

# COMPOSITION



- ▶ “Good composition is like a suspension bridge – each line adds strength and takes none away”
  - ▶ Robert Henri American visual artist

# COMPOSITION



- ▶ "Composition gives proper meaning to the natural streams of sound that penetrate the world."
- ▶ -Toru Takemitsu, Japanese composer

# COMPOSITION





- ▶ At some point during the creative process, the artist must integrate discrete forms conceived in the imagination into an artistic work or performance



# COMPOSITION

- ▶ 1) the organization of forms within a compositional field to convey the artistic expression;
- ▶ 2) the aesthetic organization of matter, energy, space, and the time within compositional parameters;
- ▶ 3) the material expression of conceptions through compositional arrangement;
- ▶ 4) the format or schema used to guide a formal artistic arrangement.

# COMPOSITION

- ▶ Whereas form is a seed of the artist's ultimate vision, composition represents the orchestrated growth and coordination of these forms into coherent artistic work.
- ▶ Composition is the intentional and material basis by which the artist expresses forms into a superform or performance.

# COMPOSITION



▶ **Media**

- ▶ Serves as the materials, sensations (sounds, touch), and symbols used to express forms and performances

▶ **Compositional Space**

- ▶ Provides the field in which forms & performances are manifest

▶ **Arrangement**

- ▶ Configures forms into formal configurations, patterns, variations & contrast

▶ **Perspective**

- ▶ Establishes technical, physical, psychological, spiritual, & emotional relationships and affinity among forms

▶ **Balance**

- ▶ Regulates the degree of symmetry, harmony, and proportion among the forms of composition

▶ **Focus**

- ▶ Directs attention to specific forms or performances of a composition

▶ **Rhythm/Movement**

- ▶ Depicts action or suggested action of forms moving through space and time

# COMPOSITIONAL ELEMENTS & FUNCTIONS



- ▶ Compositional space
  - ▶ The actual or imaginal field in which forms are arranged to express an artistic composition
  - ▶ The temporal dimensions in which a performance takes place
- ▶ For Michelangelo, a block of marble represented both the compositional field and the medium. Michelangelo made careful study of each block before he set his chisel to it to determine if the stone contain his composition
  - ▶ “the stone cannot release an image which it does not inherently contain”

# COMPOSITIONAL SPACE



- ▶ Area activated by compositional elements
- ▶ space relationships



COMPOSITIONAL SPACE

# What is Positive Space in Art?

- Technical definition: the areas of an artwork that IS the primary subject or object. **Positive Space** defines the subjects outline.

