The Elements of Art: Photography Edition

Directions: Copy the notes in red. The notes in blue are art terms for the back of your handout.

The elements of art *a set of 7 techniques which describe the characteristics of art. They are combined with the* ***principles of design*** *in the creation of artwork.*

The elements of art include the following:

Line, Shape, Form, Space, Value, Colour, Texture

Line

- ***A line is the most simple element of art.***
- ***Often its purpose in a *composition is to lead the viewers eye through the work of art.***
- Notice how your eye follows the line of the sidewalk in the photograph on the right.

composition: The arrangement of elements in a work of art.

- Lines can be long or short, straight or curved.
- Lines can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. Lines in art can be thin, solid, dashed, thick, dashed or a variable width.


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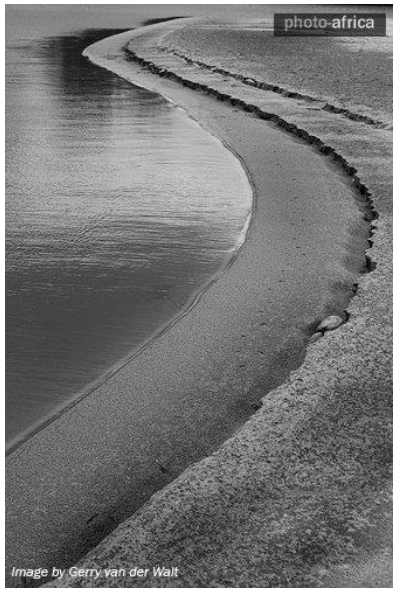
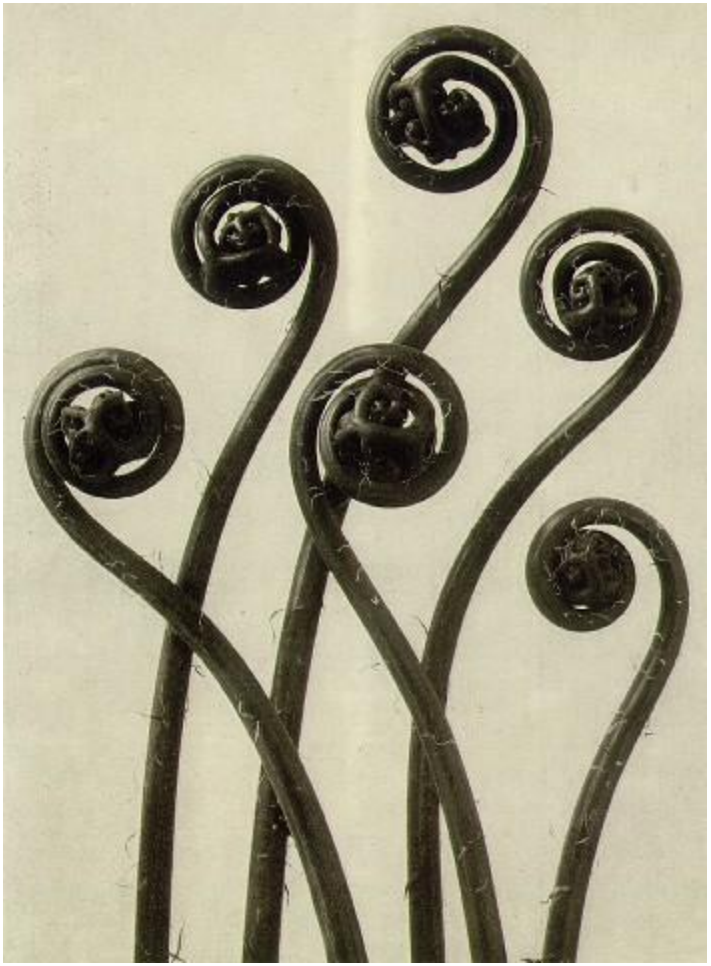
Implied Lines

- Sometimes lines are made of a series of dots or marks that the eye naturally follows. Implied lines do not physically exist in the image
- *In the picture to the left, we visually "connect the dots" on the street which lead us to the ***subject**.*

****subject: the focal point of a picture, the most important part***

Curved Lines





Curved lines tend to be elegant, graceful and sensual.

Diagonal lines

- This is a view of a looking up at a hydro tower.
- ***Diagonal (or zigzag) lines create tension and energy, like a bolt of lightning.***

