The Art and Science of Depiction

Limitations of the Medium, compensation or accentuation

Fredo Durand
MIT- Lab for Computer Science
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
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Limitations
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Limitations
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

Limitations
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

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

- Andrei Rublev
  *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
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
Negative space & balance

- Rembrandt
  *Self Portrait*
Cropping

• Boticelli
Cropping
Different format

- Jean Cocteau
  Gabier de Vigie