

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

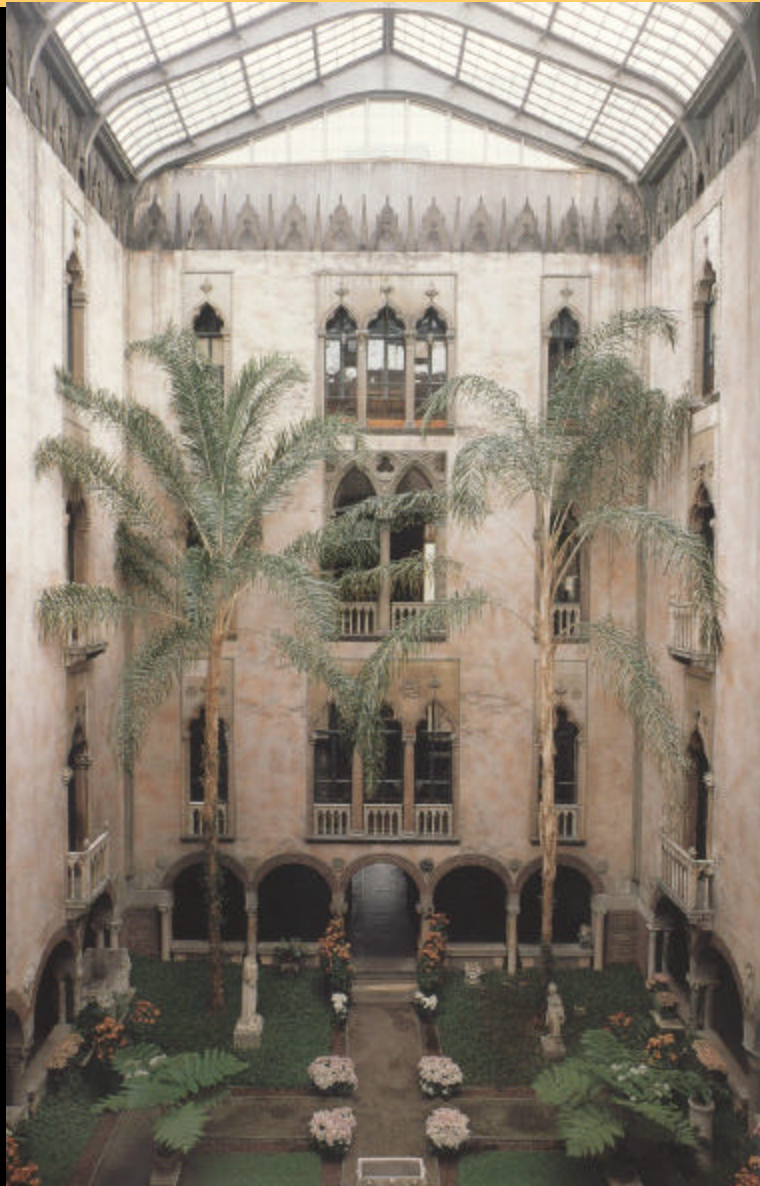


Shade and Darkness
– the Evening of the Deluge



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

Limitations



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

