The Art and Science of Depiction

Limitations of the Medium, compensation or accentuation

Fredo Durand
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J. M. W. Turner

1843, London, Tate Gallery

Shade and Darkness
– the Evening of the Deluge

Light and Colour (Goethe's Theory)
– the Morning after Deluge

Limitations

2

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Isabella Stewart Gardner

- portraits

By Sargent

By Zorn

Stolen artworks

Jan Vermeer, *The Concert,* 1658-60

Rembrandt von Rijn,
The Storm on the Sea of Galilee
1633

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

- John Singer Sargent, *El Jaleo,* 1882

Survey

- Scattered!
- There is too much
- You want more
    - More connections
    - Rather more practical
- Reading
    - Scattered
- Lecture
    - Rather complex
    - OK to too fast
    - More images, more films, more variety

Goals

- Broad overview
- Raise issues
- Different point of view
- Give "cultural background"

Format

- Too formal
- Active participation is not encouraged enough
- Problem: I talk too much
- Lower our expectations
- More discussion

Web page of the class

- Slides
- Further reading recommendation
- In the future
  - Annotated bibliography
  - Notes of the slides

Assignments

- Readings
  - Different choices
  - Summarize to others the next week
  - Prepare questions for the text you have not read
- Solso *Cognition and the Visual Arts*
- Essay
  - Exploratory
  - Or Picture comment
- Final project

Personal Meeting II

- Class
- Essay
- Project

Limitations

- Specificities of the 2D medium
- Compensation
- Accentuation

Plan

- The picture is flat
- The viewpoint is unique
- The image is finite, it has a frame
- The picture is static
- The contrast is limited
- The gamut (palette) is limited

The viewpoint is unique

- Accidental/general viewpoint
- Multiple views
- Mirror
- Exploded views
- Diverging perspective
- Topological drawing
- Best local view
- Cubism

The viewpoint is unique

- Impossibility to resolve ambiguity
- Generic/accidental view

The viewpoint is unique

- Impossibility to resolve ambiguity
- Generic/accidental view

Accidental viewpoint

Multiple views

- Engineering
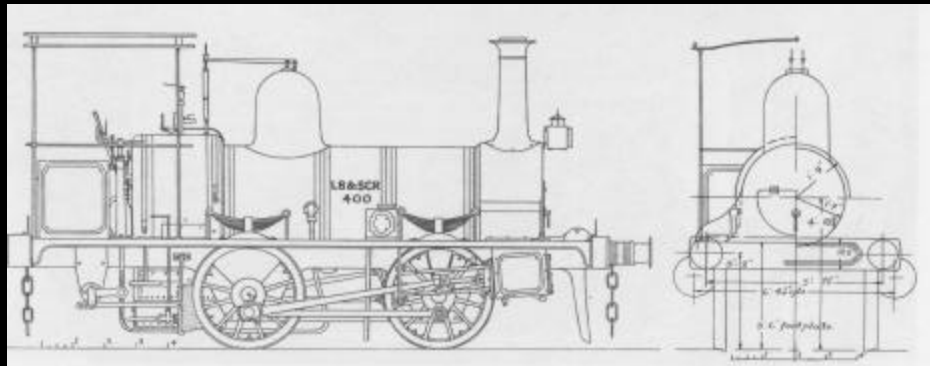
Mirrors
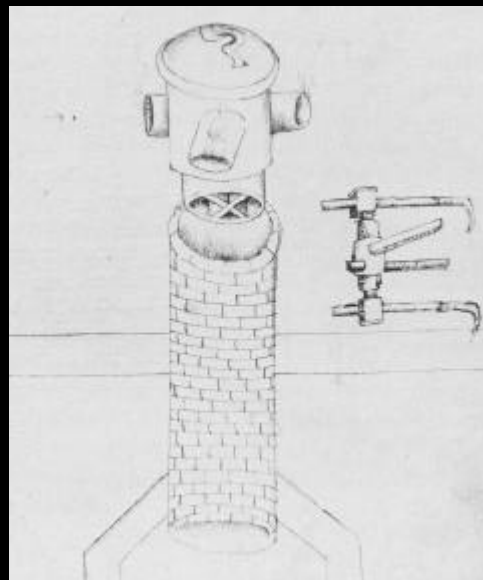
- Mary Cassatt

