

# Visual Elements and Principles of Art

AAG Training, September 12, 2018





# Smart History: How art can help you analyze

By TedEd



Pien Shou-min, Pea Pods, from an album of vegetables, Chinese, date unknown



Benjamin West, *Destruction of the Beast and the False Prophet*, 1804

## Elements of Art

Line

Shape and Form

Space

Color

Value

Texture

Medium

## Principles of Art

Balance

Emphasis

Harmony/Unity

Variety

Gradation

Movement

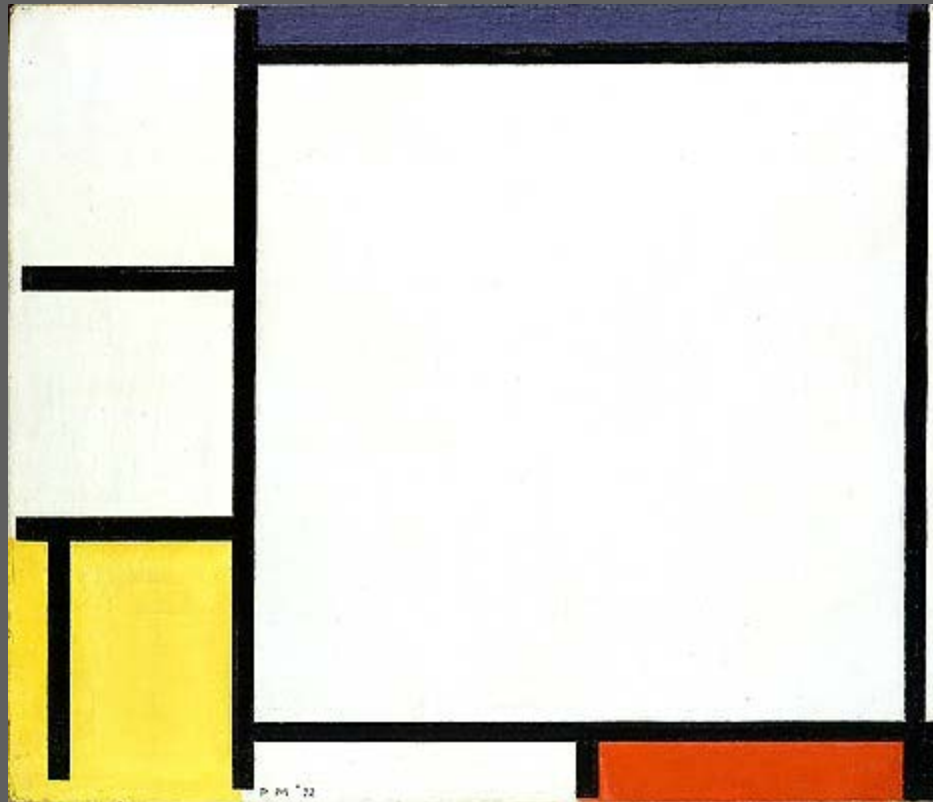
Rhythm

Proportion





Olmec, Mask, Mexico 900-300 BCE



Piet Mondrian, *Composition with Red, Yellow, and Blue*, 1922