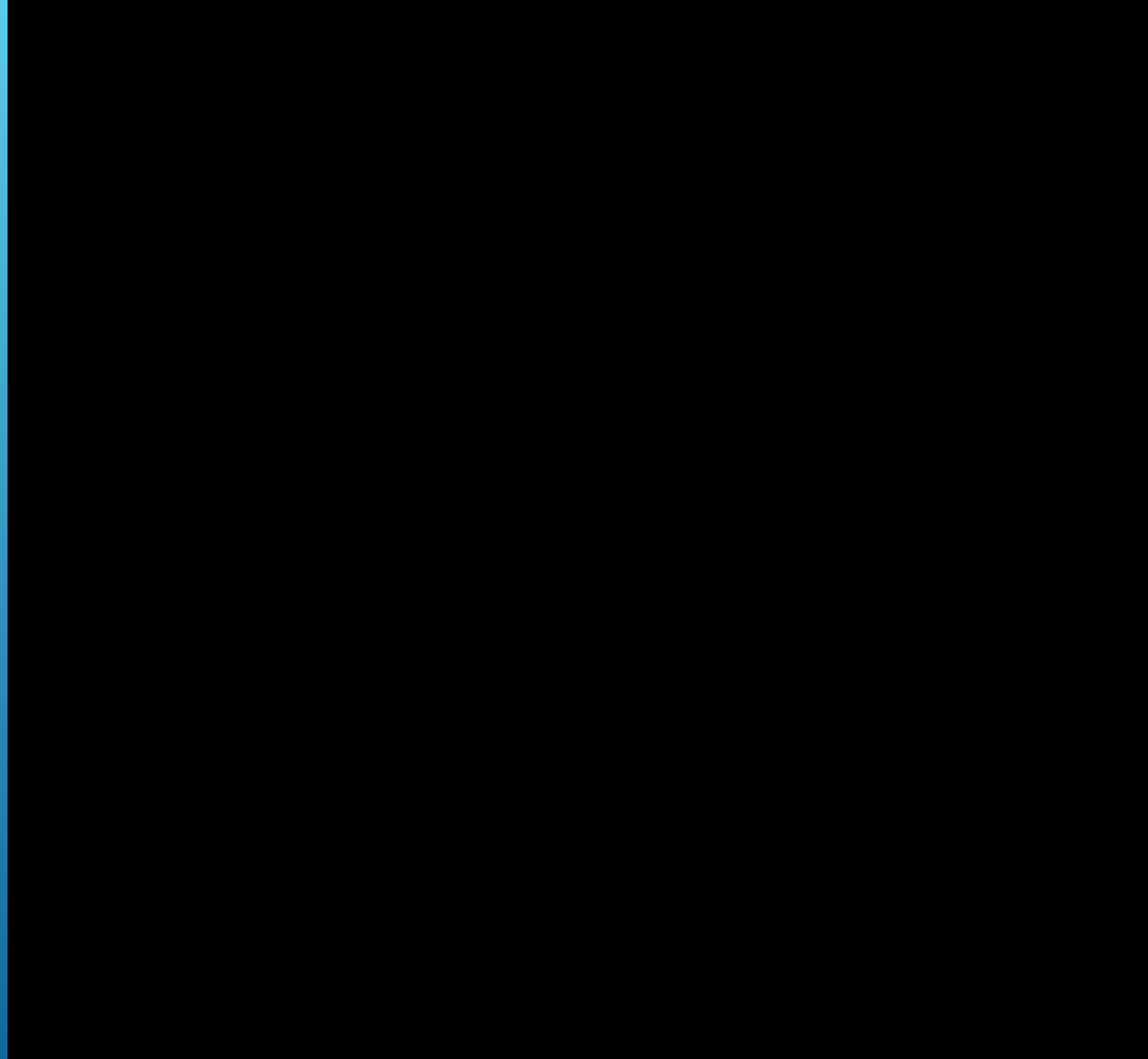


- ▶ Arrangement
- ▶ The juxtaposition of forms within a compositional space to express artistic intention
- ▶ The aesthetic placement of forms within the horizontal and vertical planes, foreground, middle ground, and background
- ▶ In performance the moment to moment repositioning of primary, secondary, and incidental performances within the space

# ARRANGEMENT

- ▶ The artistic perspective is a point of view or attitude that an artist adopts in the expression of a composition
- ▶ A perspective can be an emotional attitude, a psychological attitude, a spiritual attitude

