

Armature for a Painting

What is art:

To evoke in oneself a feeling one has experienced, and then, by means of movements, lines, colors, sounds, or forms expressed in words, so to transmit that feeling, this is the activity of art. Leo Tolstoy

Making art is selectively recreating reality. Great works of art use the power of exaggeration, refinement of lines, distortion of image, formalization of shapes to balance the whole as needed for communication of ideas.

We all know that Art is not truth. Art is a lie that makes us realize truth. Pablo Picasso

To give a body and a perfect form to one's thought, this, and only this, is to be an artist. Jacques-Louis David

Composition According to Henri Matisse

"Composition is the art of arranging in a decorative manner the diverse elements at the painter's command to express his feelings."

We should remember that a picture before being a war horse, a nude woman, or telling a story, is essentially a flat surface covered with colors arranged in a particular order. Maurice Denis

A review of the emotional effect of lines:

Horizontal lines are calming and often denote the eye level point of the picture, also known as the horizon line

Diagonal lines denote movement. They can be masculine, aggressive, active, they grab attention. The greater the slope, the greater the sense of activity and instability.

Vertical lines create balance, are stately and dignified

Curves create enclosures and are warm

Triangle is very stable

The triangle turned on its point is unstable and creates tension

The square is a poor choice for an image requiring movement

Circle is protective and inclusive

A generic armature for use in art is basically a grid template. The skeleton under the painting. It is part of the construction lines, which we do not blatantly see in a finished painting, but we use when composing a painting. If I were to compare the composition of a painting to a book, in the book it would be represented by Prologue, Chapters, Climax, and punctuation. The armature is the outline.

Focus or the Emphasis of the painting: The viewer's eye ultimately wants to rest on the "most important" thing or focal point in the painting, otherwise the eye feels lost, wandering around in space.

The Rule of Thirds:

Is a compositional rule of thumb in visual arts such as painting, photography, and design. The rule states that an image should be imagined as divided into nine equal-space horizontal lines and two equally-spaced vertical lines. Important compositional elements should be placed along these lines or their intersections.

The aggregate shape is essentially the container for the objects in a drawing.