

# Composition

Composition is the arrangement of elements within a painting, drawing or photograph.

In Sculpture, composition is about the spatial arrangement of 3D forms.

Artists use composition to lead the viewer's eye around a composition

|              |            |                      |              |                         |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| arrangement  | viewpoint  | focal point          | subject      | sitter (in portraiture) |
| foreground   | framed     | centre of interest   | object       | subject matter          |
| middleground | cropped    | point(s) of interest | distorted    | frame within frame      |
| background   | close-up   | elevated viewpoint   | fragmented   | in proportion           |
| horizontal   | wide angle | camera angle         | symmetrical  | out of proportion       |
| vertical     | circular   | eye-level            | asymmetrical | portrait orientation    |
| diagonal     | triangular | bird's eye view      | balanced     | landscape orientation   |
| linear       | staged     | low viewpoints       | busy         | one-point perspective   |

# Composition

Composition continued...

| horizon line | set up      | picture plane  | cluttered  | two-point perspective |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------------------|
| perspective  | dynamic     | negative space | crowded    | flattened perspective |
| leading line | small-scale | rule of thirds | minimalist | aerial perspective    |
| s-curve      | large-scale | depth of field | sparse     | vanishing point       |

# MOOD AND ATMOSPHERE

By using different combinations of the visual elements and a variety of techniques, artists can create a variety of different moods in their work.

|               |            |              |             |                   |
|---------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| tranquil      | exciting   | atmospheric  | violent     | sad               |
| peaceful      | busy       | overcast     | disordered  | pessimistic       |
| quiet         | fun        | gloomy       | aggressive  | melancholy        |
| serene        | happy      | sunlit       | hostile     | depressing        |
| calm          | joyful     | sun-drenched | moody       | dismal            |
| informal      | passionate | shadowy      | intense     | desolate          |
| relaxed       | flamboyant | warm         | threatening | lonely            |
| still         | lively     | cold         | disturbing  | sensitive         |
| undisturbed   | optimistic | leaden       | powerful    | thought provoking |
| controlled    | emotional  | dreary       | inspiring   | moving            |
| dispassionate | expressive | lack-lustre  | poignant    | breathtaking      |