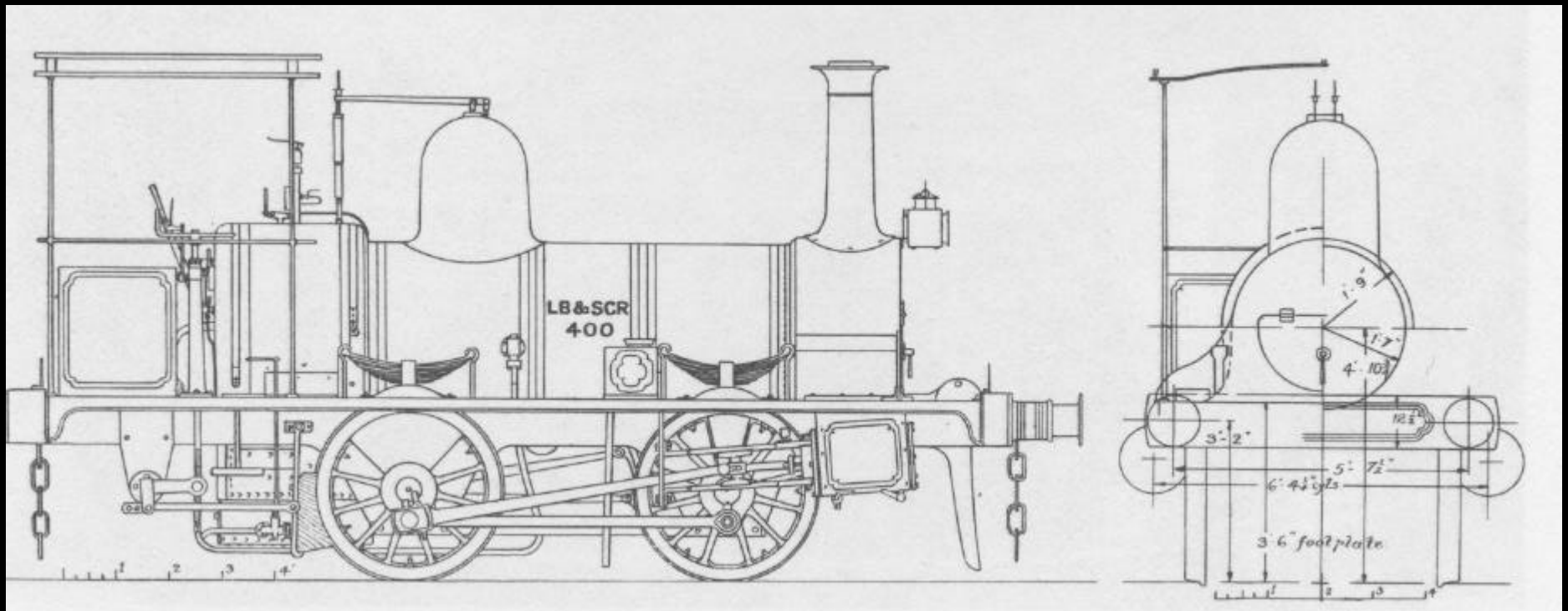


Accidental viewpoint



Multiple views

- Engineering



Limitations

Mirrors

- Mary Cassatt



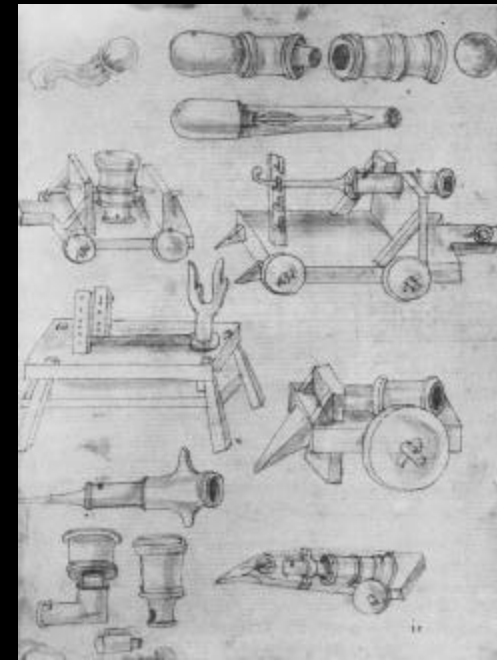
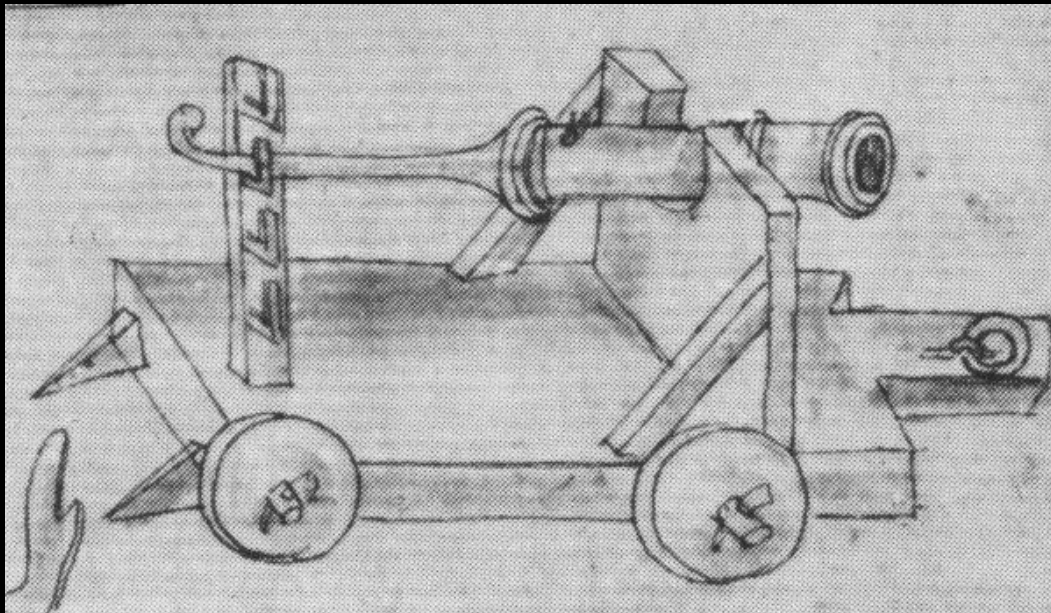
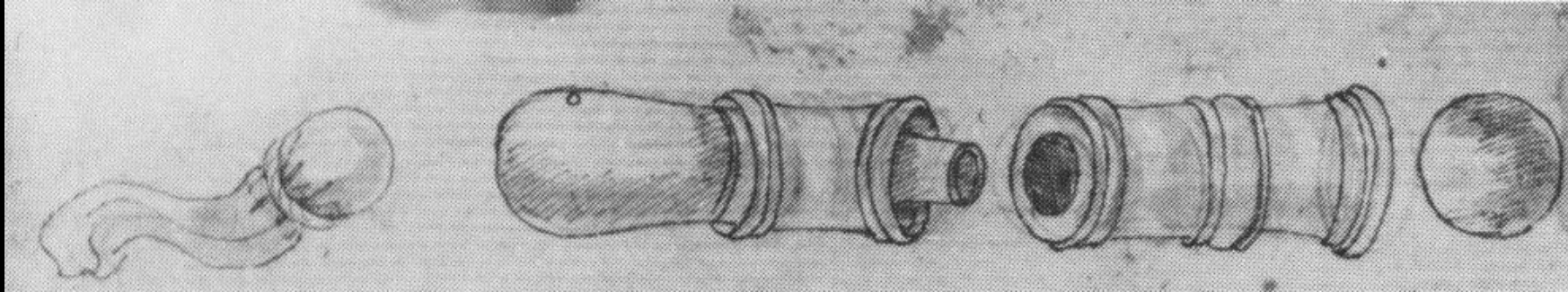
Mirrors

