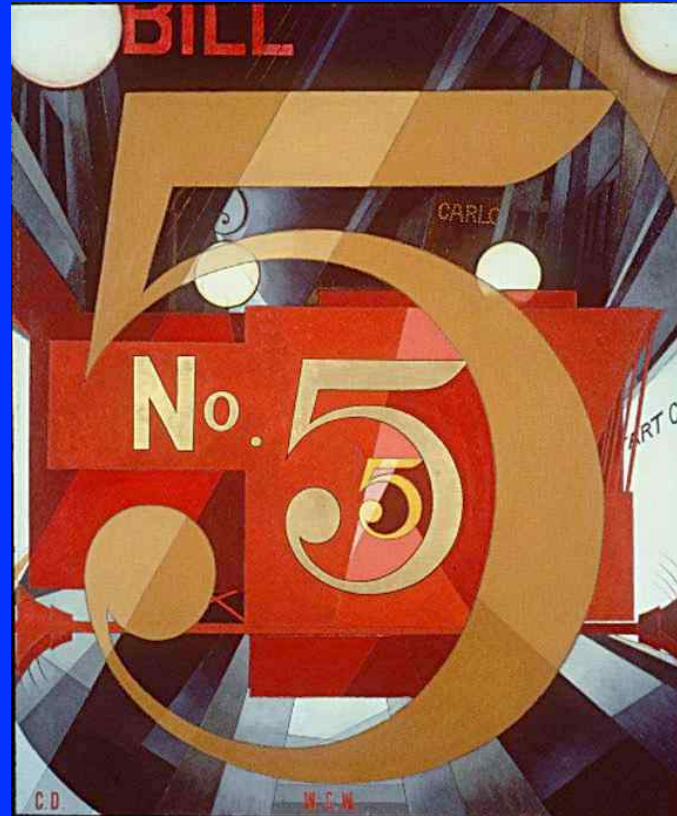


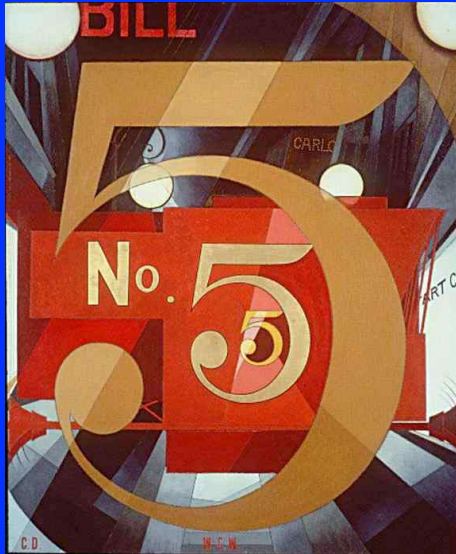
Expressive Content



Art Elements

- Line
- Shape
- Form
- Color
- Texture



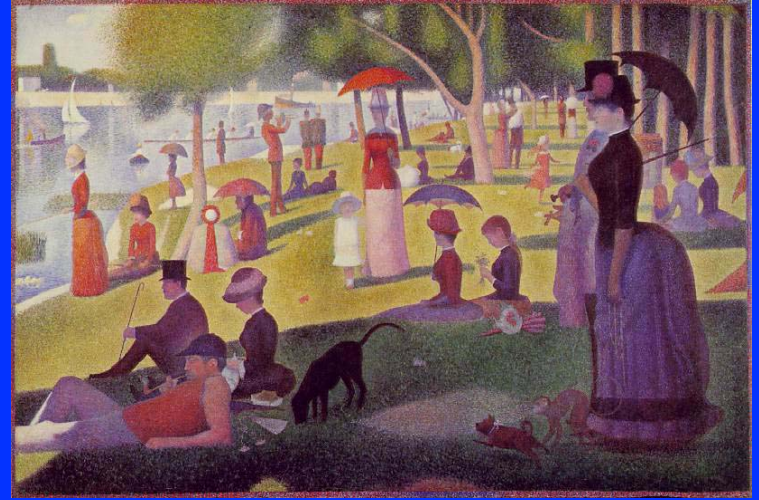


LINE

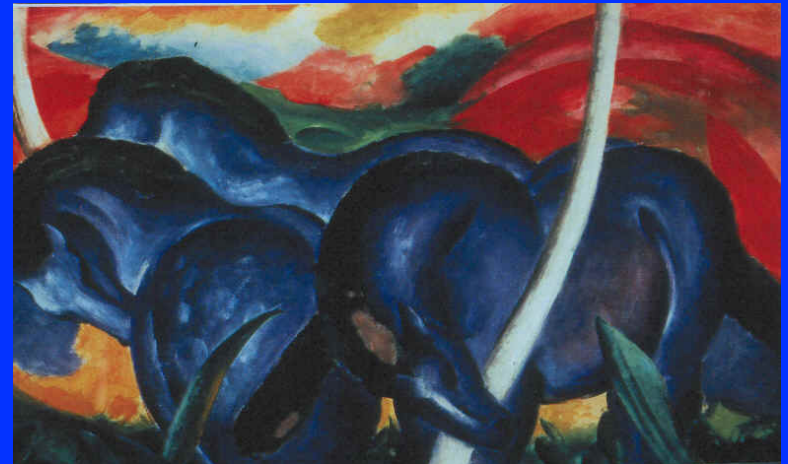
- Lines outline or define characters
- Lines can show movement
- Lines can be implied
- Lines can be aligned to point in a particular direction



COLOR

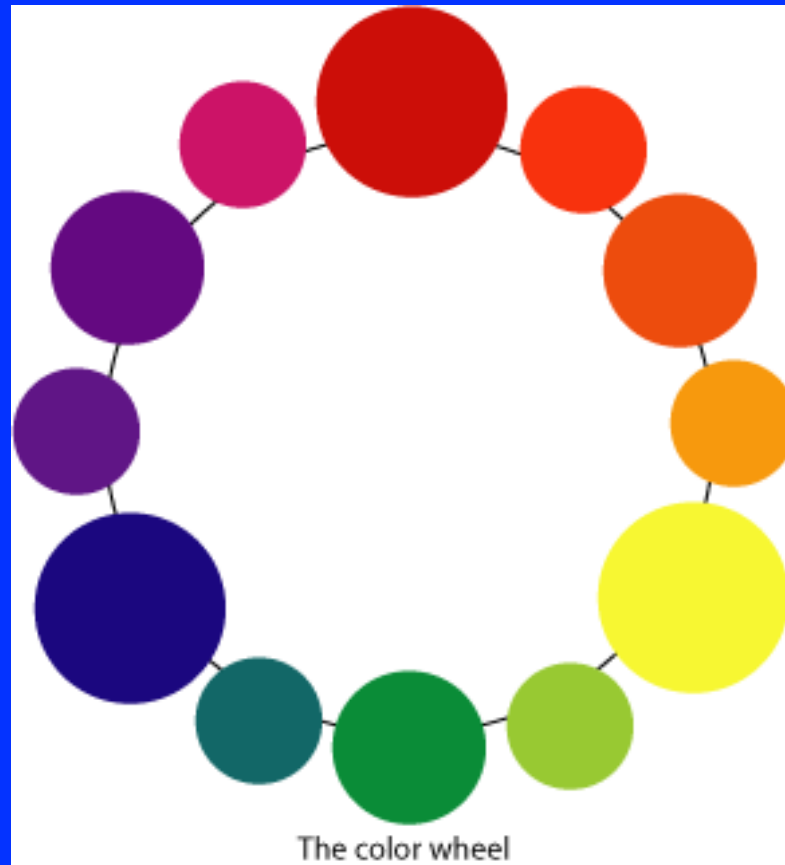


- Color has dimensions of tone and intensity