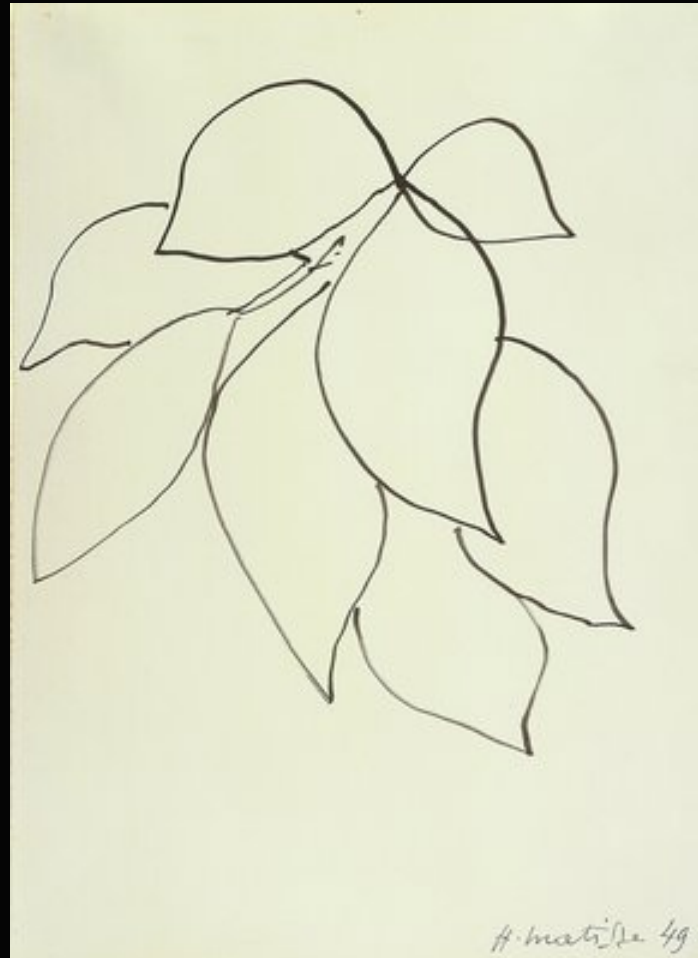




Naturalism -----Abstract

# Line

A continuous mark made on some surface by a moving point





Henri Matisse, Woman with Folded Hands, 1918-1919, pen and ink on paper



Henri Matisse, *Jazz*, 1947



Richard Misrach, Clothesline, Salton Sea, 1983, photograph





China, Kuan-yin,  
571, black  
marble





Chou Dynasty, Pendant of a Dancer



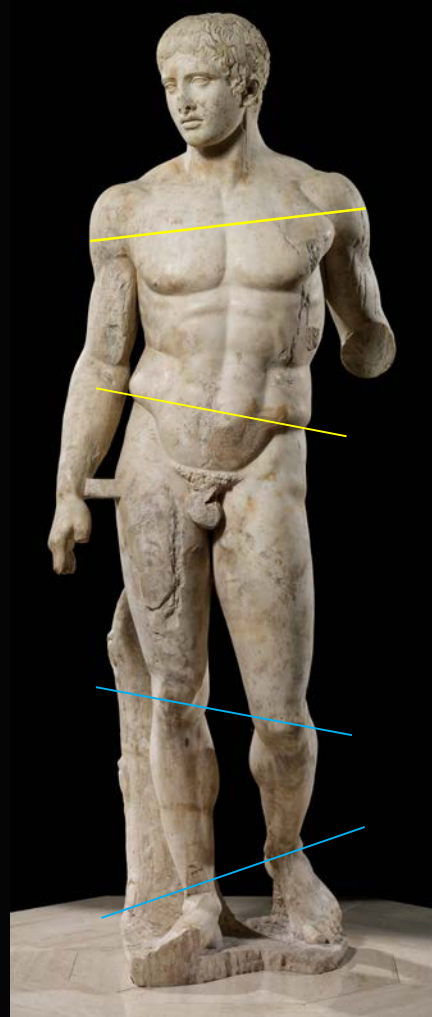
Han Dynasty, Long-sleeved



Quapaw vessel, about 1500



Richard Riemerschmid, Chamberstick, 1898, brass



Doryphoros, 120-50 BCE



