



13 July 2009

From Dot To Line, Shape, Form, Space & Media

Ar Mohd Najib Salleh

Beginnings... Dots, Figure and Ground

The dot is all and nothing, beginning and end, birth, principle, origin, center, starting point and ending point. -Lewandowsky



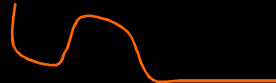

The Dot

We can define the dot as the beginning of all design. Out of nothing springs the first point. When we repeat dots, one after another in one direction we arrive at the 1st dimension. (The line) Kandinsky stated that the dot is born the moment a drawing tool hits the paper. He says that the dot embodies silence without an element of time. Plato appreciated the circle (two dimensional) and sphere (three dimensional) as idealized, perfect forms.

As you have seen, *lines* can have many qualities:

They can be: *curved*  or *straight* 

Vertical  *horizontal*  *diagonal* 

Thick  or *thin*  *smooth*  or *rough* 

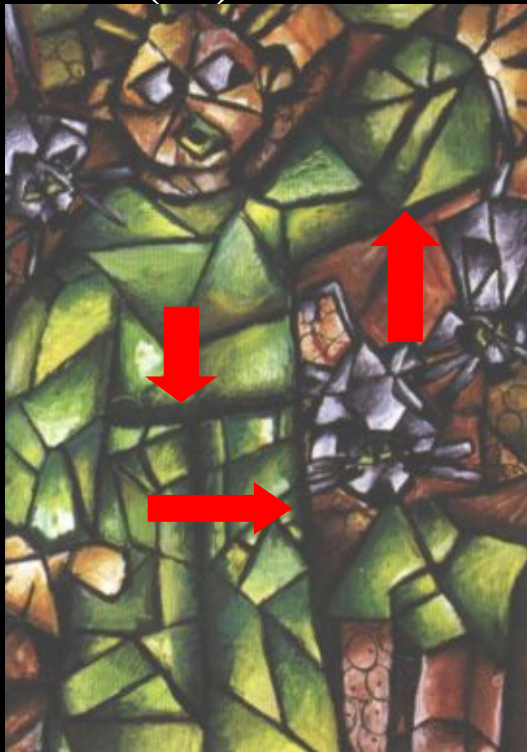
Light or *dark*   and *continuous*  or *broken* 

In artworks, *straight lines* generally suggest directness or clarity while *curving lines* imply gentleness or movement. *Vertical lines* can give an artwork strength while *horizontal lines* convey calmness and tranquility. *Diagonal lines* convey action and energy—think of a lightning bolt or a falling tree. Very *thick lines* appear strong while a *thin line* appears weak or delicate. *Fuzzy lines* imply softness while *smooth lines* imply harder surfaces. *Repeated lines* can create *patterns, textures* and even *rhythms*.

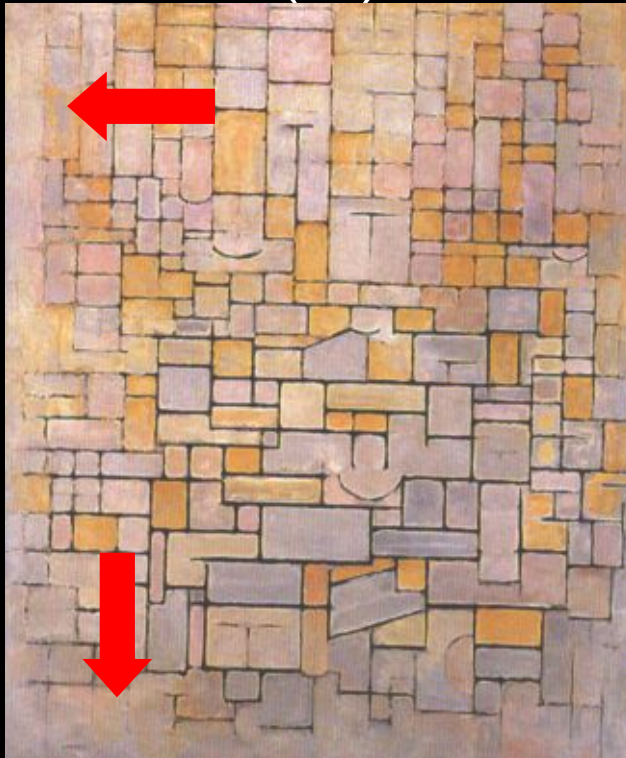
Lines can also be *implied* or *real*.