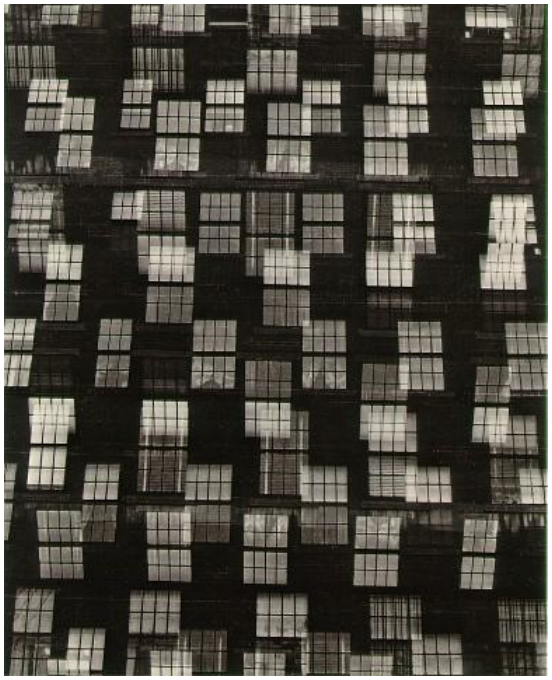
Straight Lines

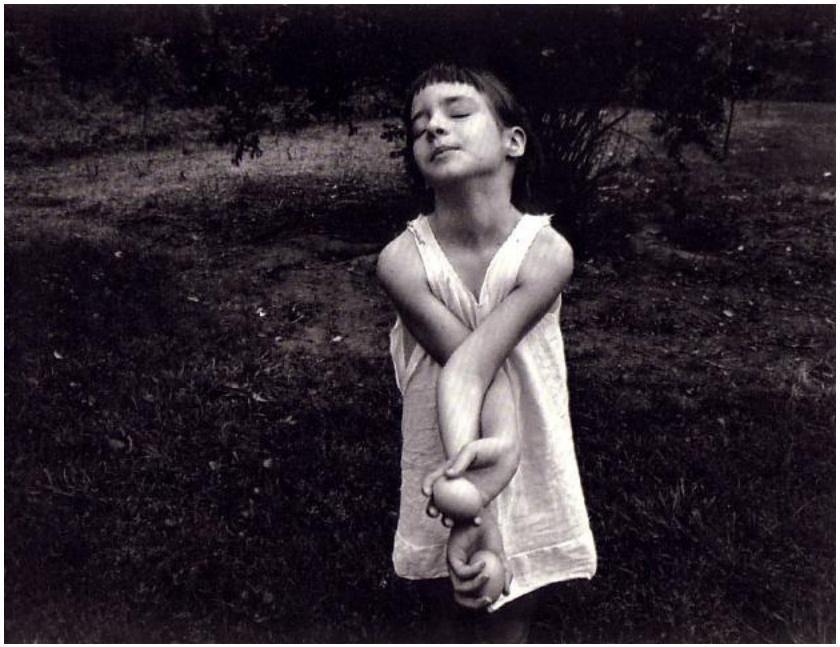
- ***Straight Lines tend to create a sense of rigidity or stiffness.***
- *They are less active, creating less visual movement than other lines.*

Notice the difference between the motion of the curved and straight lines in the photograph above.

Shape

- ***Shape is an area enclosed by line.***
- ***It is 2 dimensional (flat) and can be geometric or organic.***
- Geometric shapes are usually angular and appear frequently in man-made objects.
- Organic shapes are usually more rounded and appear most often in nature.





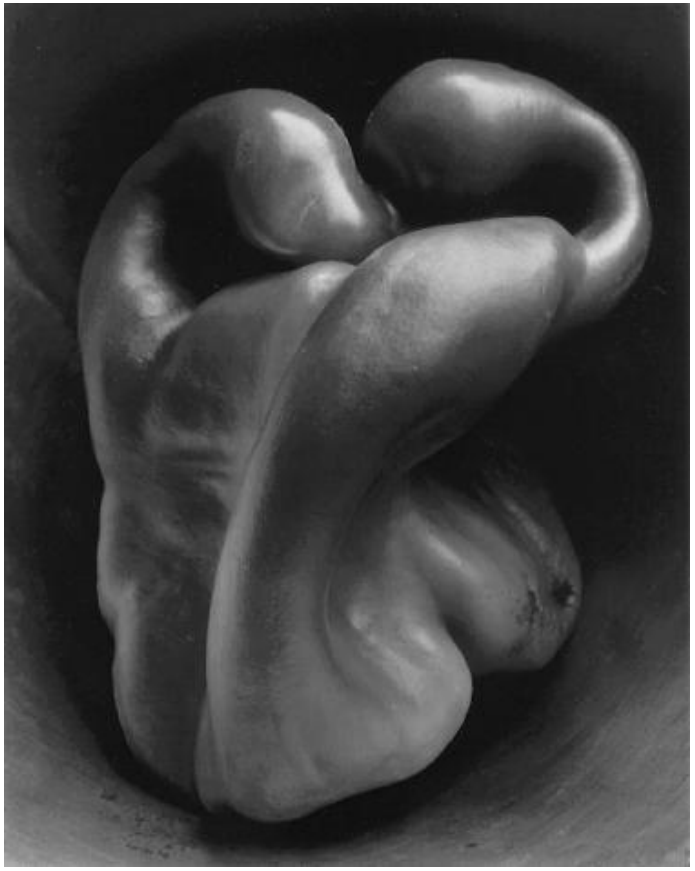
Geometric Shapes

- This photograph is all about geometric shapes, specifically squares and rectangles. This includes the spaces between the shapes as well.

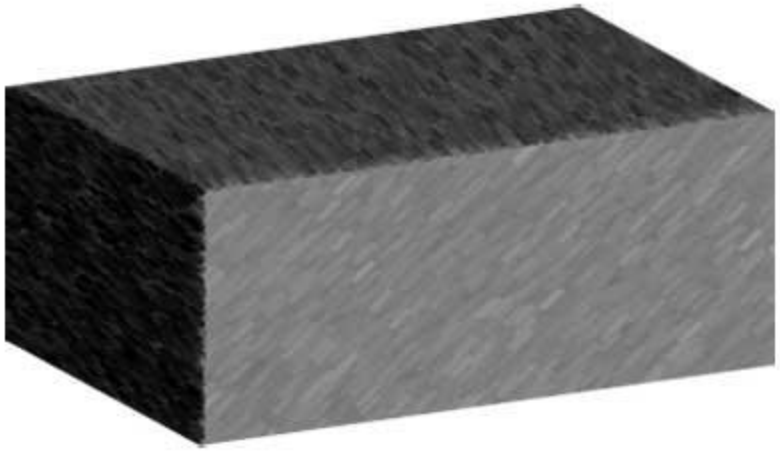
- Notice how the hard light and strong shadows also create shapes of their own.

Organic Shapes

- *Organic shapes are also called "freeform" shapes.*
- Note the curved, flowing edges of the shapes in this famous photograph by Edward Weston.
- Do these shapes remind you of anything else?