Japanese, *Ni-o Guardian Figure*

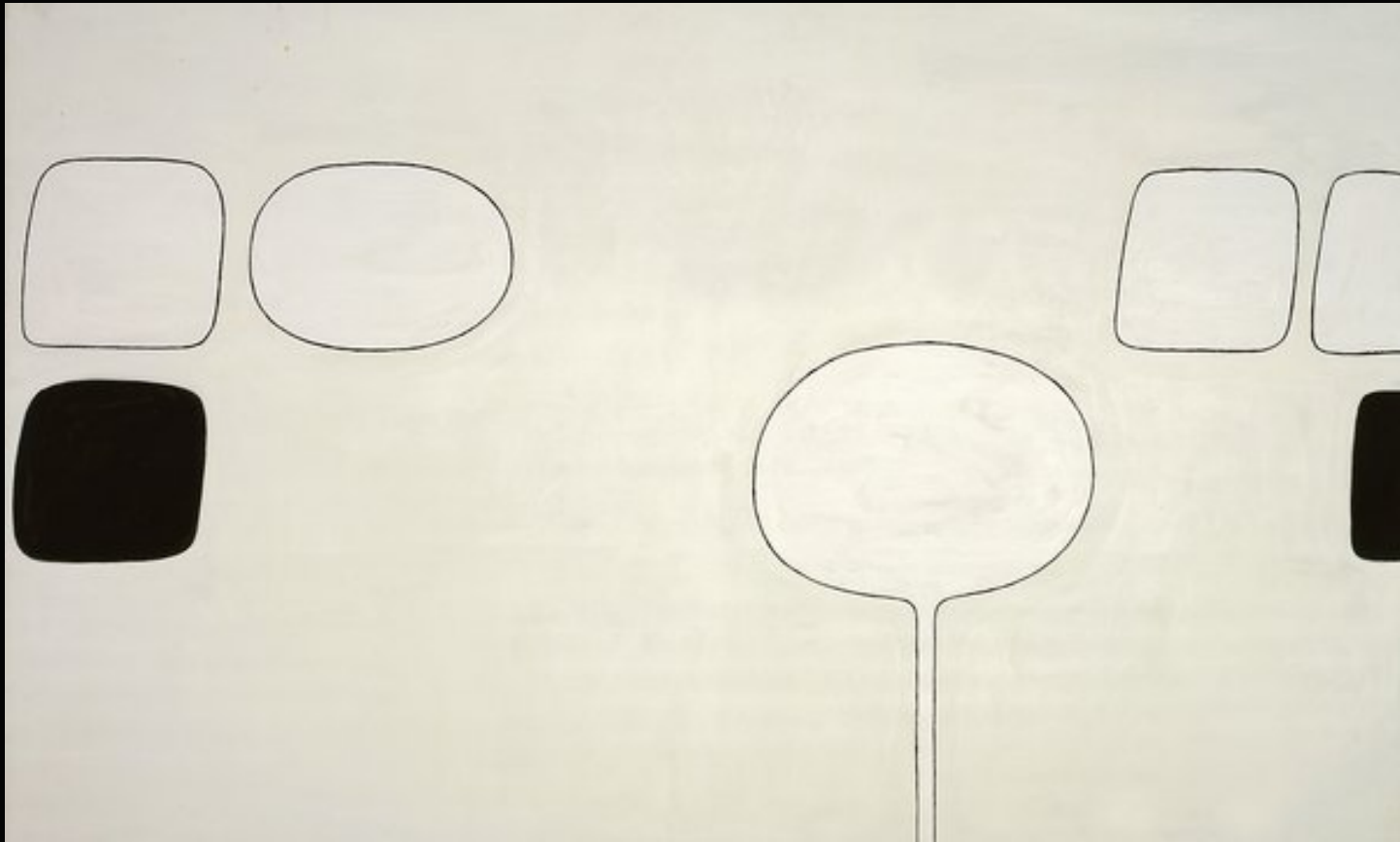


Cambodian, *Head of a Buddha*



# Shape

Two-dimensional: Height and Width







Edvard Munch, *The Kiss*, 1902, color woodcut



Edward Weston, *Church Door, Hornitos*, 1940, gelatin silver print



# Form

Three-dimensional: Height, Width and Depth





Tony Berlant, Tzadakah box, *Pacific, American*, 1999





Olla, Casa Grandes, 1250-1300, earthenware



Giorgio Morandi, *Still Life*, 1942



# Space

Space: the distance or area between, around, above, below, or within things, related to shape and form