# PERSPECTIVE



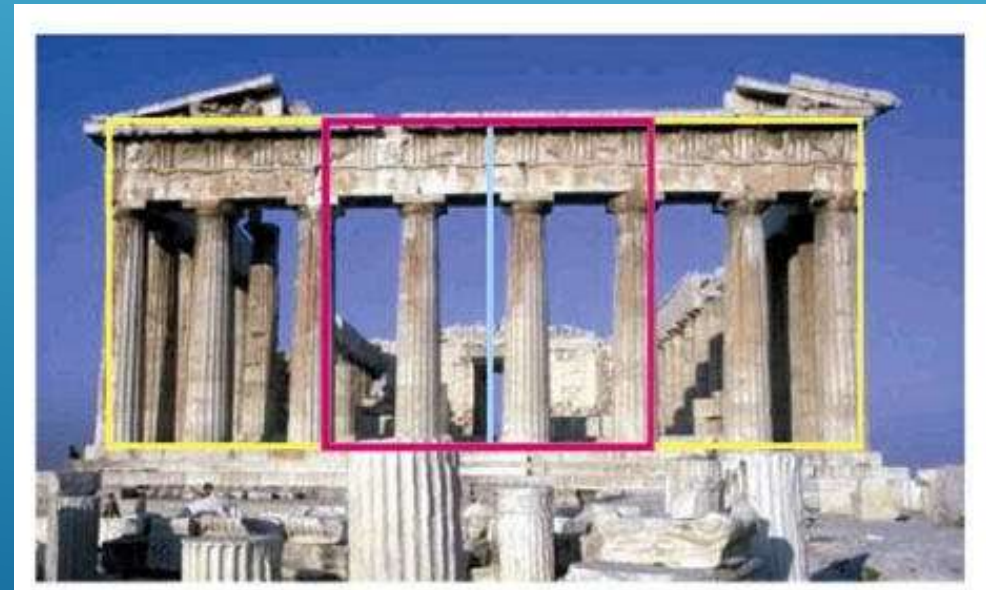
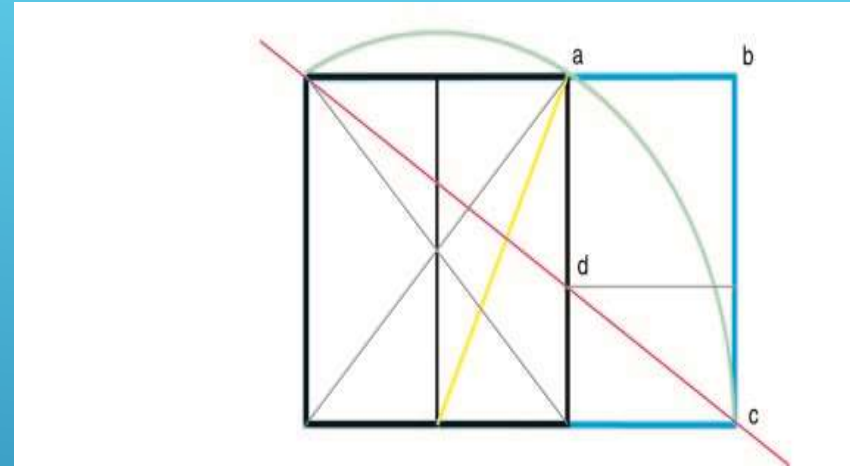


- ▶ Balance is the degree to which expressive forms and arrangements of a composition are harmonized in relationship to one another

# BALANCE

# BALANCE & PROPORTION

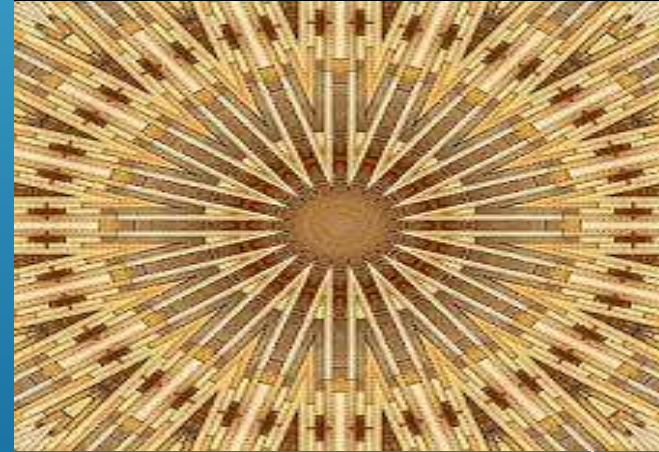
- ▶ Size relationship or ratio
- ▶ Outer dimensions have a relationship to internal divisions and alignments



▶ **Asymmetrical balance:** where equilibrium is achieved by the balance differences in the art elements within a composition.

▶ **Symmetrical balance:** where the art elements in a composition are balanced in a mirror-like fashion (it does not have to be exact but close).

▶ **Radial balance:** a kind of balance where the elements branch or radiate out from a central point.



THE THREE MAJOR FORMS OF BALANCE:

- ▶ Contrast – juxtaposing contrasting forms and their arrangements introduces tension and conflict into the composition

