

CSEC VC 1205 Design Fundamentals
“Design Basics” - CH 10 Space “Notes”

Ways to Show Depth - Part 1 Size - Exaggerated Size - Overlapping - Vertical Location

Picture Plane – the frontal plane of the painting.

Particular Assignment will use Flat Solid Shapes - Rather than dimensional forms

1. Size

A - Size – Things that are closer are larger. As they get further away they get smaller.

Size is the easiest. Works best with similar objects. (Line of Trees, etc...)

Repeat objects over and over while decreasing the size towards the vanishing point

Spatial Effect with Abstract Shapes

B - Repetition also works with abstract shapes. It works best with similar shapes

It is not as effective with a variety of different shapes.

2. Exaggerated Size

“Using relative sizes to give a feeling of space and depth is very common to many periods and styles of art.”

A - Take an object with a familiar size.

Place it in the foreground and make it very large and /or have it escape the edges of the picture.

Then place other familiarly sized objects in the “background” by making them very small.

This will create distance and a dynamic visual pattern.

3. Overlapping

Simple device for creating depth.

When you can see the complete object it is considered in front.

A - The illusion of depth is increased when you use overlap in combination with change in size.

B - The same principle can be used with abstract shapes.

4. Vertical Location

Used widely in the Near East and Asian art.

A - Objects lower in the picture frame are considered “closer.”

Based on the way we see things. We see things at the ground level first, and then we look up.

Emphasizing Figures and Objects

The use of vertical location can be used to show off the figures, object or architectural features in a piece.

The objects themselves become more important than depth.

5. The Changing Horizon

A - “The horizon is based on a visual fact.”

Horizon line = eye level New way to view things.