Raffaello Monty, *Veiled Lady*, Italian, 1860



Louis Henri Sullivan,  
pair of elevator grills,  
1893-4

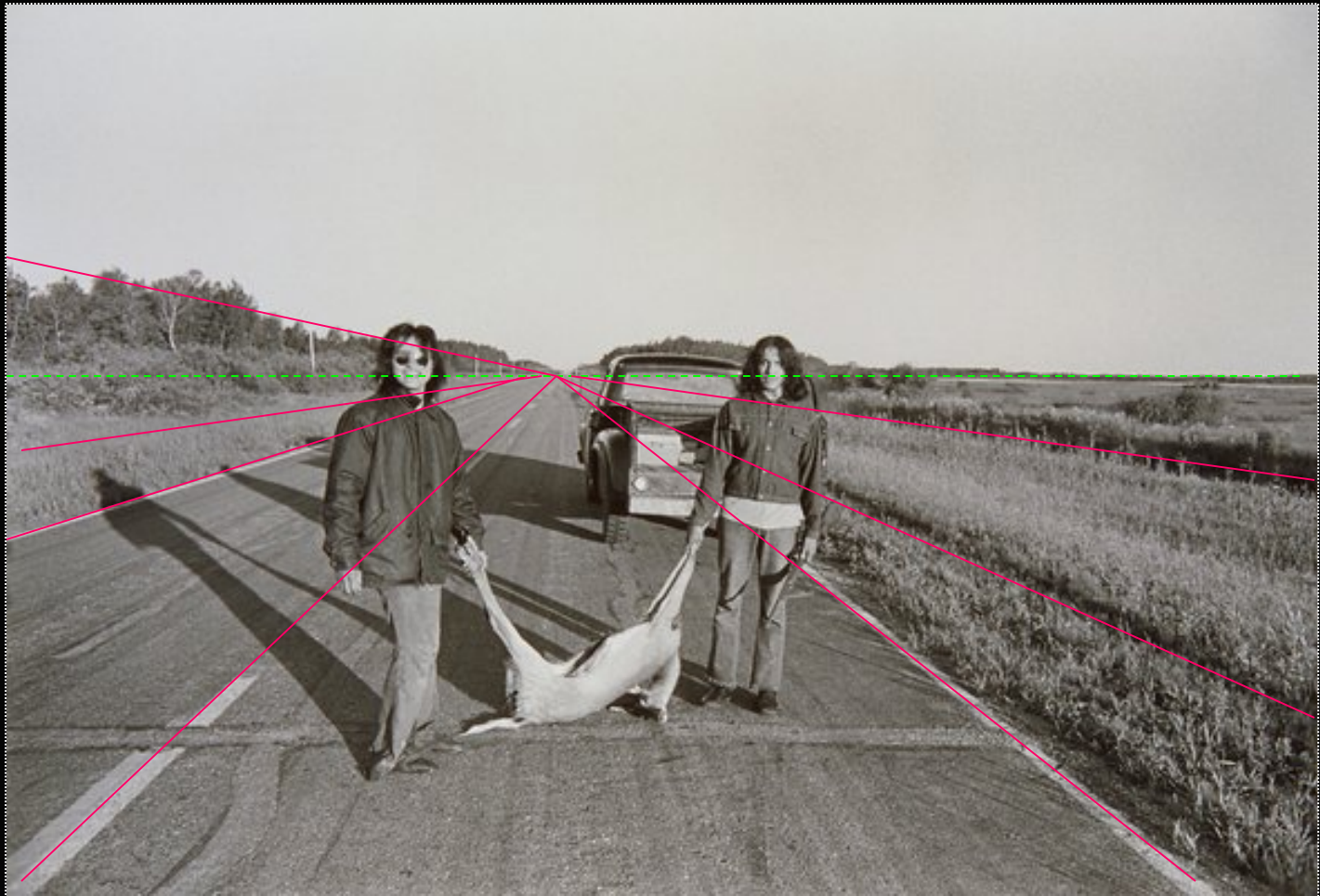
# Space and perspective - implied depth



White Mice, Shibata Zeshen, Japan, 1880, color woodblock print



Jonas Dovydenas, Deer Hunters, Red Lake, Minnesota, 1973



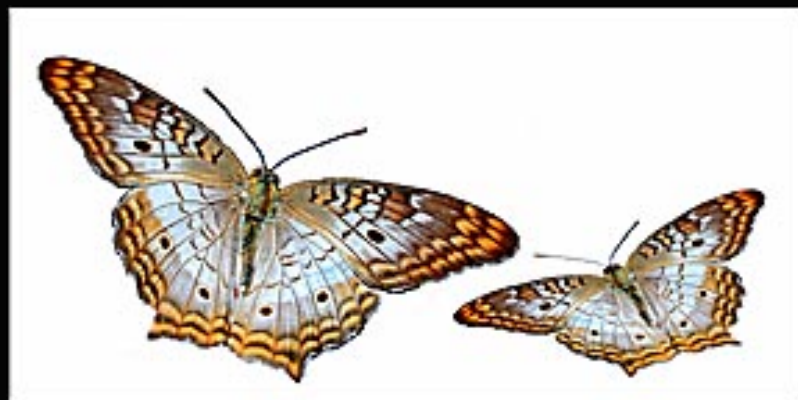






Master of the Embroidered Foliage, Virgin and Child, Flemish, 1480







Abraham Bloemaert, *Sheperd Boy Pointing at Tobias and the Angel*, Dutch, 17<sup>th</sup> century