- Velasquez



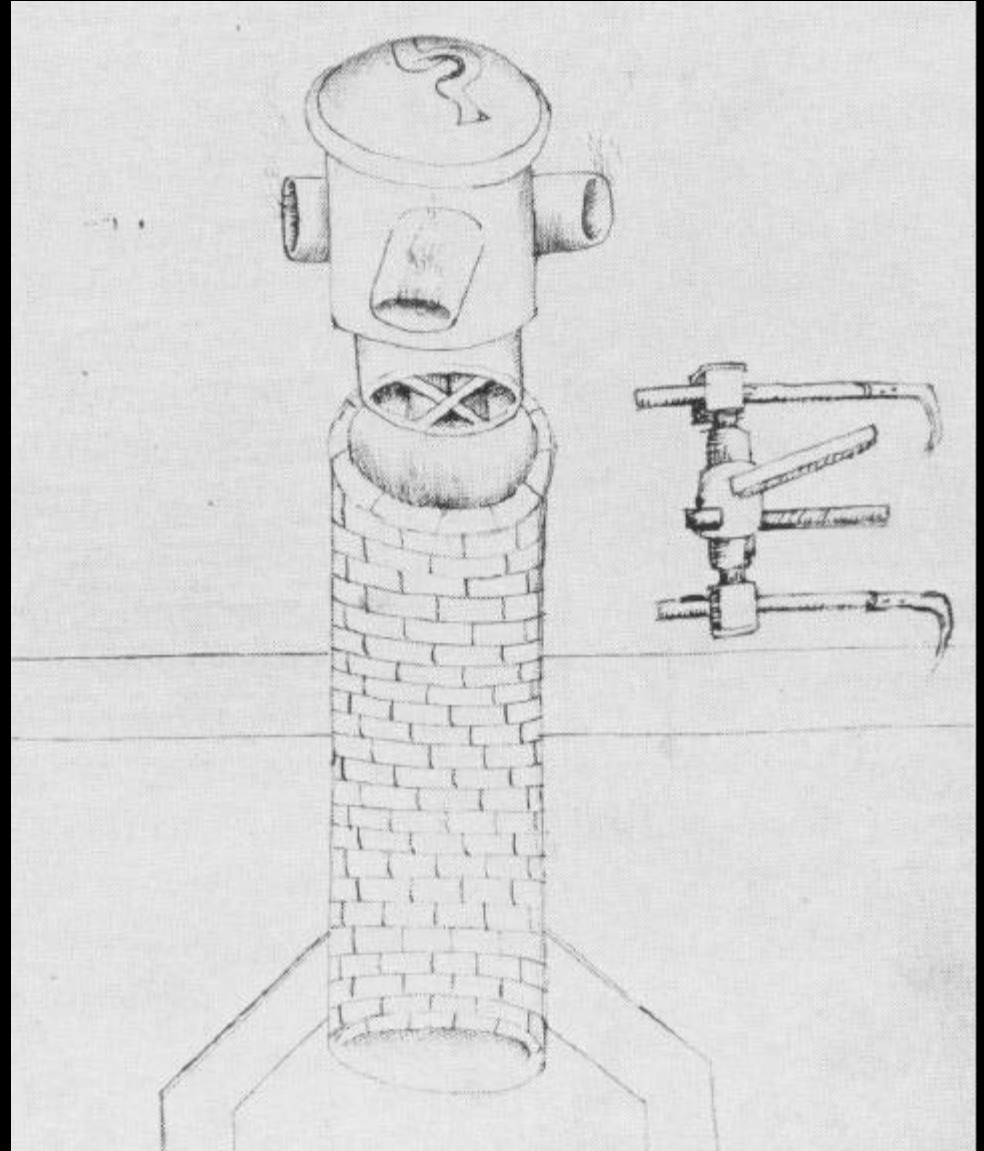
Exploded views

- 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



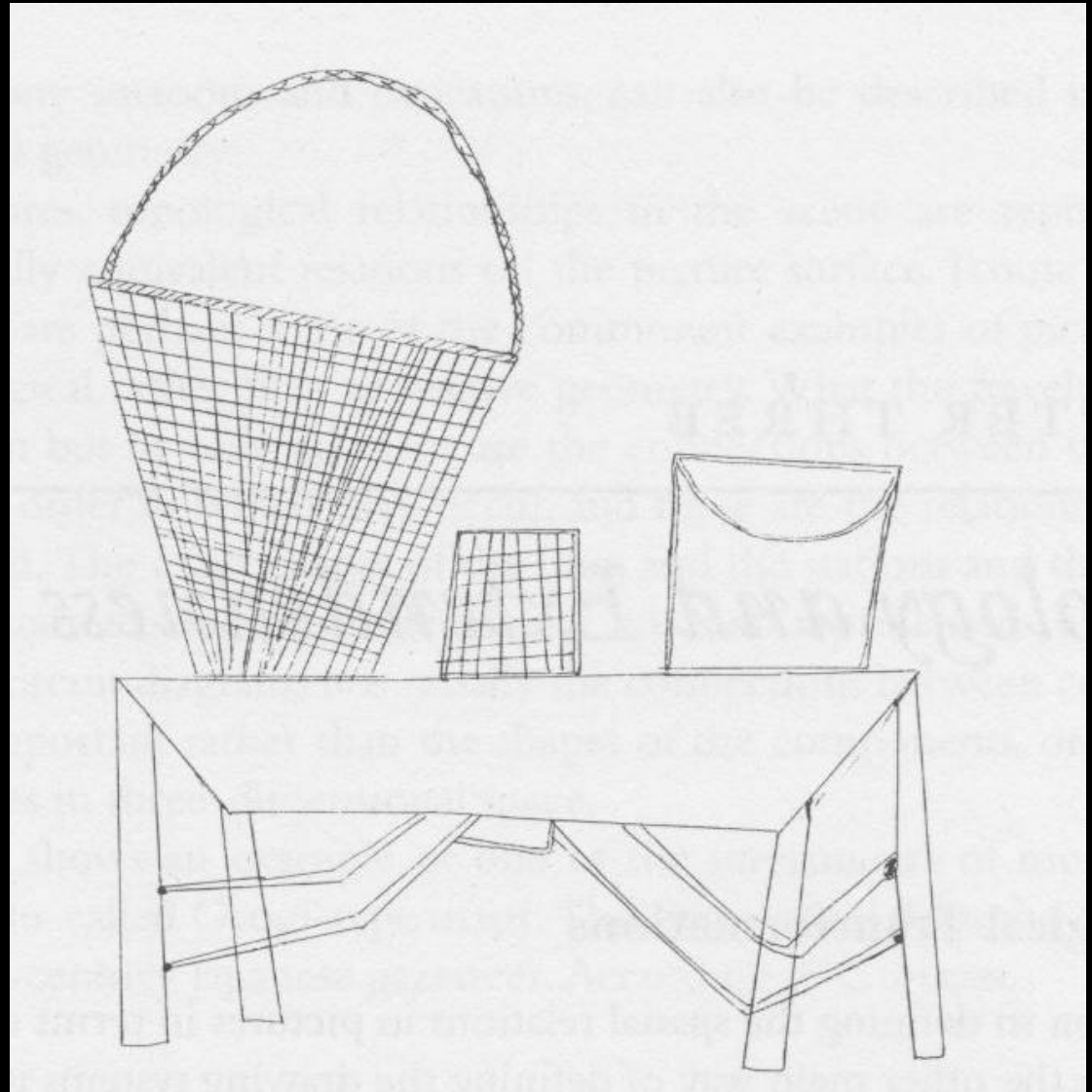
Divergent perspective

- Hasadera Enji



Divergent perspective