A *real line* is one you can actually see (Ex. A) while an *implied line* is the suggestion of a line (Ex. B) An *implied line* may also be suggested by a string of objects (Ex. C)

(A)



(B)



(C)



Shape

Shape is a *2-dimensional* object (it is flat) It has *height and width* but no depth. Shapes can be either geometric or organic.

Geometric shapes ---circles, squares and rectangles---are regular and precise. They can be measured.

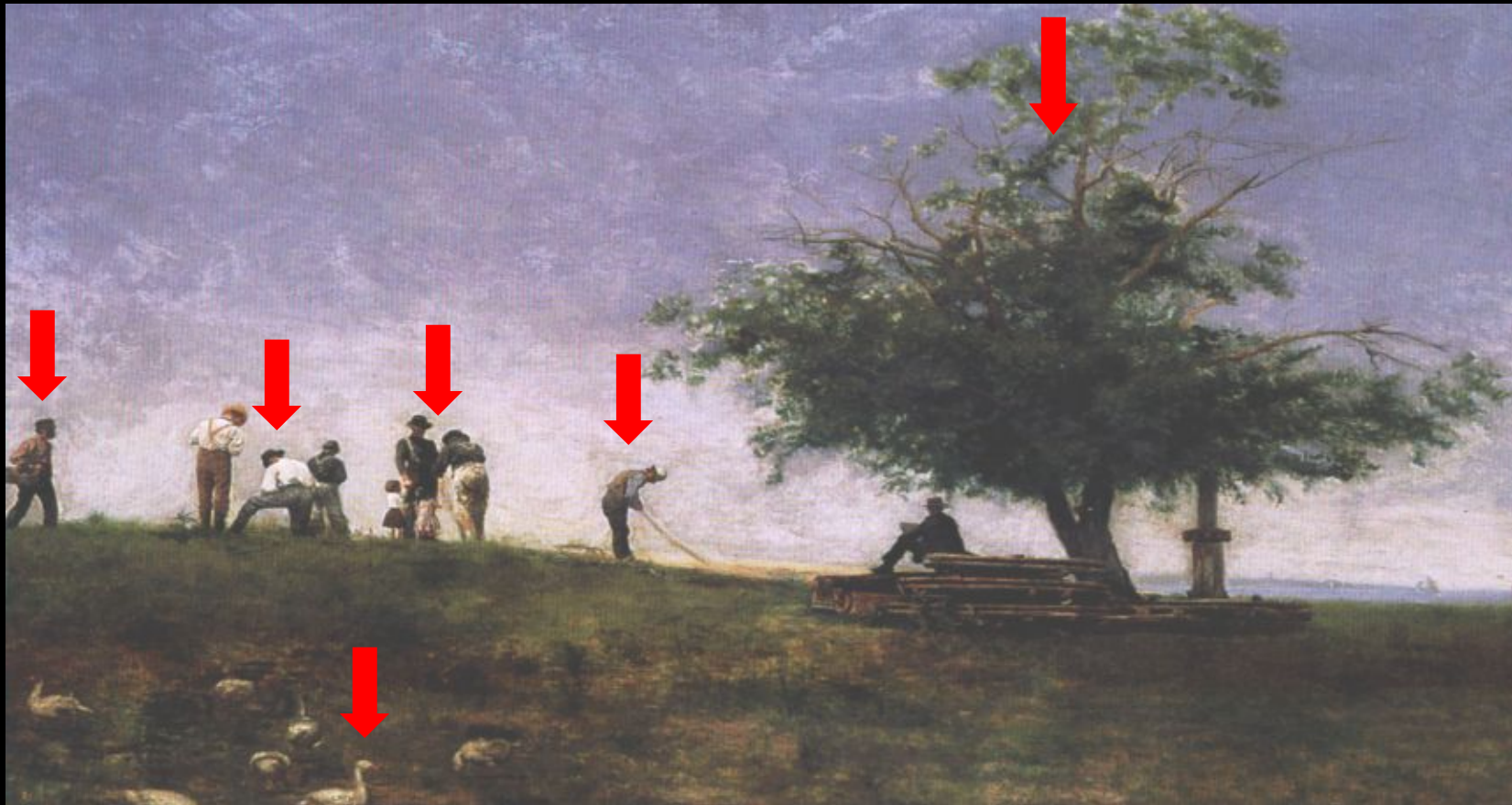


Organic shapes are irregular---seashells, leaves, flowers, etc.