Hiroshi Sugito, untitled, oil on canvas, 2014



Berenice Abbott, *New York at Night*



*New York*



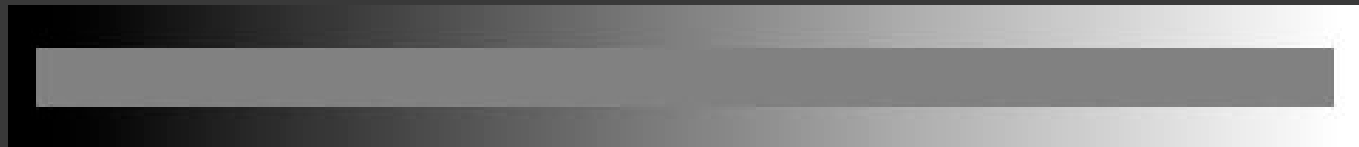
Rembrandt, *Lucretia*, 1666



# Value

Black and white and all the variations in between.







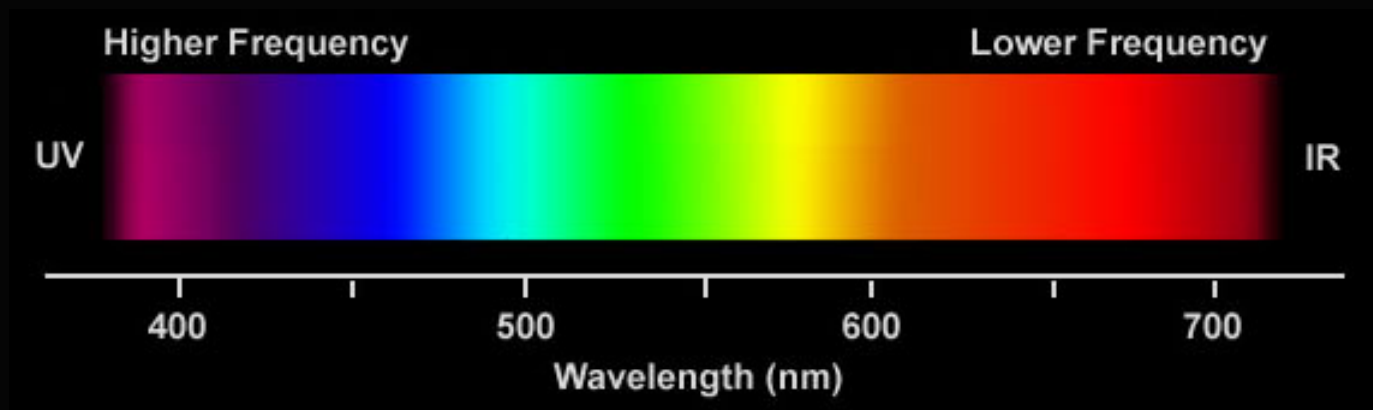


Rembrandt van Rijn, Christ with the Sick around Him, Receiving Little Children, about 1642-45, etching and drypoint