Form



- ***While a shape is a 2 dimensional object (having height and width), a form has 3 dimensions (height, width and depth).***
- The object to the left appears as though it is solid, therefore it is considered a form.

- Light creates the illusion of form in photographs.
- All photographs are two dimensional, but light and shadow trick the eye into seeing depth.

Space

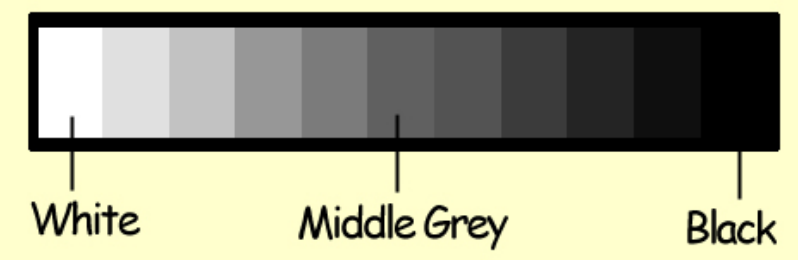
- How an artists uses Space or chooses NOT to use Space adds a great deal to a work of art.
- **Space is the area in or around the objects in an image.** Space is so important, that we have names for the types of Space in a work of art: Positive Space and Negative Space.
- ***Positive Space is the space created by an image or object.***
- ***Negative Space is the space around and between parts of an image or object.***

- The two men are the subject in the photograph on the right, therefore, they occupy the positive space.

- The building and more importantly, the line between them would then be the negative space.

- How does the negative space between them create visual tension?

Value



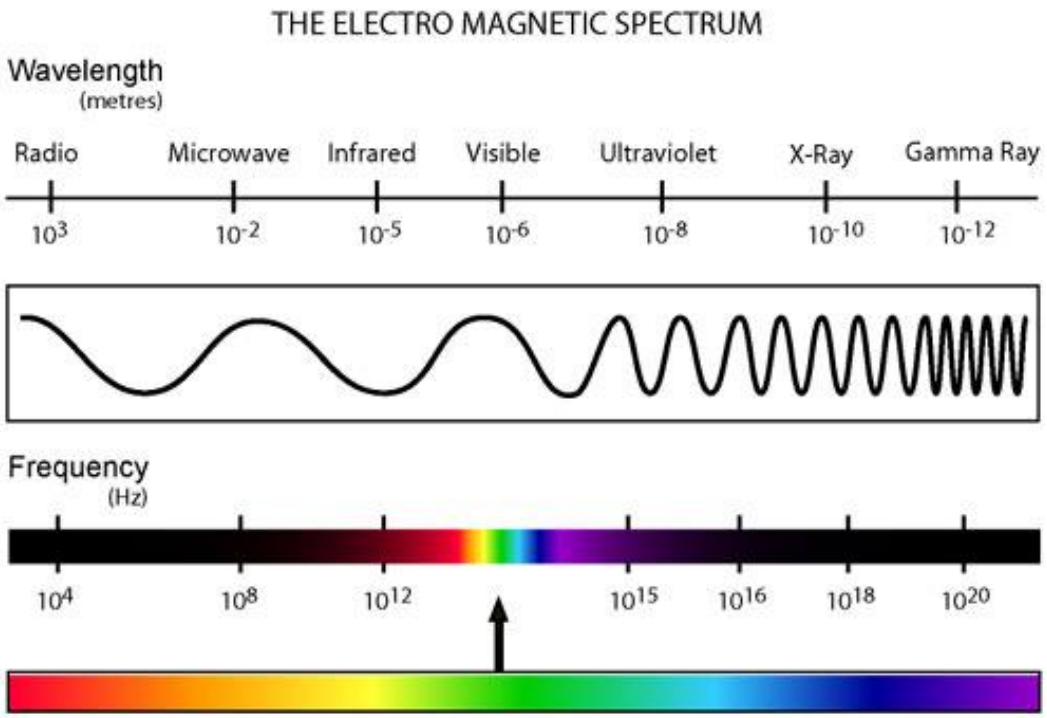
- ***Value refers to the lightness or darkness of a colour.***
- The benefits of knowing how to manage Value are very important to artists who work two-dimensional striving to make their subjects, or the objects in their work, "look" three-dimensional.
- Light effects a true three-dimensional object in unique ways. Artists work hard to reproduce these light effects in their works.

- The values, or tones of this photograph by Minor White range from bright white highlights to deep, rich shadows.
- Do the values seem realistic to you?
- If not, it is because this image was made using infra-red film which captures radiation outside of the visible spectrum.