- 15 year old girl



Divergent Perspective

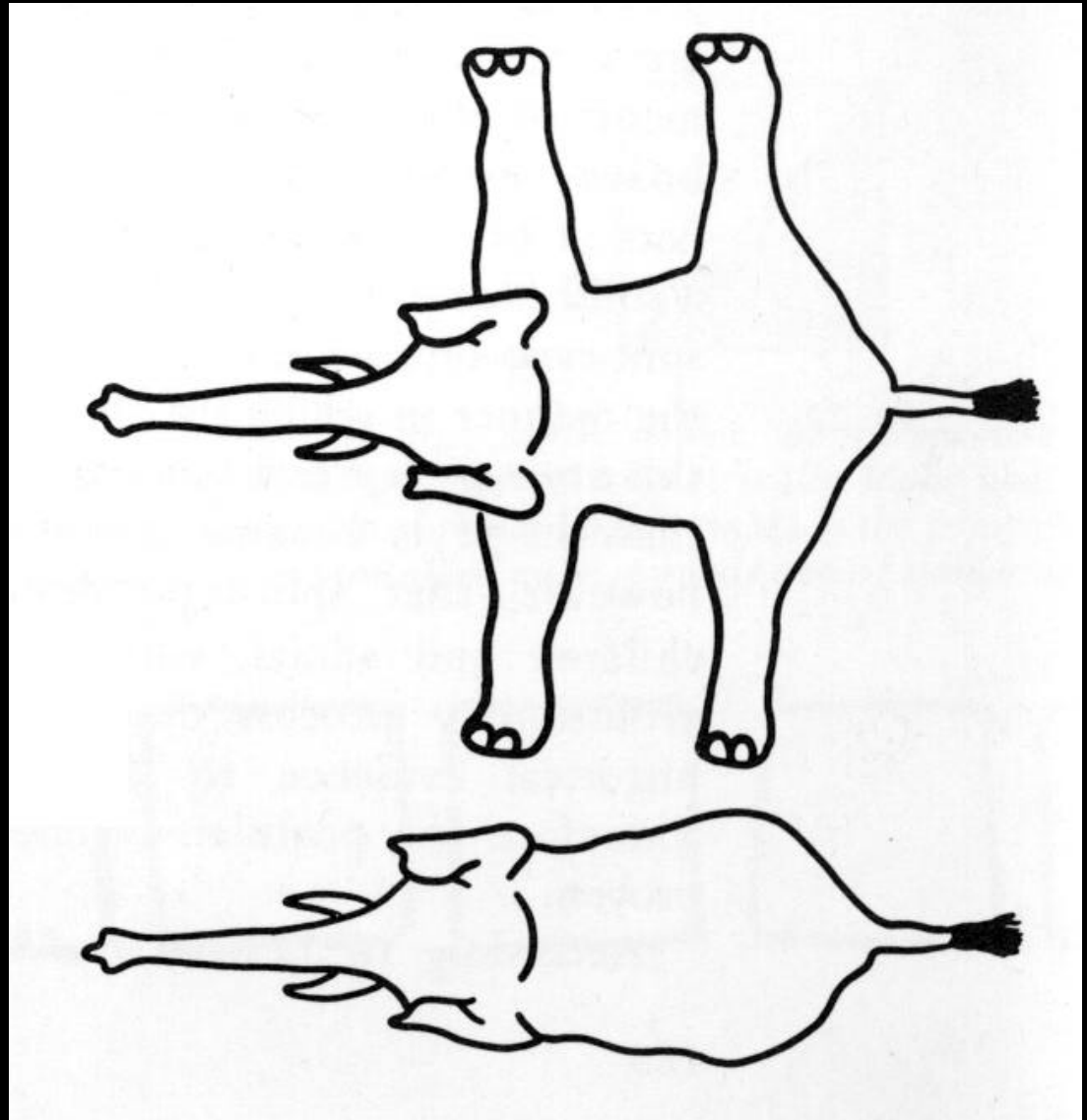
- David Hockney
Chair



Double profile view



What I see/What I know



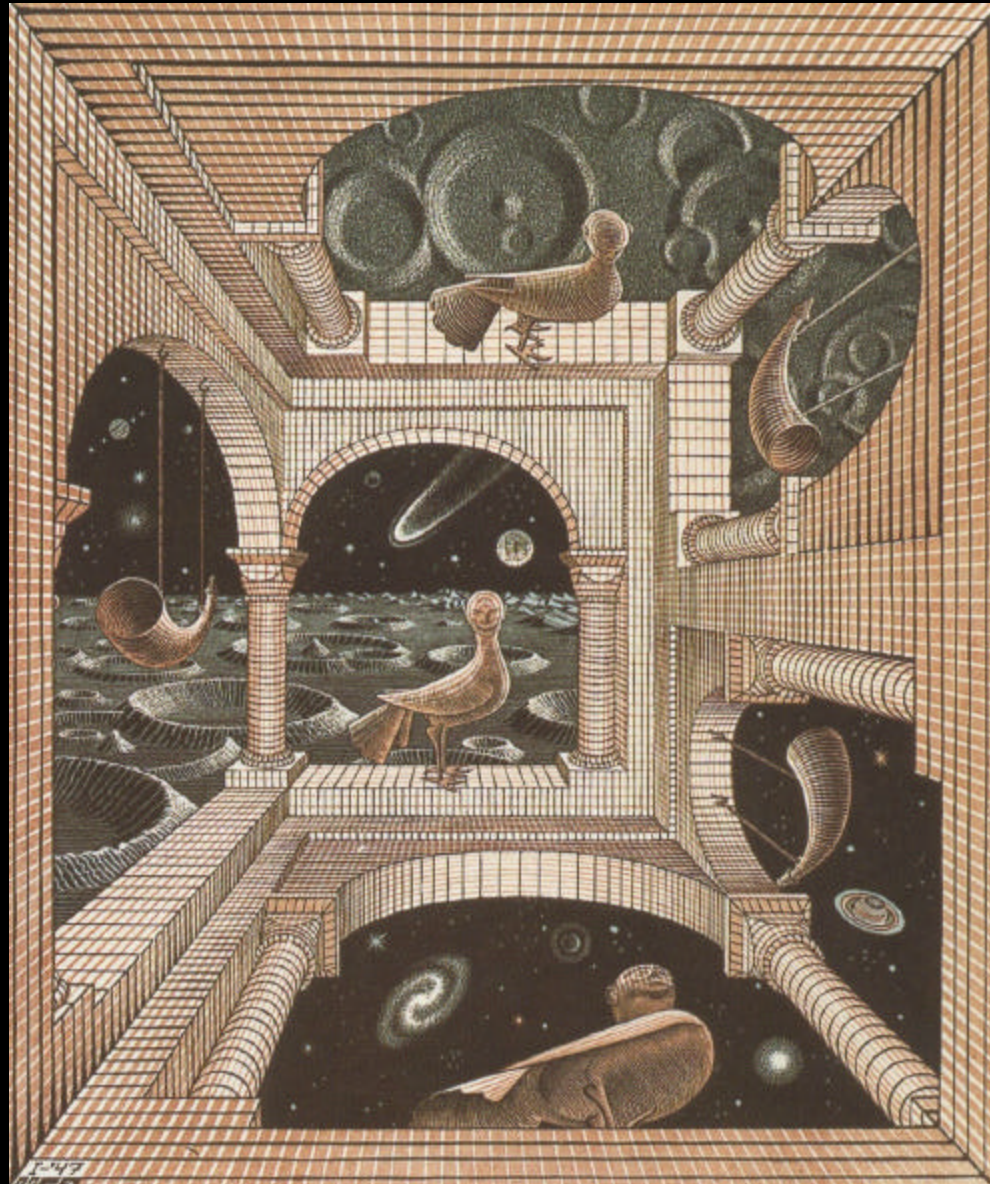
Multi-perspective