Shape

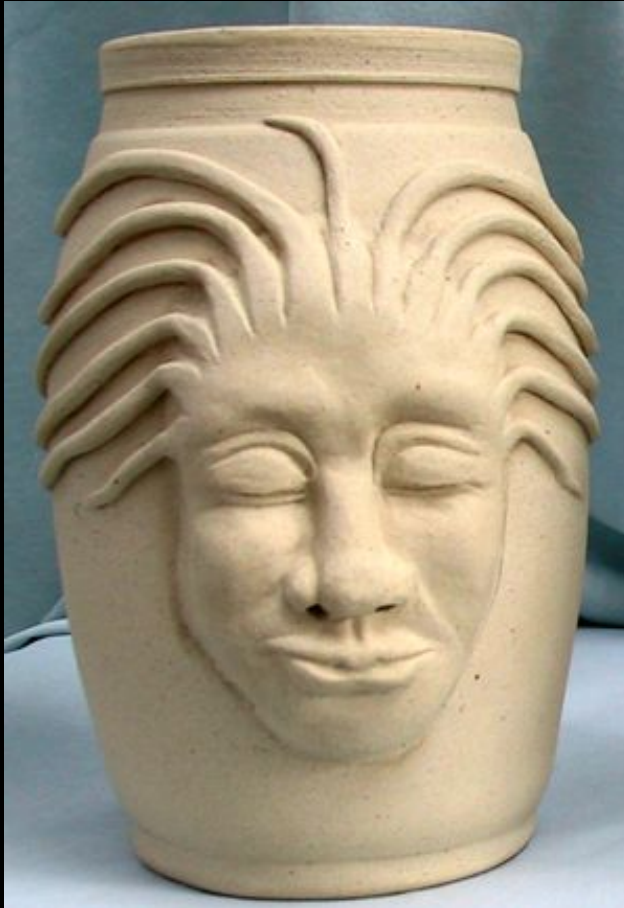
An artwork is often made up of *positive* and *negative shapes*. The *positive shapes* are usually the solid objects that the artist depicts (see below). The *negative shapes* are formed by the areas around or between the objects (the sky, grass, mountains, etc)



Form

A form is 3-Dimensional. It has height, width AND depth. As with shapes, Forms can be regular and precise or irregular and organic.