High Key Vs. Low Key

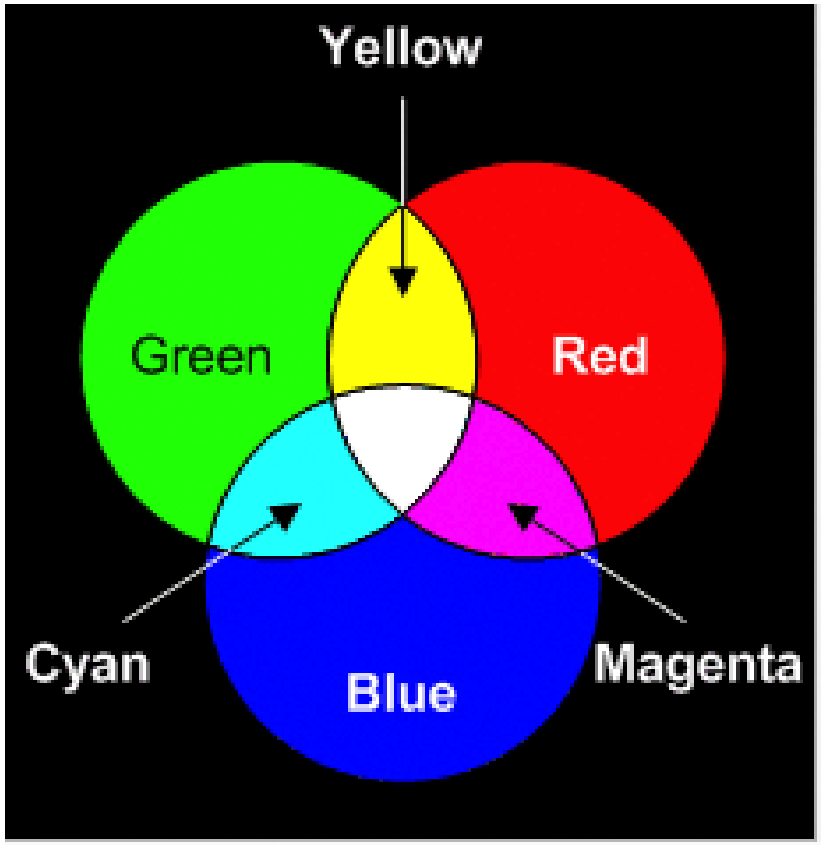
- Both photographs on the left have a limited range of values.
- ***The top image is white on white, or high key.***
- ***The bottom image is black on black, or low key.***
- How do the range of tones affect the feelings conveyed by the two images?

Colour



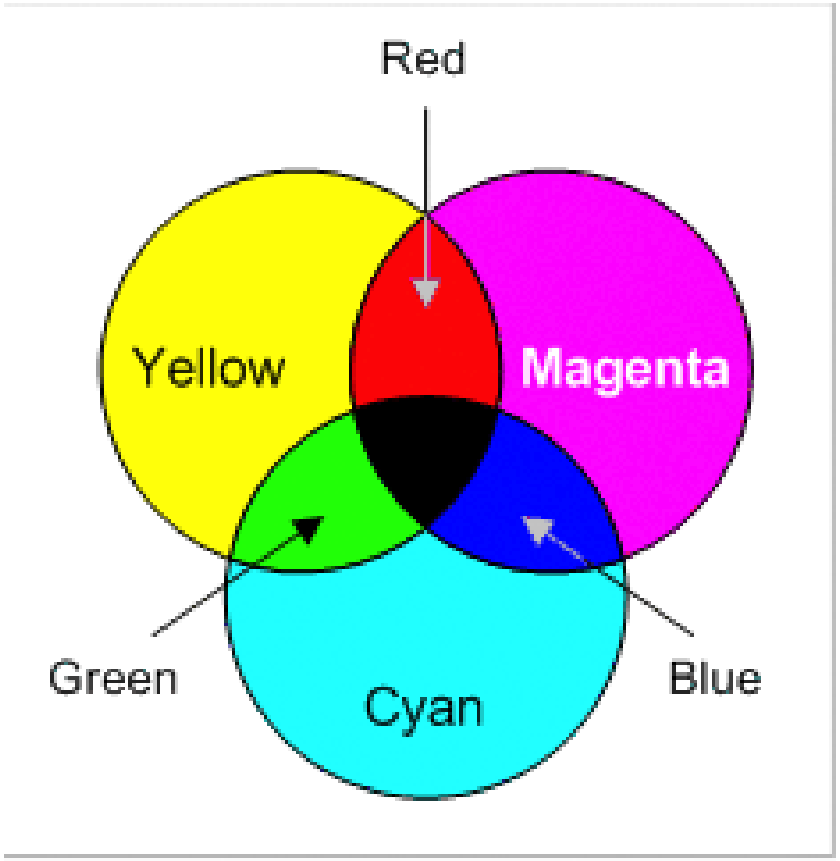
- **The visible spectrum is the portion of the electromagnetic spectrum that is visible to the human eye.**

- Electromagnetic radiation in this range of wavelengths is called visible light or simply light.



Additive (light)

- ***Additive Primary Colours of Light: RGB***
- In light, the primary colours which create white light are Red, Green and Blue.



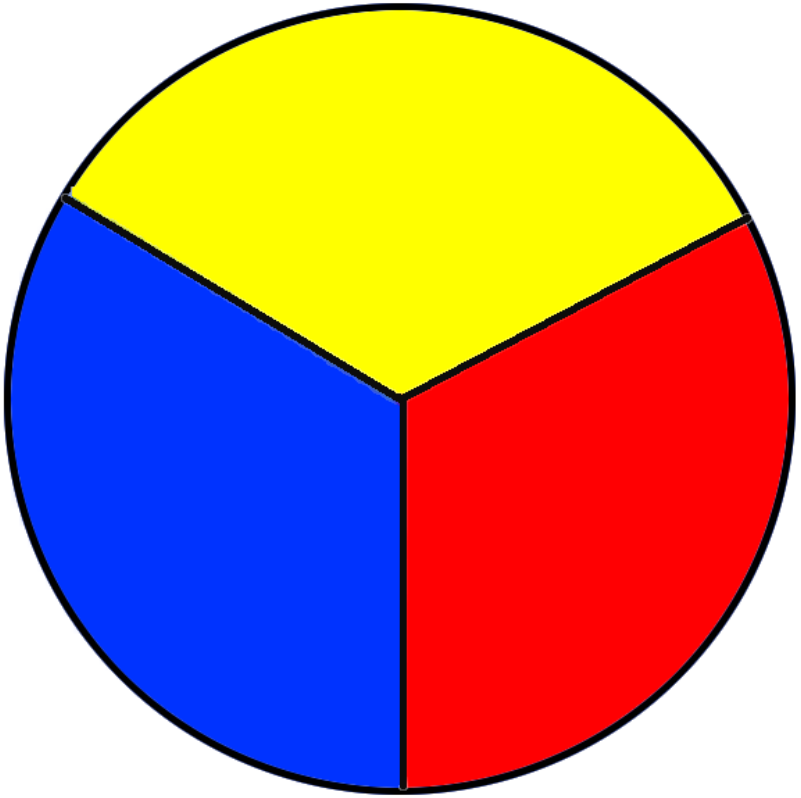
- ***Subtractive Primary Colours of Light: CMYK***
- When printing, the primary colors used are often Cyan, Magenta and Yellow.
- What do you think “K” stands for?