- 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



Limitations

38

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



Limitations

The Picture as a Window

- Magritte



Limitations

Window



Limitations

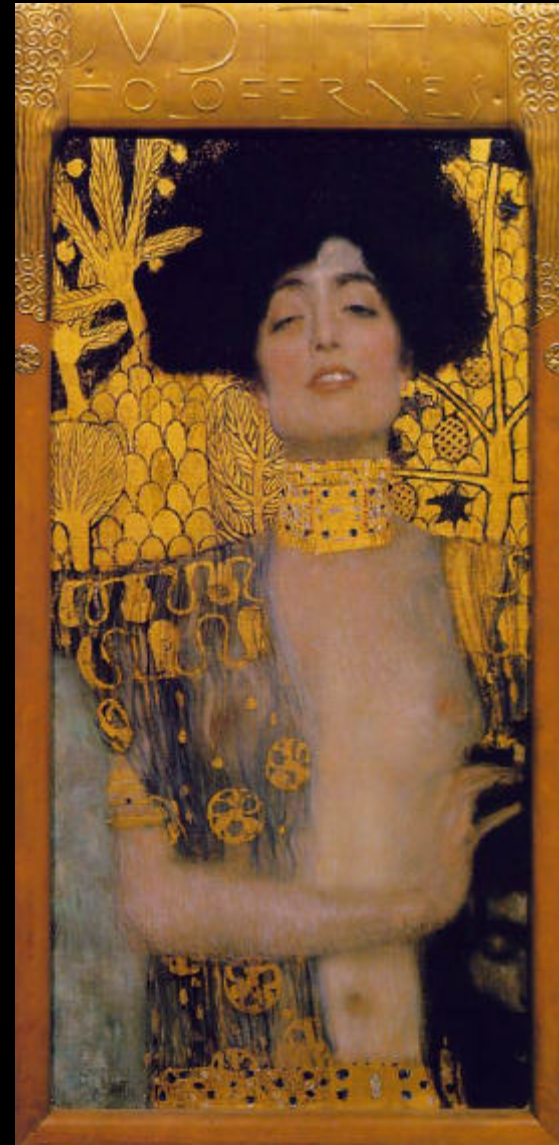