- Color be used for emphasis (and to create the illusion of space)



Color can be symbolic or make a statement

Color Wheel



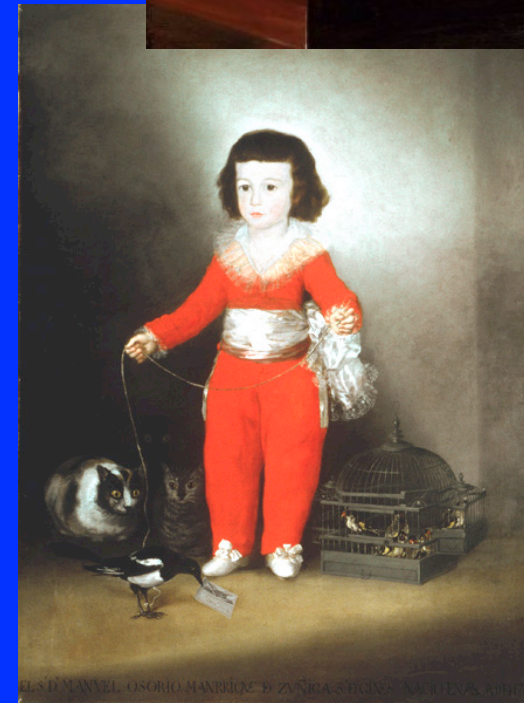
SHAPE

- Shapes are geometric or organic
- Repeated shapes can unify a work
- An artist's choice of shapes can make a statement



TEXTURE

- Texture refers to both real and simulated texture.
- Real texture refers to the actual surface of a painting (rough if paint is applied thickly, etc.)
- Simulated texture refers to the appearance of the texture of an object as depicted in a work.