The Primary Colours of Pigment

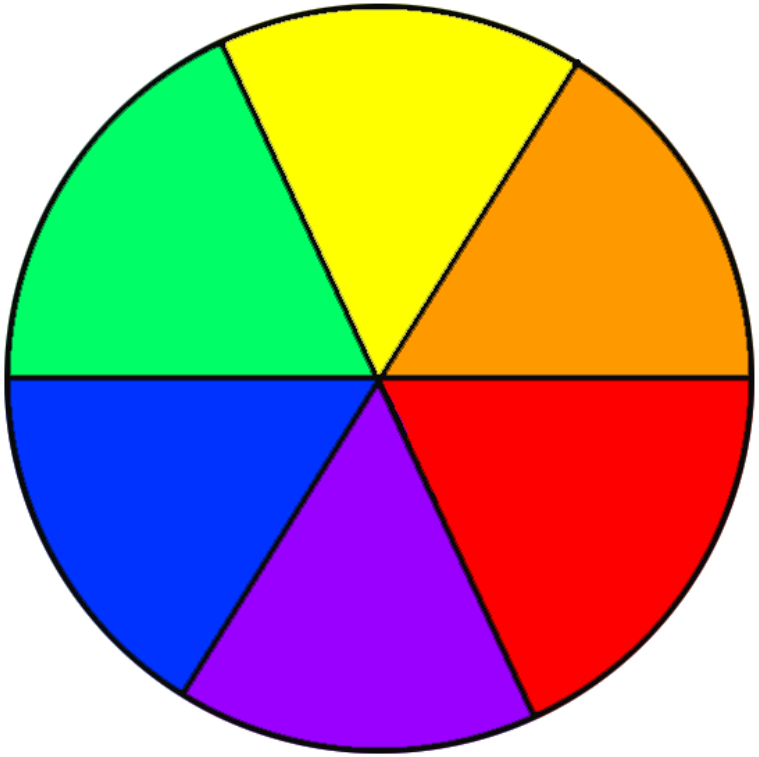
Red, Yellow & Blue

- ***In colour theory, these are the 3 pigment colours that can not be mixed or formed by any combination of other colours.***

- All other colours are derived from these 3 hues.



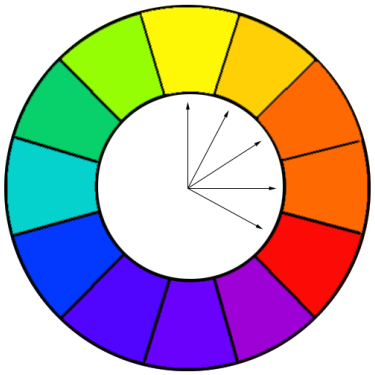
The Secondary Colours of Pigment
Green, Orange and Purple/Violet



- ***These are the colours formed by mixing the primary colours.***
- Notice that the secondary colours are located between the two primary colours that made them.
- For instance, blue and yellow make green, and red and blue make violet.

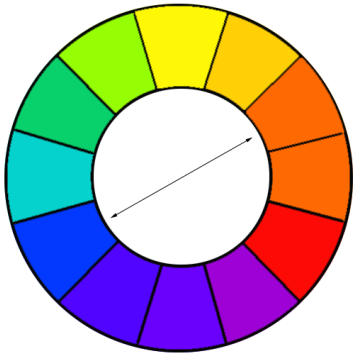
The Analogous Colour Scheme

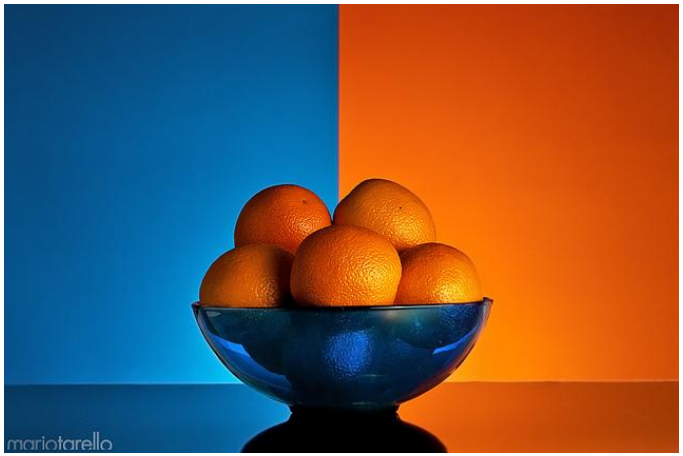
(An analogy is a similarity between like features of two things)



- ***Analogous colours are any 3 or 4 colours which are side by side on a 12 part colour wheel.***

Complementary colous
(Opposites)





- ***Complementary colours are any two colours which are directly opposite each other on the colour wheel, such as red and green and purple and yellow.***

Monochromatic Colour Scheme
(Mono = One)