Window

- Mucha
- Interaction 2D/3D



Window

- Gustav Klimt
Judith



Verticals and Horizontals

- Burnes Jones
Pygmalion



Verticals and Horizontals



Limitations

Distortion compensation



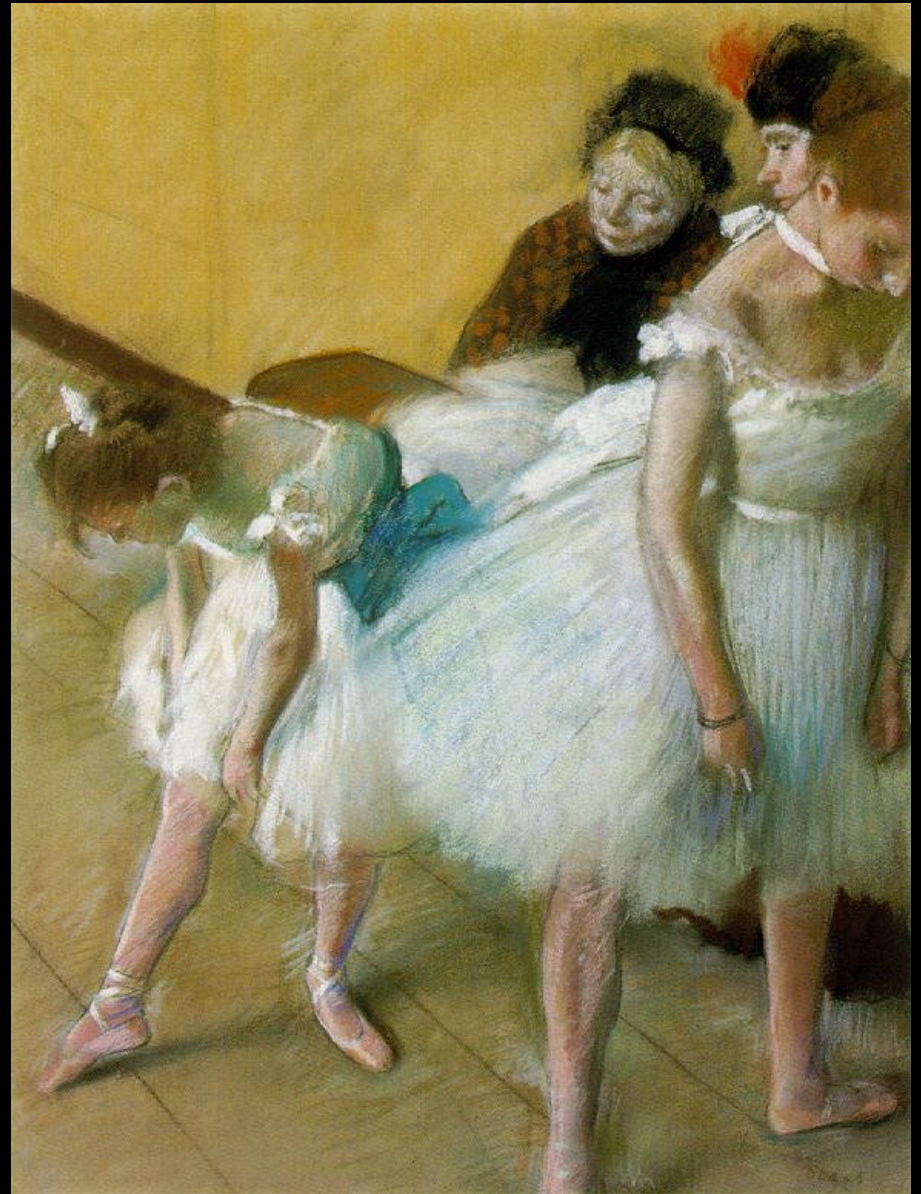
