

The *Elements*  
and *Principles*  
*of Art*

# The Elements of Art

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The building blocks  
*or* ingredients of art.

Ansel Adams



# LINE

Gustave Caillebotte



www.rasiel.com

The Pont de l'Europe, 1876 - Caillebotte

**A line is an extended dot, a continuous expressive mark.**

It has direction, and can be diagonal, horizontal, vertical, bold, delicate, long, short, blurred, or clear, broken, jagged, wavy, curly, thick, thin, curved or spiral.

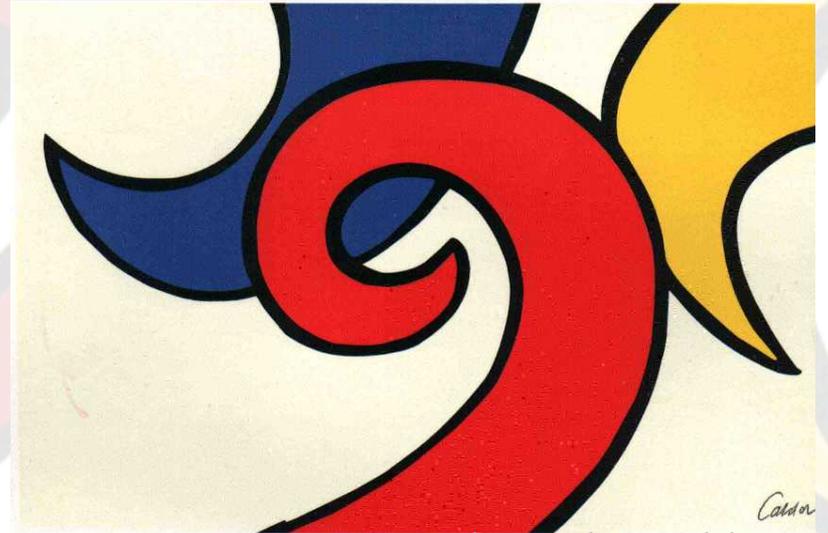


Pablo Picasso



Henri Matisse

# COLOR

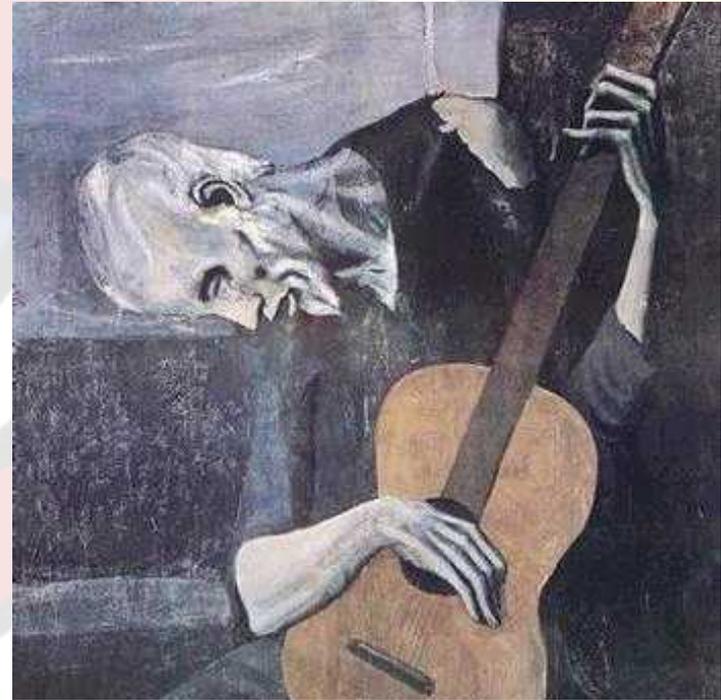


Alexander Calder

Consists of Hue (another word for color), Intensity (brightness) and Value (lightness or darkness).