- The photograph on the right was made with one colour.
- The shadows and highlights were made by mixing that colour with white and black.
- This is referred to as changing the value of a colour.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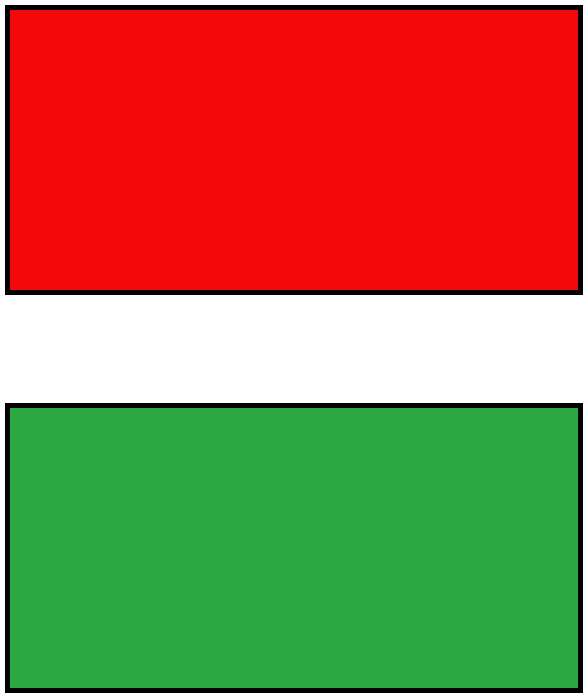
There are three properties of colour:

Hue

Intensity/ Saturation

Value

Hue

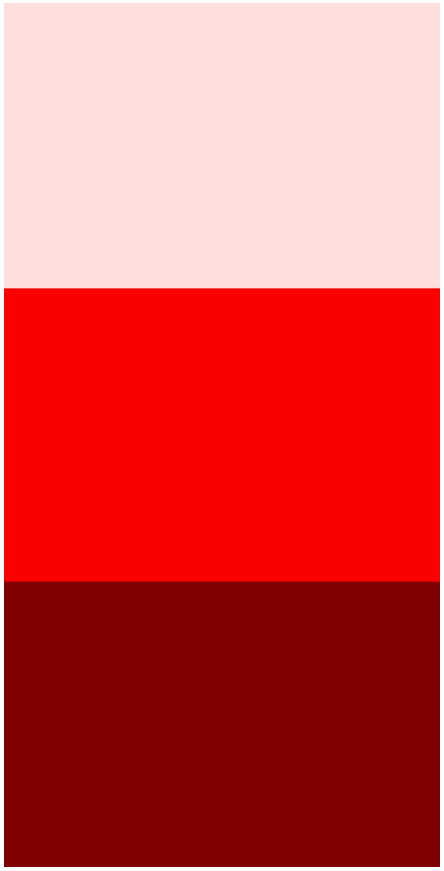


- Hue is a synonym for colour.
- On the left there are two hues, red and green.

Intensity/ Saturation

- ***Intensity or purity is the saturation of a specific hue.***
- A highly saturated hue has a vivid, intense colour, while a less saturated hue appears more muted and grey.
- With no saturation at all, the hue becomes a shade of grey.

Value

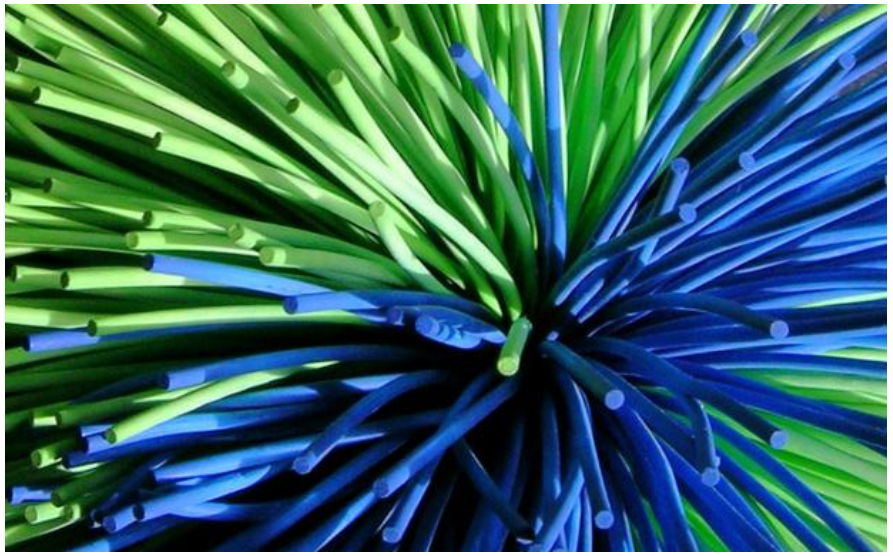


- As we saw earlier in the monochromatic teacup painting, value is changed by adding white or black to a single colour.
- **When white is added to a colour it is called a *tint*.**
- **When black is added to a colour it is called a *shade*.**

Warm Vs. Cool Colours

- ”Warm" colours describe daylight or sunset and the "cool" colours relate to a gray or overcast day.
- Warm colours are hues from red through yellow, browns and tans included. Cool colours are the hues from blue green through blue violet, most grays included.

Texture



- ***Visual Texture is the illusion of a three-dimensional surface. It refers to the way something feels or appears to feel.***

- We use our hands to feel real Texture. Think about what you feel when you run your hands over the bark of a tree. Now think about what the surface of a piece of sandpaper feels like.

- These objects have real Texture, texture you can feel as well as see. Artists strive very hard to imitate the look and feel of real Texture in works of art.