Framing

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

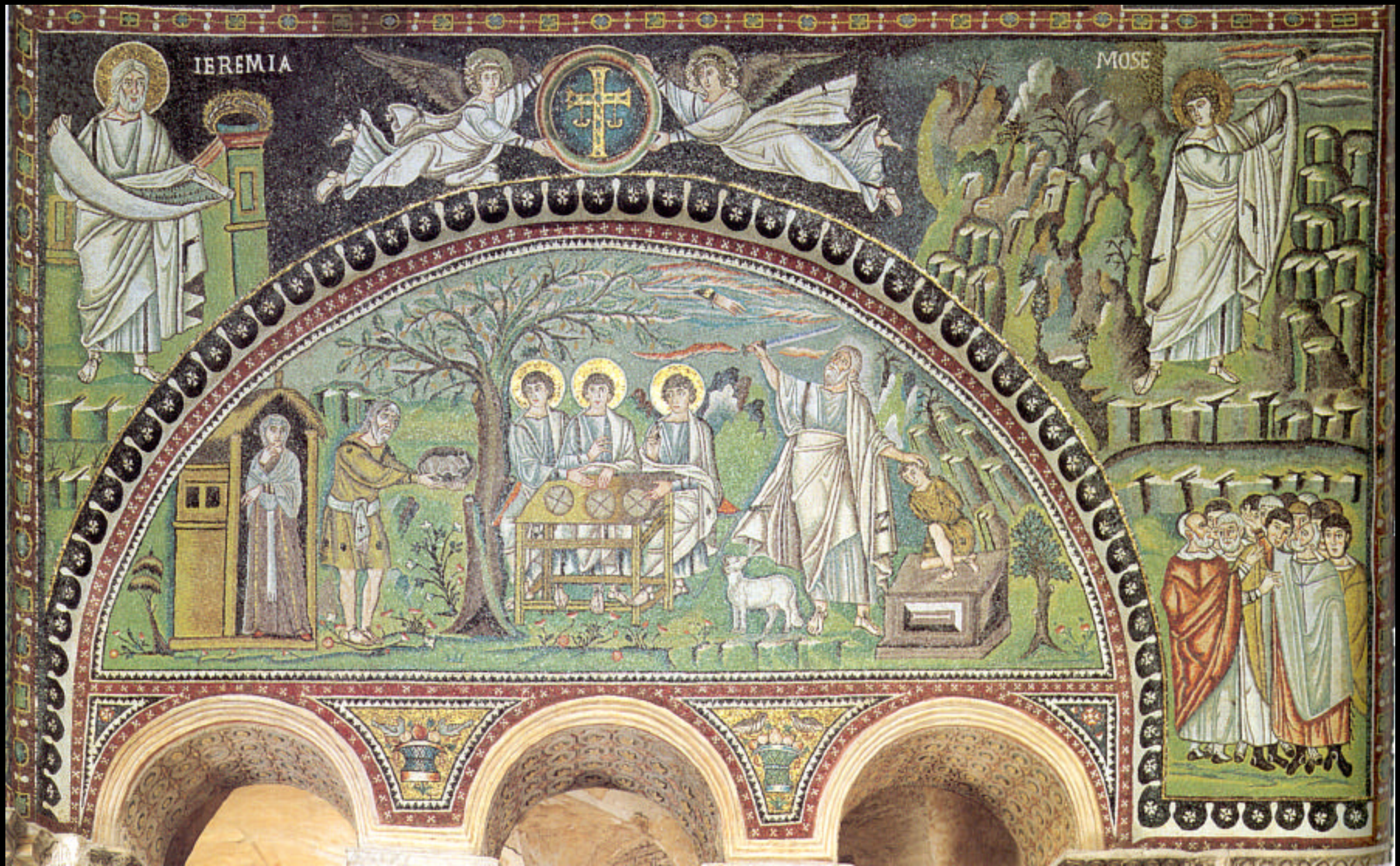


Framing

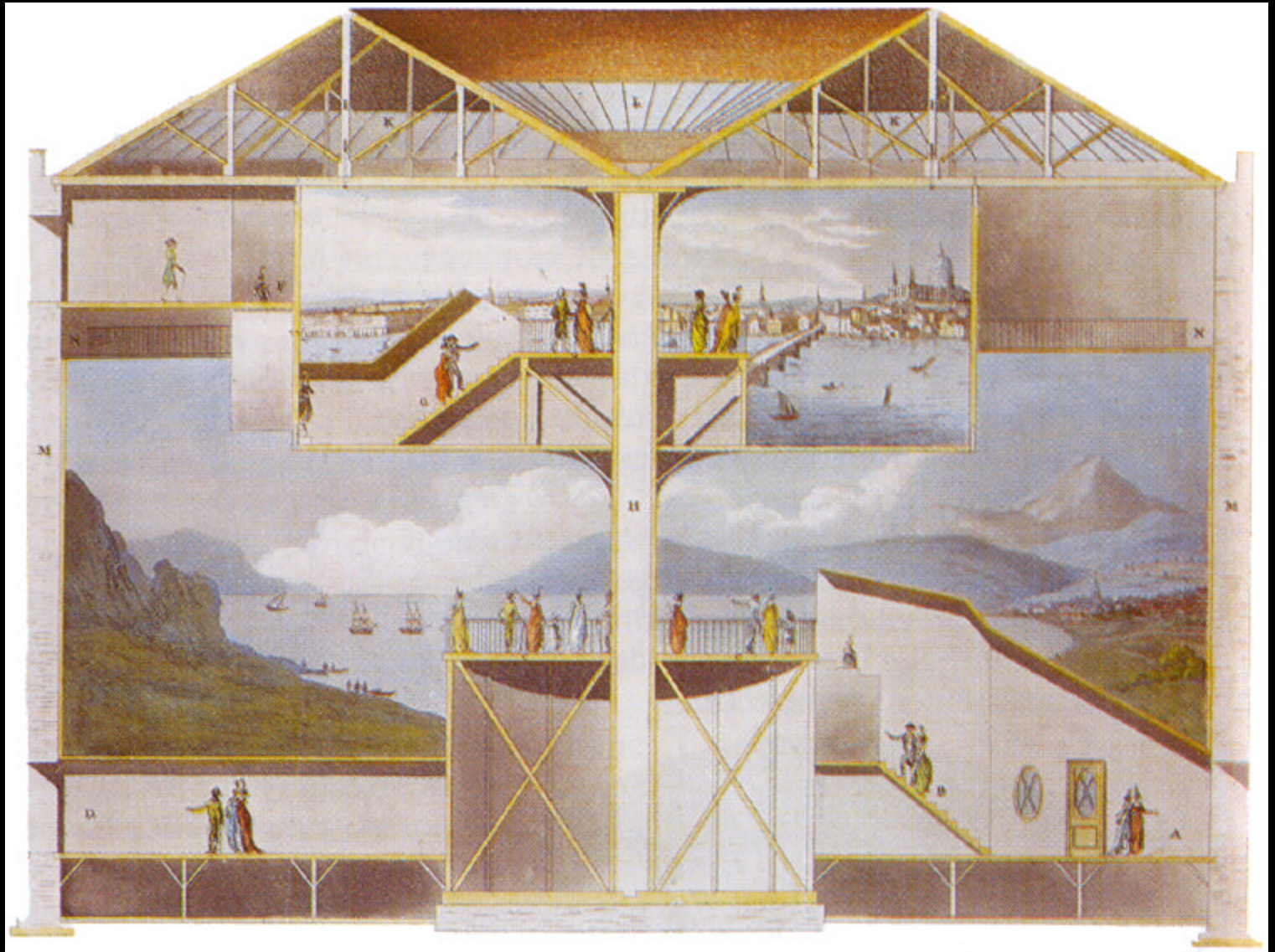
- Degas



Absence of Framing



Panorama



Modern Panorama

