The Art and Science of Depiction

Limitations of the Medium, compensation or accentuation

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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
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 van Rijn, *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, 1633
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
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

- 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
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

- Magritte

Window
Window

• Mucha
• Interaction 2D/3D

Window

• Gustav Klimt
  \textit{Judith}
Verticals and Horizontals

- Burnes Jones
  *Pygmalion*
Distortion compensation

Framing

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

- Degas

Absence of Framing
Panorama

Modern Panorama

- QuickTime VR
- IMAX
Hand Rolls

Negative space & balance

• Rembrandt  
  *Self Portrait*
Cropping

• Boticelli
Different format

- Jean Cocteau
  *Gabier de Vigie*