SPACE

- Artists can create the illusion that a two-dimensional picture has depth or space in it using size, line, placement, overlapping, and color



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

a.k.a. Formal Elements of Art
or Principles of Visual Organization

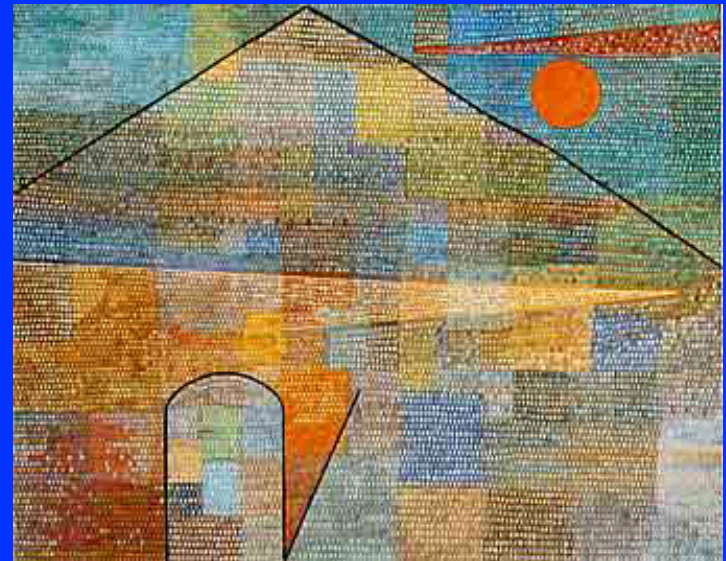
- Balance
- Repetition and Rhythm
- Contrast
- Movement
- Emphasis
- Pattern
- Unity

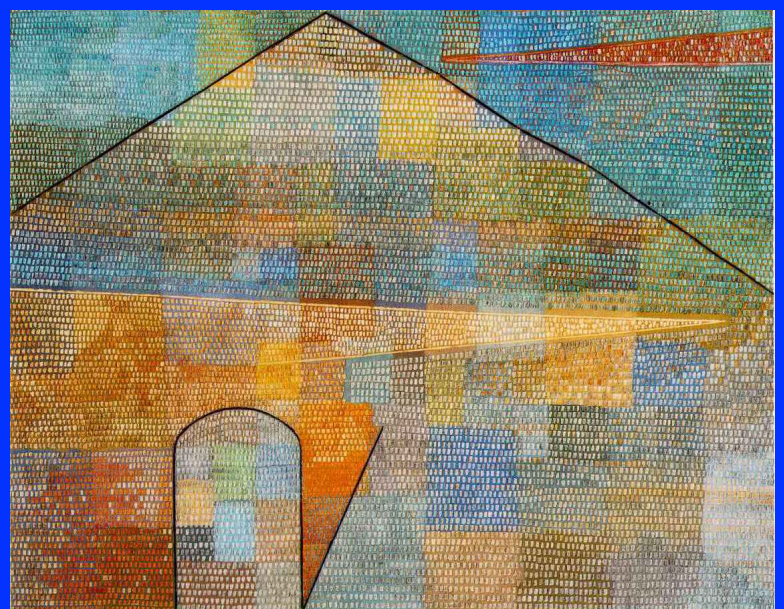
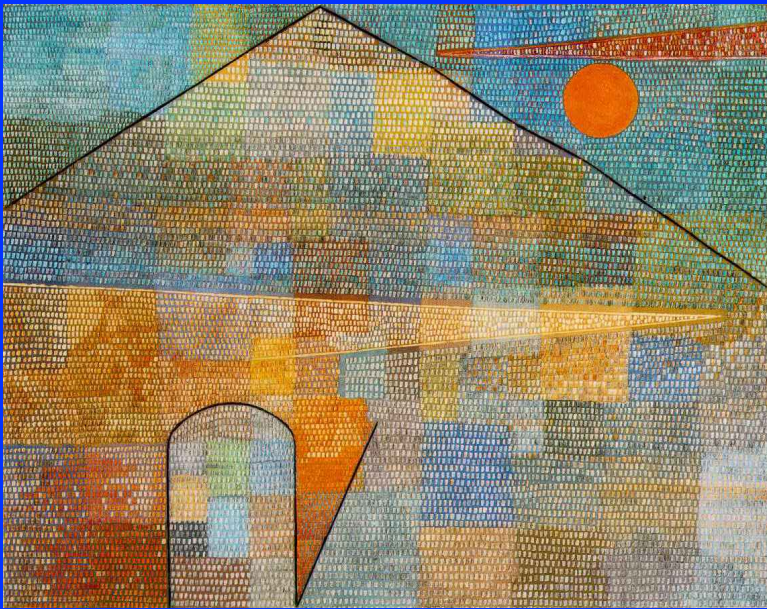