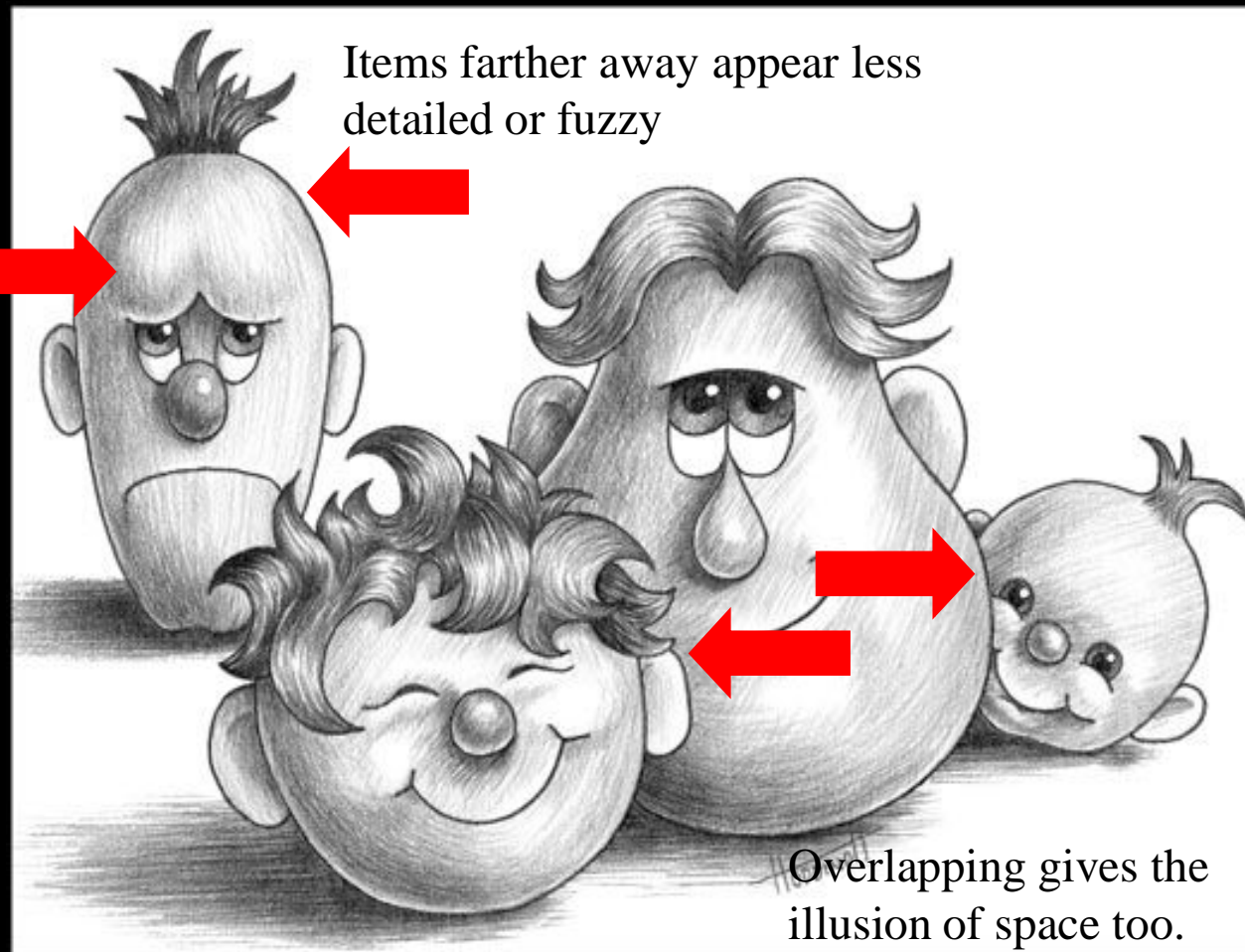
3-D art, such as sculptures, architecture and crafts, is composed of forms.
In 2-D art, artists can only create the illusion of *form*.