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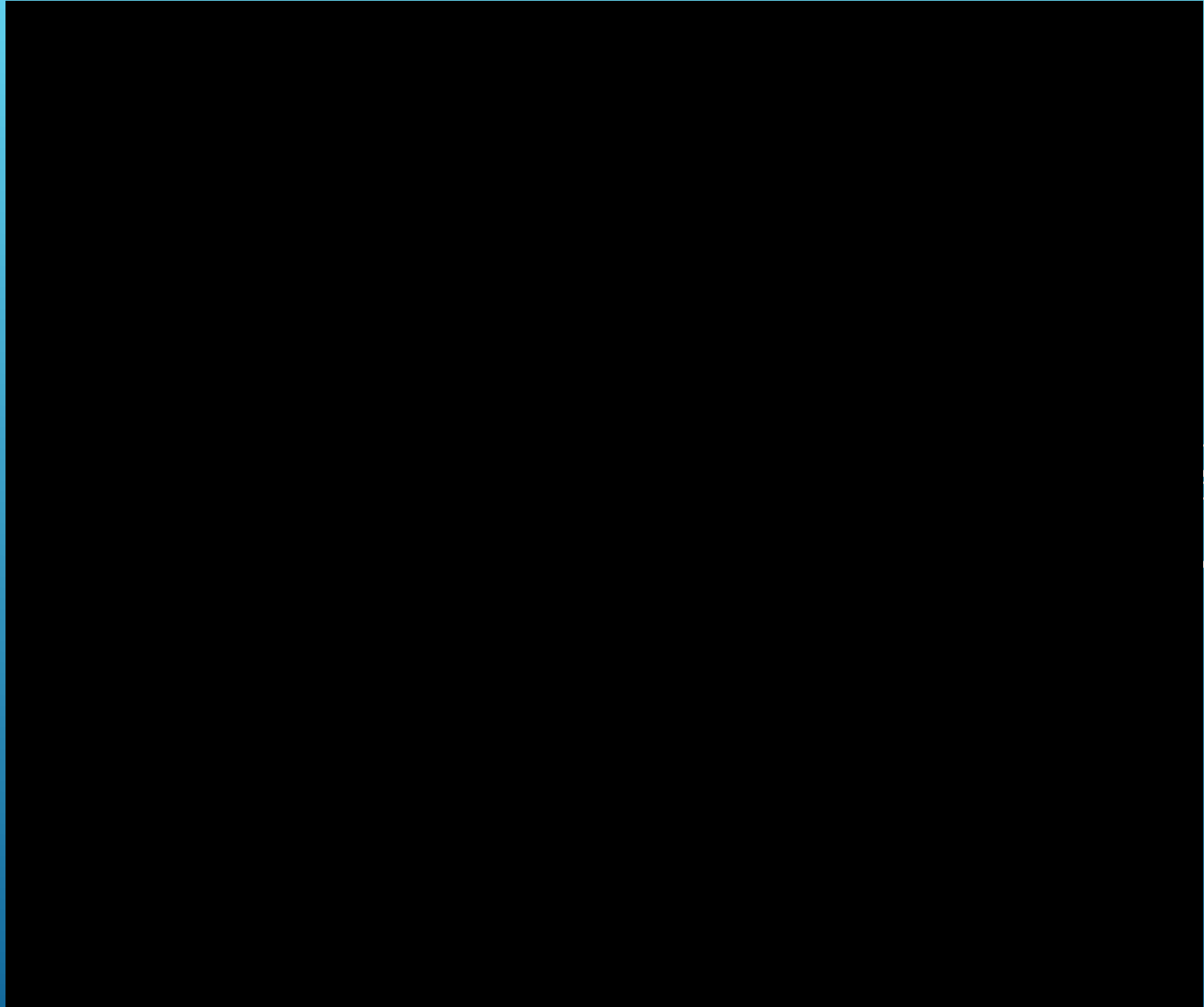


# BALANCE & CONTRAST



- ▶ Variety plays a bridging role between forms which are too similar by introducing interest and by providing more subtlety among forms which are too contrasting thus to make this work transitions must be provided

BALANCE & TRANSITIONS



# FOCUS



Barbara Kruger



Rene Magritte

- ▶ **focus is the use of a focal point to stress certain elements or to give special attention to an element**

**FOCUS**

- ▶ The actual or implied motion in a compositional field or space

- ▶ Movement is always present in a composition, whether it is an actual action as displayed in a dance performance or cinematic presentation, or implied action

# RHYTHM/MOVEMENT





RHYTHM/MOVEMENT



### Hamilton:

I am not throwing away my shot!  
I am not throwing away my shot!  
Hey yo, I'm just like my country  
I'm young, scrappy and hungry  
And I'm not throwing away my  
shot!

RHYTHM/MOVEMENT



# COMPOSITION IN STORYTELLING