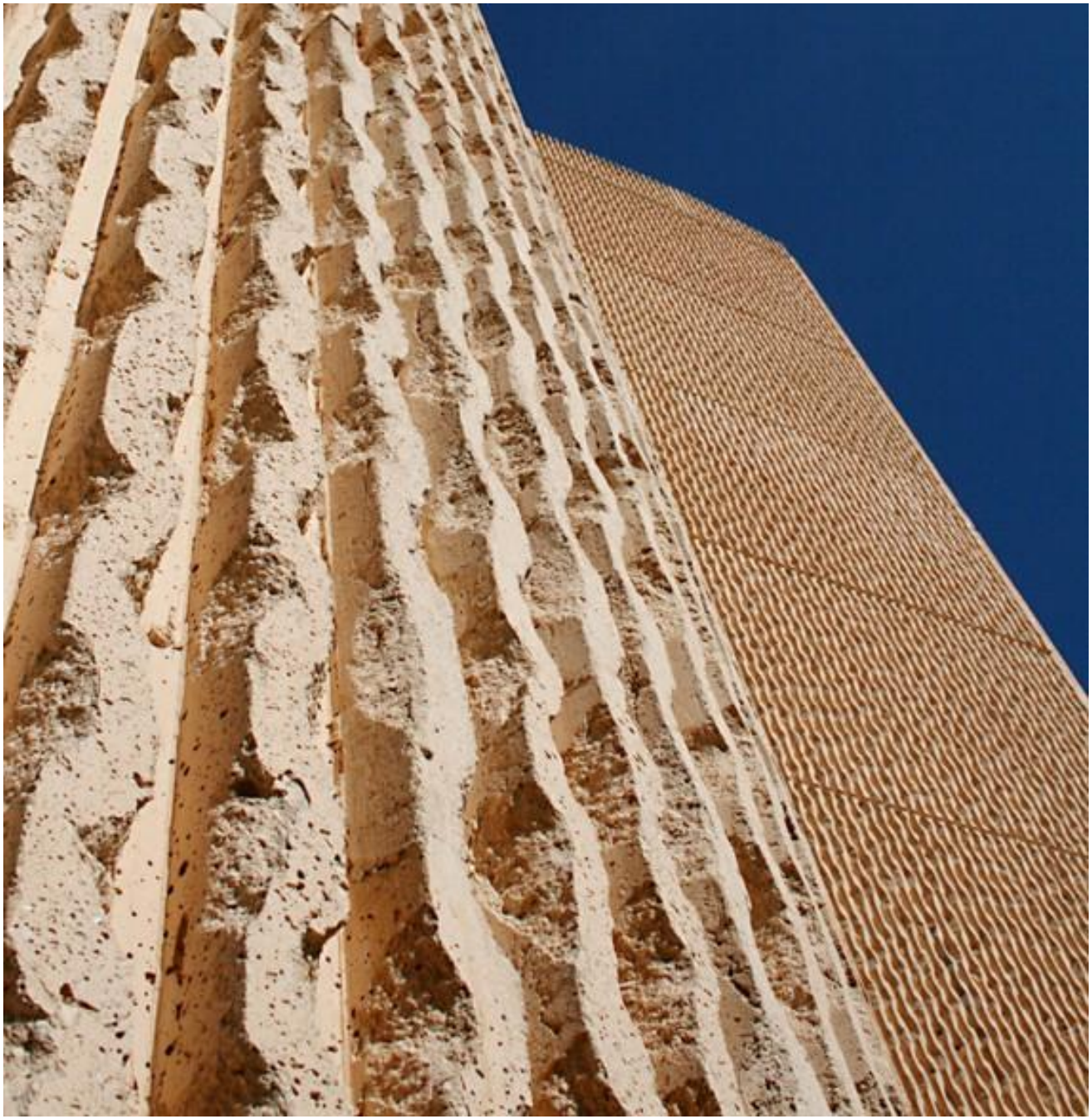
- Side Lighting
- **When light hits an object from the side it enhances its texture.**
- Look at how the dimples on the golf ball are exaggerated by the lighting.
- When would side lighting be inappropriate?

