

Perspective Vocabulary

Space: an element of art that indicates areas between, around, above, below or within something.

Picture Plane: the flat surface of a painting or drawing

Volume: the interior space of an object

Framing: Establishes the limits of the picture plane

Eye-Level: a horizontally drawn line that is even with the viewer's eye. In landscape scenes it can be the actual horizon line.

Linear Perspective: A technique of creating the illusion of depth on a flat surface.

One-Point Perspective: a way to show three dimensional objects on a two dimensional surface using one vanishing point.

Two-Point Perspective: a way to show three dimensional objects on a two dimensional surface using two vanishing points and two sets of converging lines to represent forms

Bird's Eye Perspective: View from above a city or landscape.

Converge: where the lines touch or meet

Overlapping: drawing shapes so that they appear to be in front of or behind other shapes to imply depth in a work of art

Figure-Ground: the perceptual tendency to divide visual patterns into two kinds of shapes with the figure(s) appearing to be on top of and surrounded by, the ground. Figure and ground are often referred to as positive shape and negative shape.

Aerial/Atmospheric Perspective: the diminishing of color intensities to lighter and duller hues to give the illusion of depth

Vanishing Point: in a composition featuring linear perspective, that spot on the horizon toward which parallel lines appear to converge and at which they seem to disappear

Horizon Line: line dividing the foreground from the background

Foreground, Middle ground, Background planes

Overlapping: placement of objects on top of another Size

Variation: combining similar objects of different sizes. The smaller objects appear farther away than the larger ones.

Value: lighter values recede behind darker values.

Horizontal Line: A line that goes left to right

Vertical Line: A line that goes from top to bottom

Orthogonal Line: The lines that go from object to the vanishing point