Mirrors

- Velasquez

Exploded views
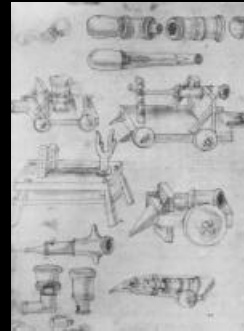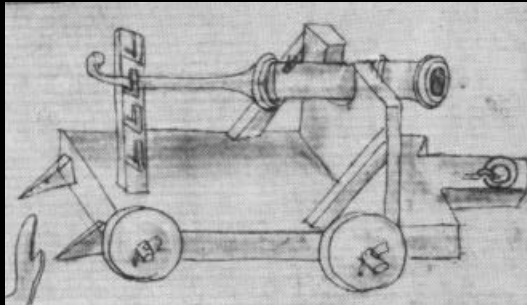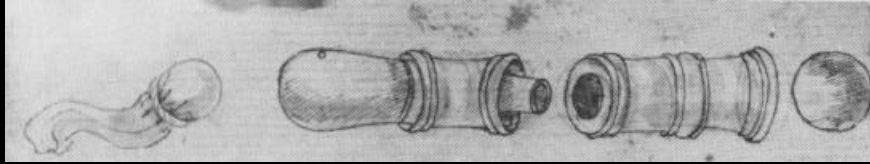
- Tacolla, 1433

Divergent perspective

- Tacolla, 1427

Divergent perspective

- Bifolio from
  a Gospel book:
  Mark
  Byzantin, 15th century

Divergent perspective

- AndreiRublev
  The Trinity
  1408-1425

Divergent perspective

- Hasadera Enji

Divergent perspective
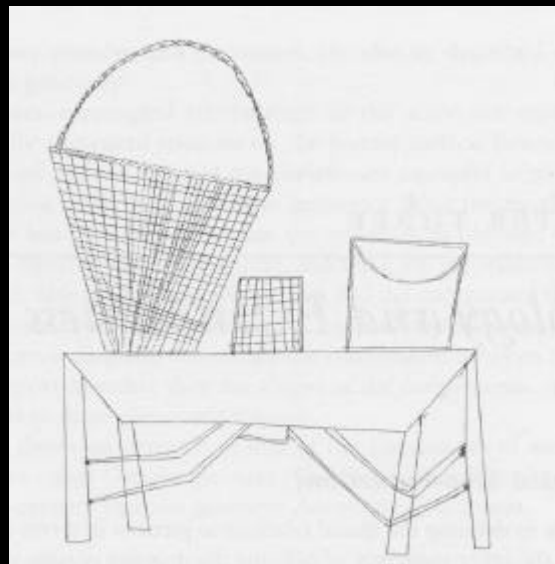
- 15 year old girl

Divergent Perspective

- David Hockney
  Chair
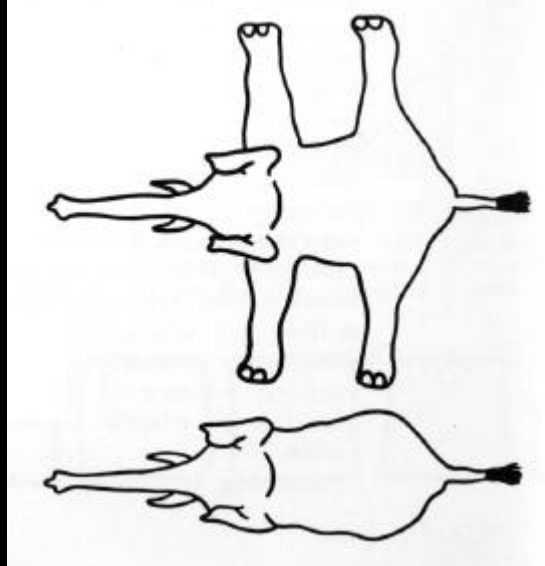
Double profile view