- **Primary:** **Yellow, blue and red**
- **Secondary:** Created by mixing two primary colors. Ex. **Purple, green, orange**
- **Tertiary or Intermediate:** made by combining a primary and secondary color. Ex. Yellow + green = yellow green
- **Analogous:** colors that are next to each other on the color wheel
- **Complementary:** colors that are across from each other on the color wheel
- **Monochromatic:** **different shades of the same color**

# VALUE



**The lightness or darkness of a color.** White is the lightest value; black is the darkest. The value halfway between these extremes is called middle gray.



MC Escher



Pablo Picasso

# SHAPE

**A shape is a line that meets itself creating an enclosed space. It is two-dimensional.**



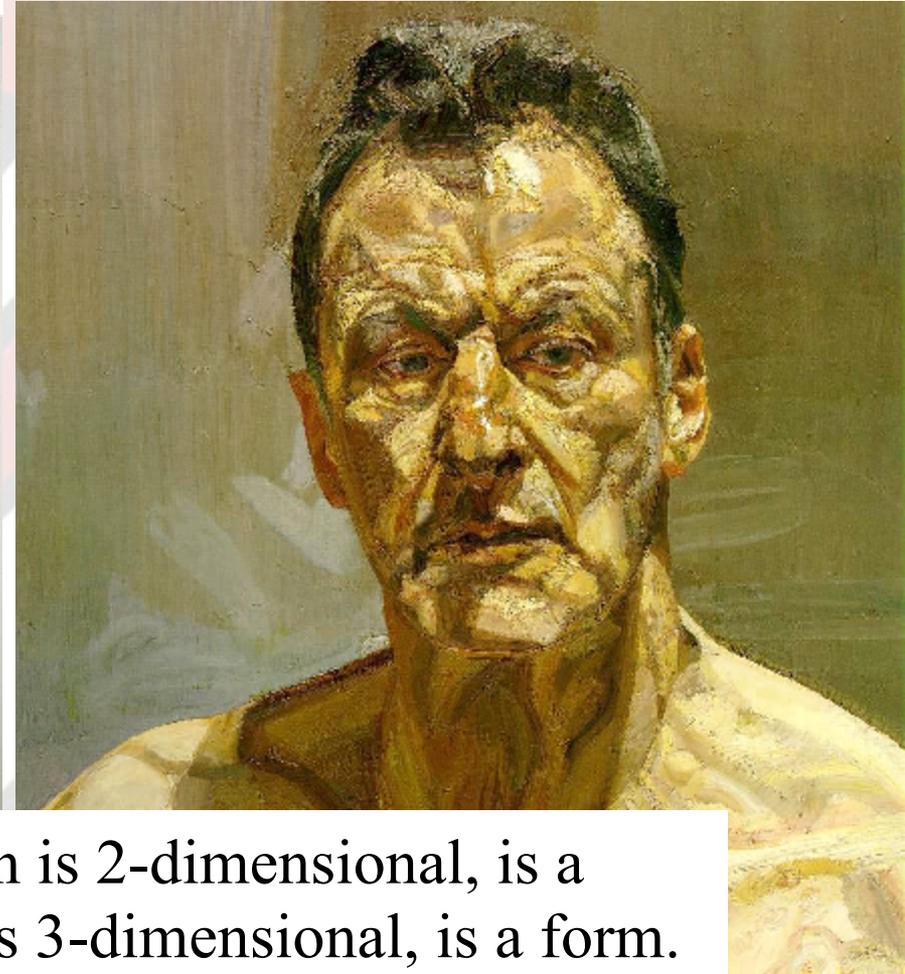
Shapes can be GEOMETRIC or ORGANIC

Joan  
Miro



**A 3-dimensional object; or something in a 2-dimensional artwork that appears to be 3-dimensional.**

# FORM



For example, a triangle, which is 2-dimensional, is a shape, but a pyramid, which is 3-dimensional, is a form.

Jean Arp

Lucien Freud

# SPACE

**The distance or area between, around, above, below, or within things.**



Claude

**Foreground, Middleground and Background (creates DEPTH)**



**Positive (filled with something) and Negative (empty areas).**

# TEXTURE

**The surface quality or "feel" of an object, its smoothness, roughness, softness, etc. Textures may be actual or implied.**



# The Principles of Art

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What we use to organize the  
Elements of Art,  
*or* the tools to make art.