# Color







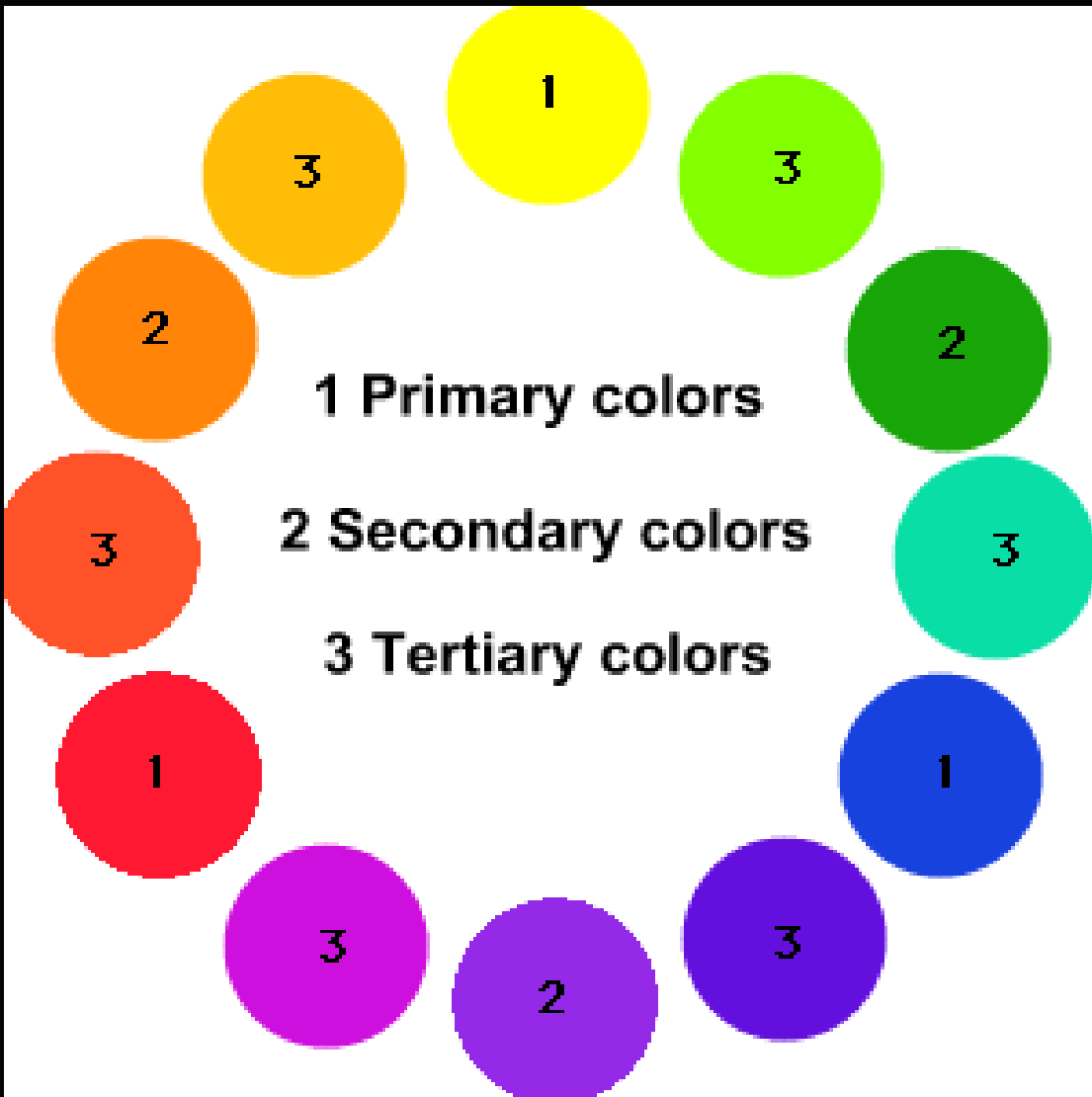
The Sun gives off "white" light, a mixture of all the colors in the spectrum.

RED light

GREEN light

BLUE light

We see the color GREEN.





Grace Hartigan, Billboard, 1957



Alfred Sisley, Le Pont de Moret, French, 1888





Claude Monet, Grainstack, sun through the mist, French 1891



Frank Stella, Tahkt-I-Sullayman, Variation II, American, 1969

## Color Value - lightness or darkness



James Ensor, The Intrigue, Belgian, 1911





James Ensor, Meadow Flowers, 1883

# Color Saturation



Bob Thompson, Homage to Nina Simone, 1966



Eva Gonzales, Lady with a Fan, 1869-70



# Local and Optical Color



Francisco Goya, Portrait of Dr. Arrieta, Spanish, 1820



Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Seated Woman, German, 1908-10