What I see/What I know

Multi-perspective

- Umberto Boccioni *The Street Enters the House*

Multi-Perspective

- M. C. Escher
  Other World
  1947

Multi-perspective

- David Hockney
  Mother

Cubism

- Picasso
  Portrait of a Woman

Cubism

18

Best local view

Best local view

Best local view

The image is finite, it has a frame

- Window
- Verticals & frame
- Distortion compensation
- Cropping
- Panorama

The Picture as a Window

- Durer

The Picture as a Window

The Picture as a Window

- Magritte

Window

Window

- Mucha
- Interaction 2D/3D

Window

- Gustav Klimt
  Judith

Verticals and Horizontals

- Burnes Jones
  Pygmalion

Verticals and Horizontals
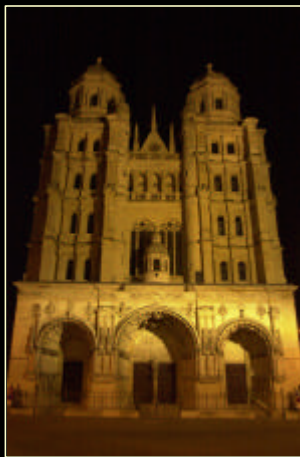
Distortion compensation

Framing

- Hiroshige,
  *Car Wheel
  at the Sea Shore*
  1857

Framing

- Degas

Absence of Framing
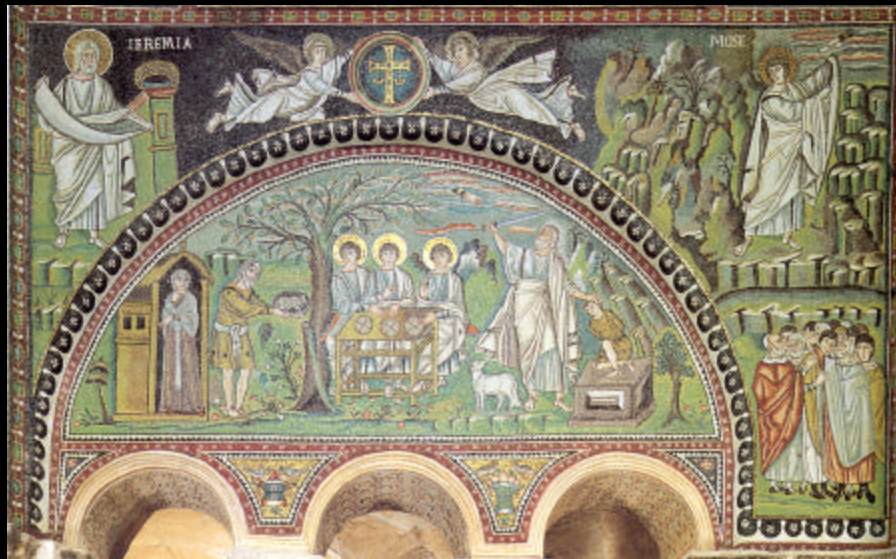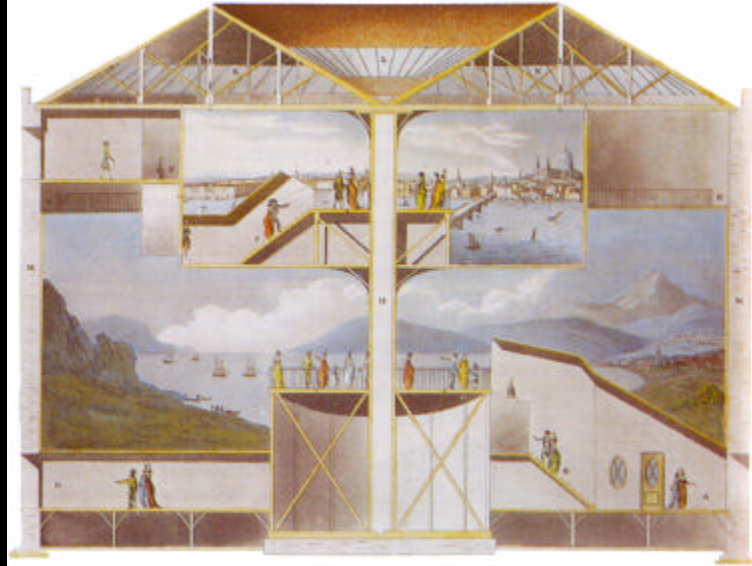
Panorama

Modern Panorama

- QuickTime VR
- IMAX

Typical IMAX *Dome* theatre

Hand Rolls

Negative space & balance

- Rembrandt
  Self Portrait

Cropping

- Boticelli

Cropping

Different format

- Jean Cocteau
  Gabier de Vigie