# BALANCE



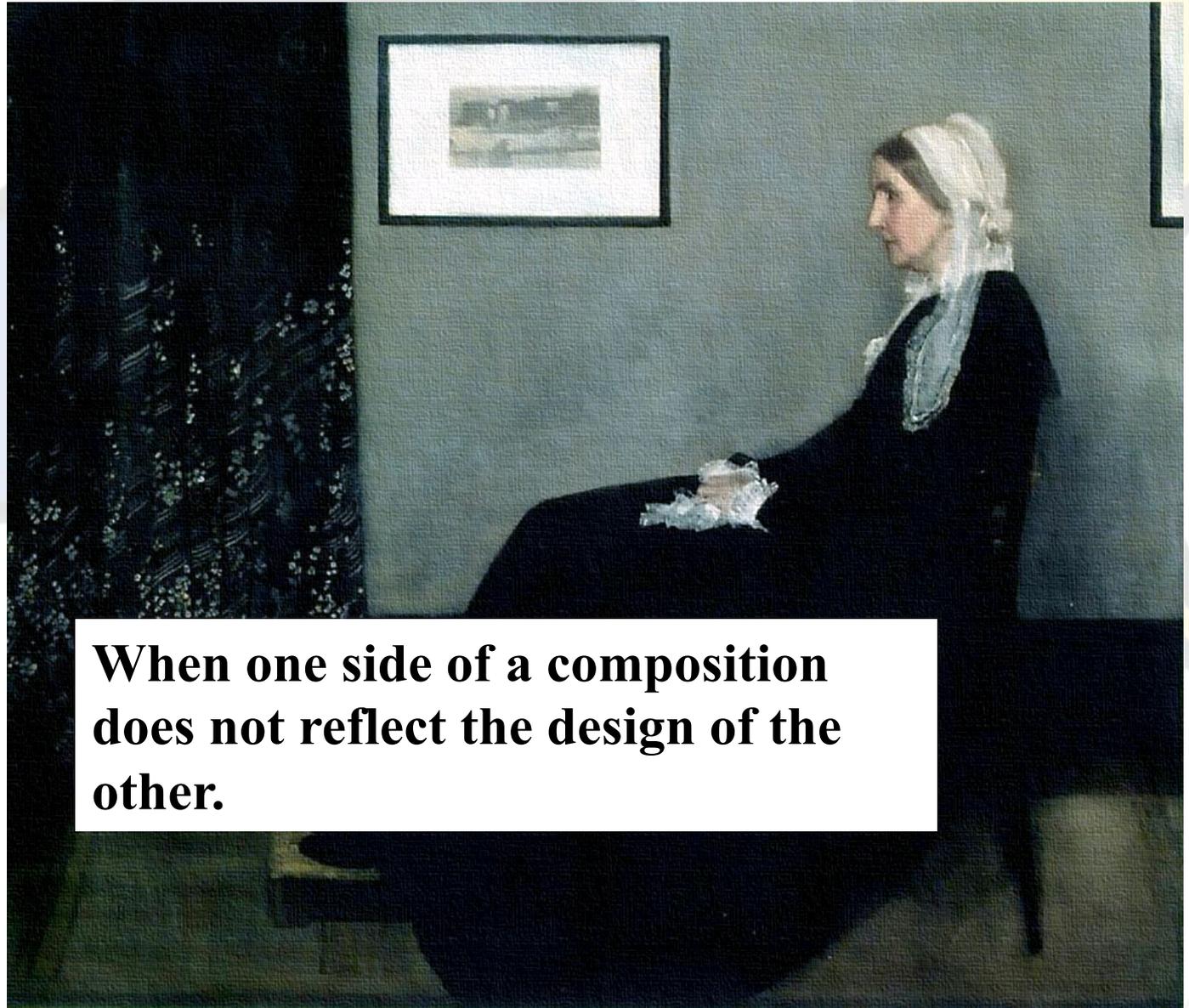
**The equal distribution of visual weight on either side of a composition**