Space

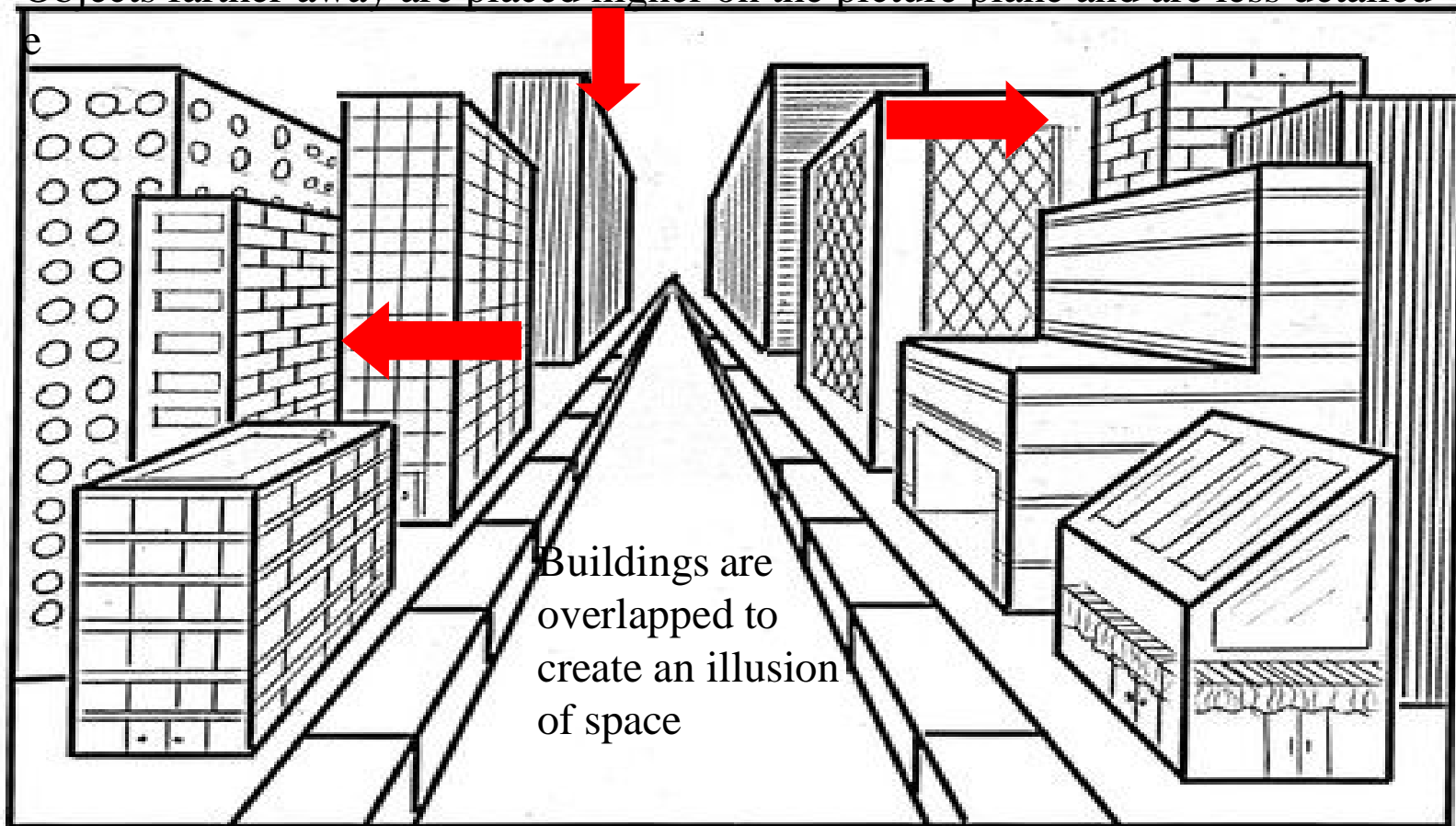
In a 2-D work of art, *space* is limited to the picture plane. By using *color* and/or *value* you can make objects appear to *advance* (come forward) or *recede* (go back) into *space* to create an illusion of depth. Objects with clear surface detail appear nearer to the viewer than fuzzy or plain objects. Also, an illusion of *space* can be accomplished when objects overlap or are placed higher on the picture plane.

Objects farther away are placed higher on the picture plane



As you can see in this example of *linear perspective*, in which parallel lines *recede* toward a common vanishing point, the illusion of 3-D space is created on a 2-D surface. Objects farther away are higher up on the picture plane, there is overlapping of buildings and less detail as the image seems farther away from the viewer.

Objects farther away are placed higher on the picture plane and are less detailed



Media: is the material used by the artist to produce art.
(Media is Plural and Medium is singular)

2-Dimensional media include:

Paint (Egg Tempera, Oil,
Watercolor and Acrylic)

Fabric

Yarn

Paper

Pastels (Oil and Chalk)

Fiber

Photography

Drawing

Computer-generated art

Fiber Art

Ink

Photography

3-Dimensiona Media include:

Clay

Wood

Glass

Metal

Stone

Paper

Plaster

Art Processes: both art methods and the media used for visual communication in a variety of art forms

2-Dimensional Processes include:

Drawing

Painting

Printmaking

Photography

Fiber Art: (includes fabric painting, stamping, batik, tie-dye, etc.)

3-Dimensional Processes include:

Textiles

Ceramics

Sculpture

Architecture

Fiber Art (includes constructing with fiber, weaving, rugs, crochet, knitting, quilting)