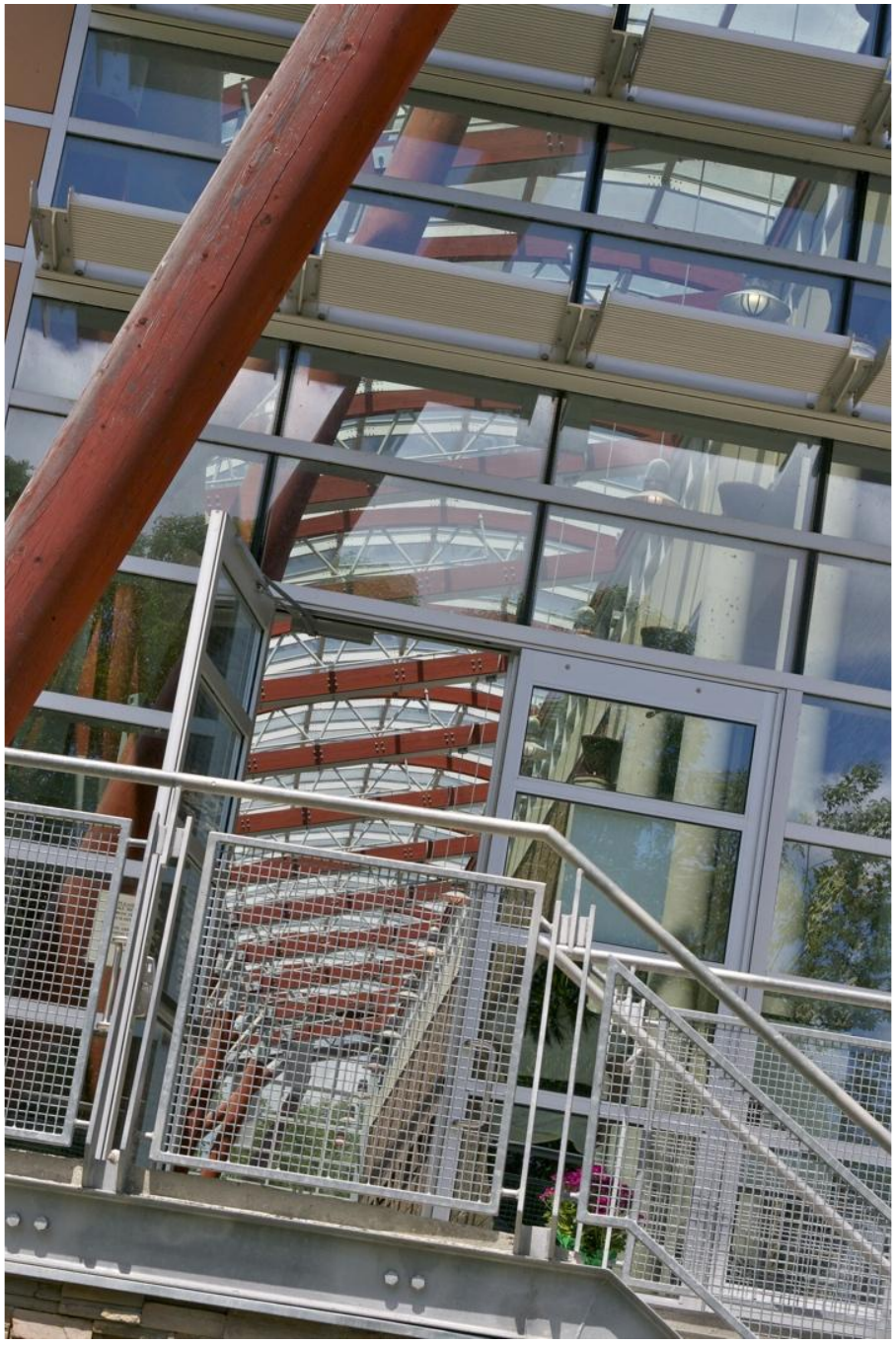

1957
D

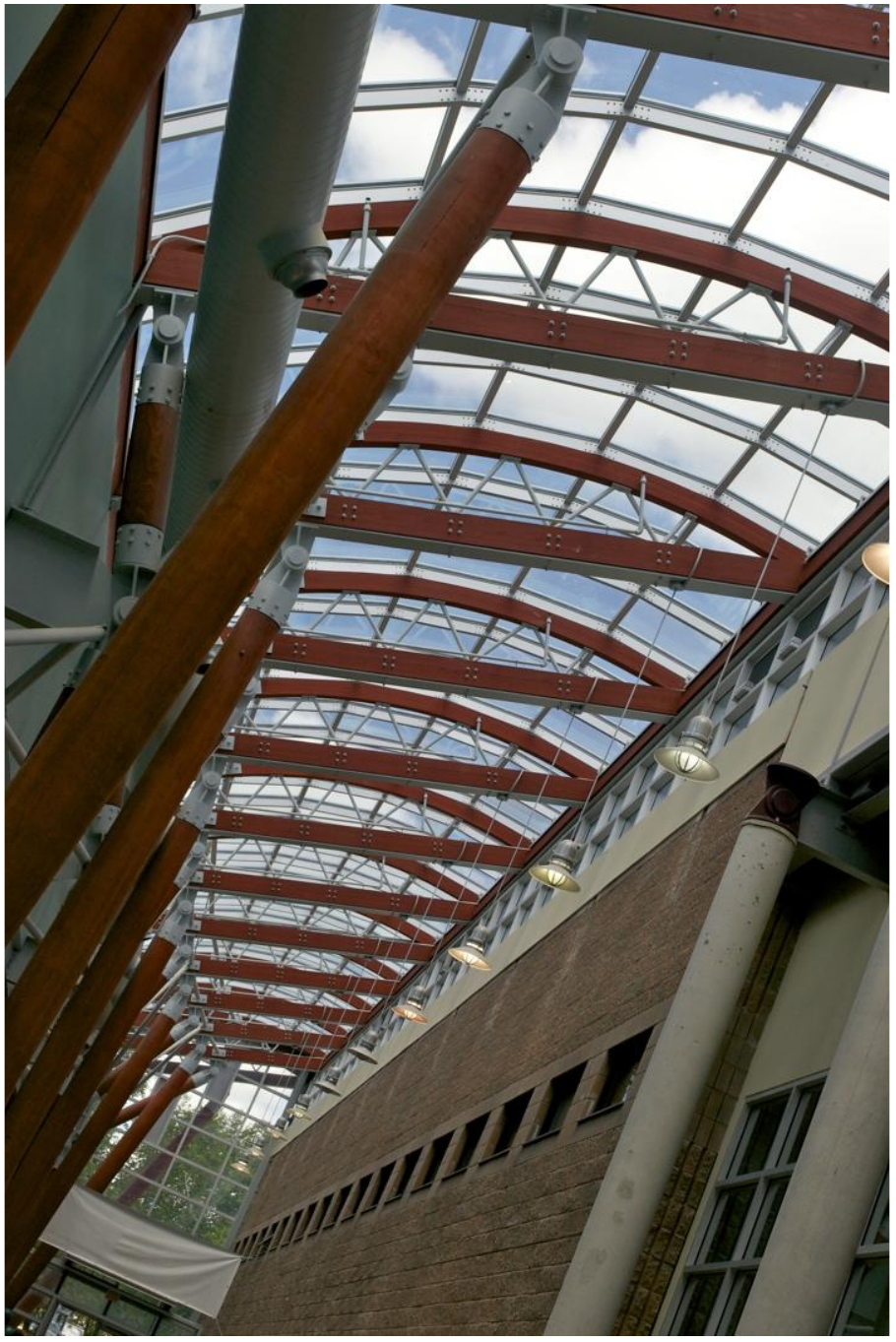
Can you identify the ELEMENTS OF ART?


christian
mello
photography


CHOOSE from WARM and COOL color sets







The End