# Symmetrical Balance



Leonardo DaVinci

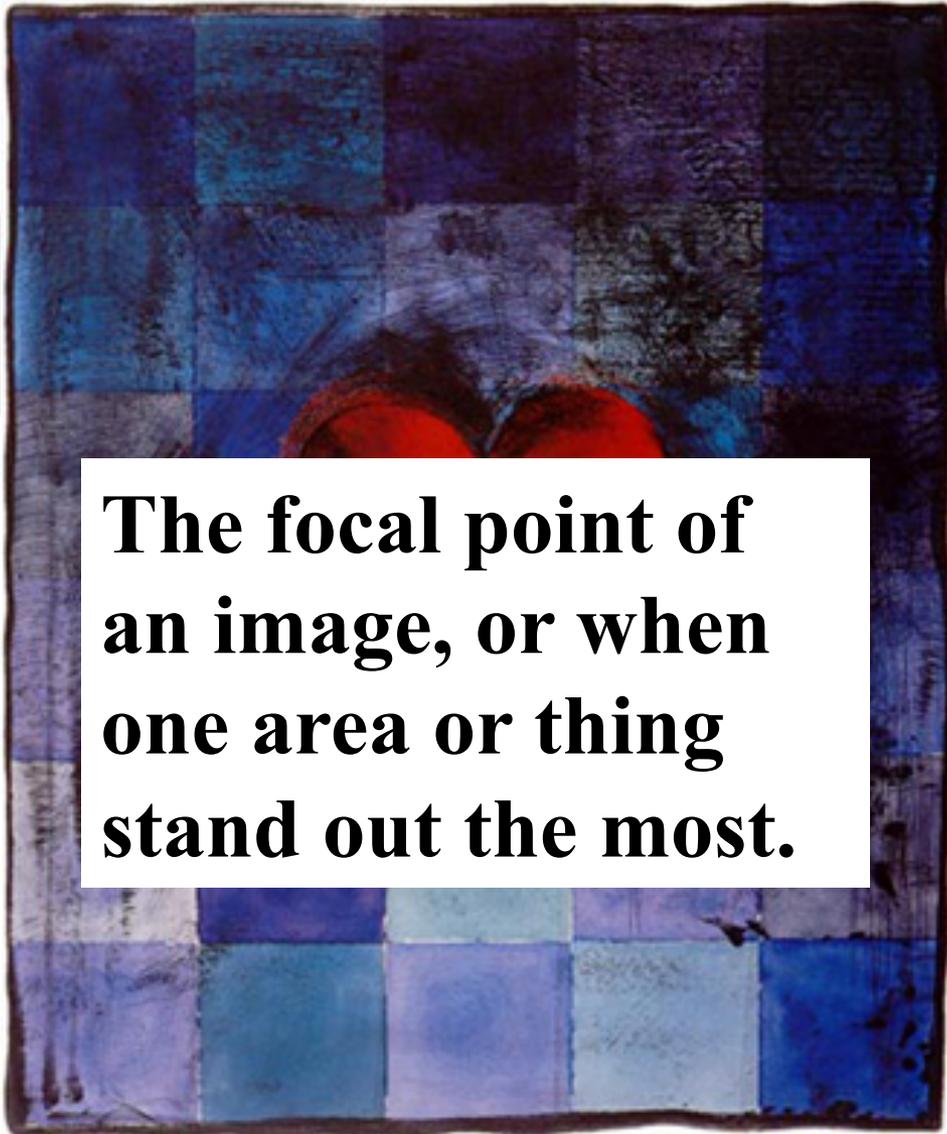
# Asymmetrical Balance



**When one side of a composition does not reflect the design of the other.**

James Whistler

# EMPHASIS



**The focal point of an image, or when one area or thing stand out the most.**

Jim Dine



Gustav Klimt





**A regular repetition of elements to produce the look and feel of movement.**

Marcel  