- QuickTime VR
- IMAX



Hand Rolls



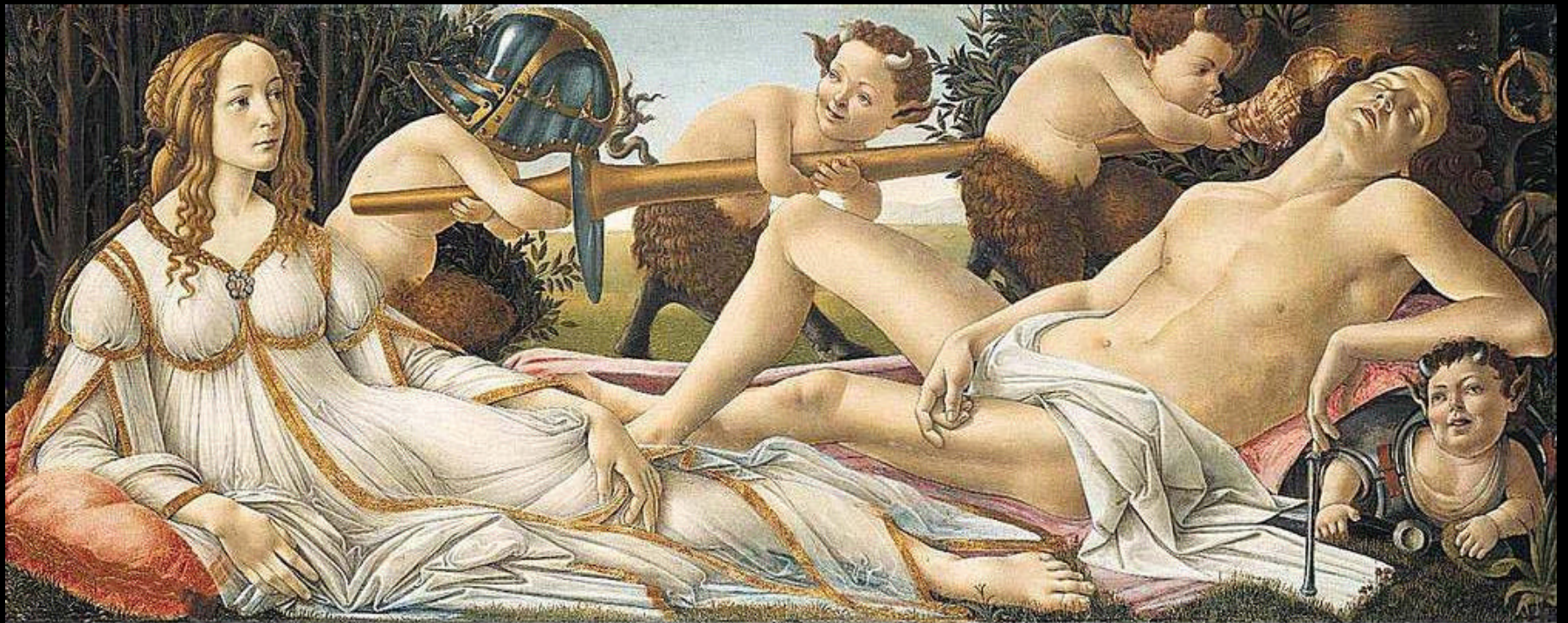
Negative space & balance

- Rembrandt
Self Portrait



Cropping

- Boticelli



Cropping



Limitations

Different format

- Jean Cocteau
Gabier de Vigie