# Texture

The surface quality or feel of an object—the tactile value of something







Van Gogh, *Olive  
Trees*, Dutch, 1889



Pieter Claesz, *Still Life*, Dutch, 1643







# Principles of Art

The guidelines for putting the visual elements together





Edgar Brandt, Firescreen, French 1923



Utamaro Kitagawa, Sparrows on a bamboo branch, Japan, 1781-1806, woodblock print



Monks of Gyuto University, Yamantaka Mandala, 1991



Ernest Whiteman, Untitled, 1991



Ka Zoua Lee, Hmong Story Blanket, Laos, 20<sup>th</sup> century





Senoufo, Granary Door, 19<sup>th</sup> century, wood and pigment



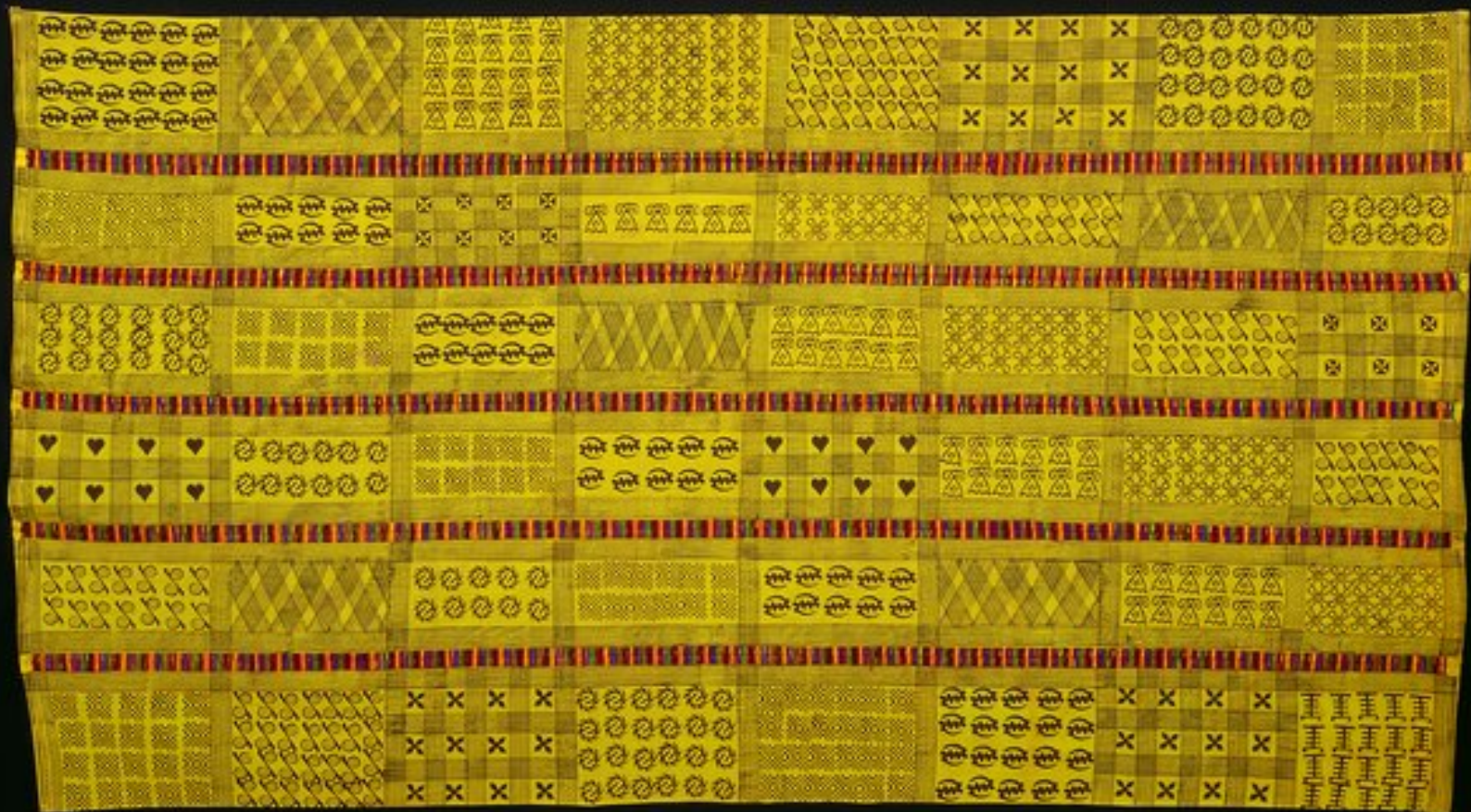
China, Funerary Model of A Pavilion  
Han Dynasty



Kate Harris, Presentation Cup, 1901



Ijaw Memorial Screen, Nigeria



Akan, Men's Wrapper, Ghana

No Class September 19

Visual Thinking Strategies  
September 26