Duchamp

RHYTHM  
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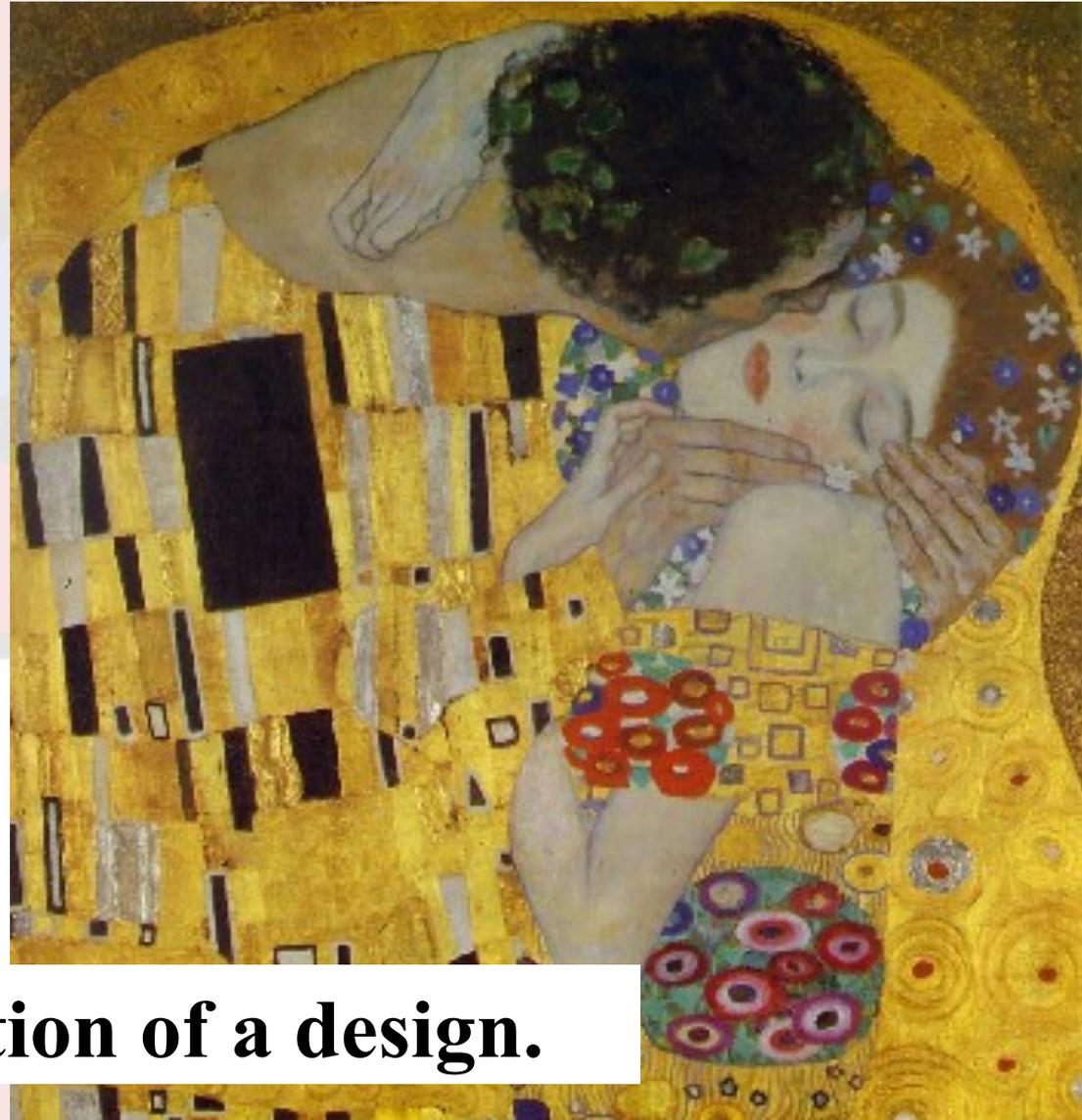
and  
MOVEMENT



Vincent VanGogh

# PATTERN

Gustav Klimt



**Repetition of a design.**

# UNITY

**When all the elements and principles work together to create a pleasing image.**



Johannes Vermeer



Marc Chagall

The use of differences and change to increase the visual interest of the work.

**Contrast**