BALANCE

- Symmetrical (also formal or classical balance)
- Asymmetrical balance
- Value/color balance
- Radial balance







REPETITION & RHYTHM

- Repetition of art elements: color, line, shape, texture
- Can be used to create sense of movement
- Irregular rhythm creates visual interest



CONTRAST

- Contrast of art elements: textures, colors, shapes, values, line
- Contrast can be used for emphasis



MOVEMENT

- Visual movement is used to direct viewers through a work
- Visual passage or linkage is achieved by use of lines, edges, shapes and colors



More movement:

Martin Johnson Heade *Approaching Thunderstorm*, 1859, Oil on canvas,
28 x 44 in., Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



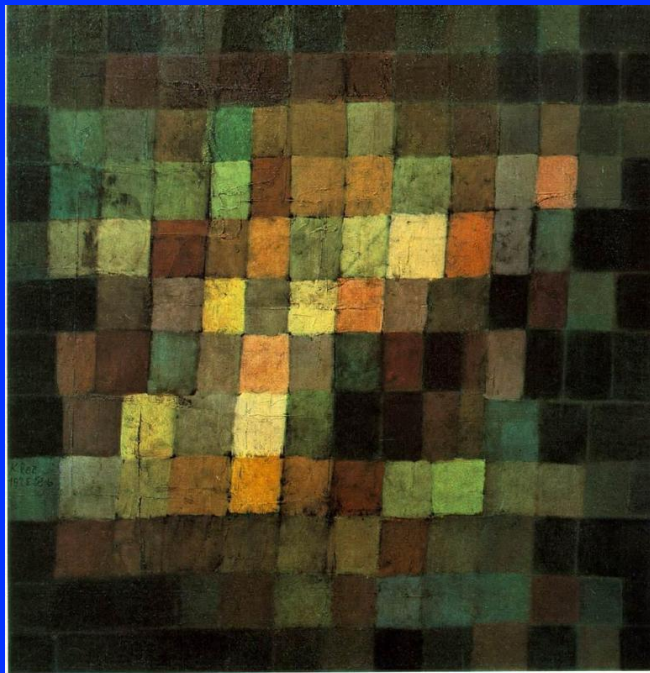
EMPHASIS

- Contrast and line are used to create dominance and focus for the most important part of a work
- Focal point is rarely in the center of a work



PATTERN

- Pattern increases visual excitement by enriching surface interest





UNITY



- Unity gives a work a cohesive quality, and the elements of that work look like they belong together
- Unity can be achieved through: pattern, a dominant color, contour continuation, clustering of objects, and repeated shape

So, how do I use these elements and principles in my presentations?

- **DO NOT** try to talk about all the elements and principles.
- **DO NOT** make them the focus of your presentations. Use them as a tool to talk about art.
- **DO** introduce students to the vocabulary and concepts throughout the year.
- **DO** start introducing the elements/principles at the appropriate age.



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The Picture Person Presentation

- Be enthusiastic!
- Keep it simple.
- Review from the last presentation.
- Ask questions.
- Make art the focus--use vocabulary & concepts.
- Include details about work's size, medium, etc.
- Make projects, if any, relevant.



Preparing your Presentation

- Arrange the time with teacher/coordinator.
- Pick your print (if you have a choice).
- Prepare for your presentation (read, gather materials if needed).
- How much information do you share about the artist/artwork?
- What kind of questions do you ask?
- Which art elements/principles of design can you point out?
- Make projects, if any, relevant.

Some Final Advice

- You know more than the students, so relax and **have fun**.
- Just because you know more than the students, don't feel you need to tell them everything you know.
- Be confident of what you know, but don't be afraid to admit what you don't know





