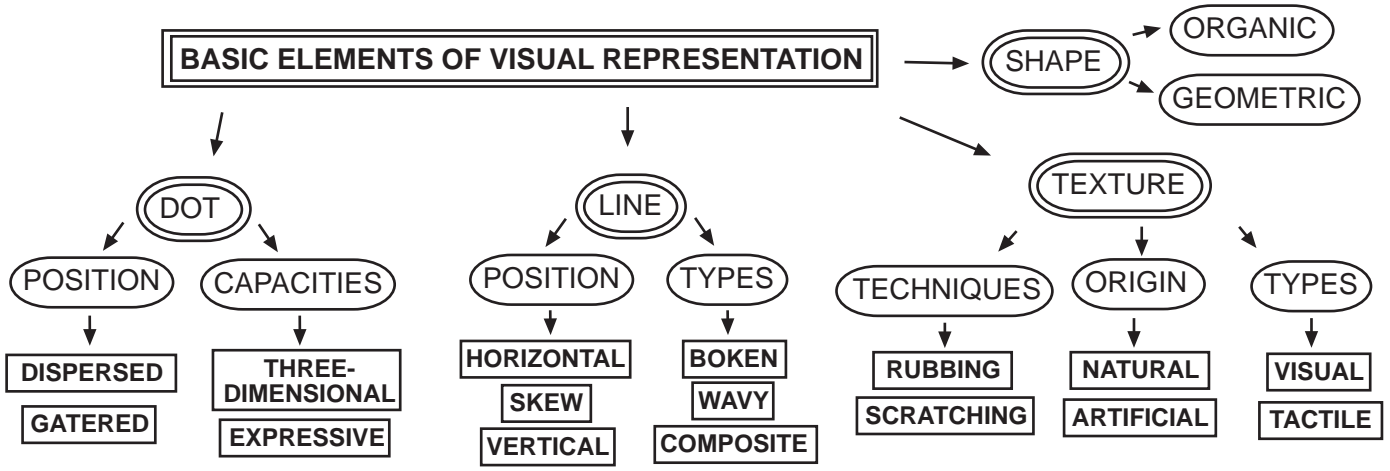


**BASIC ELEMENTS OF VISUAL REPRESENTATION**



**THE DOT, VOCABULARY:**

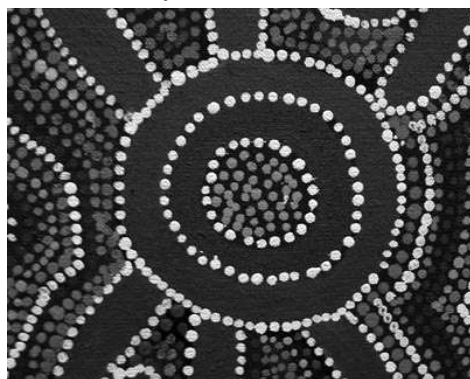
**Dot:** It is the smallest and most simple element in art expression. Its first target is to indicate a position since it doesn't follow any direction. It may have different qualities such as size, shape and color.

**The dot three-dimensional capacity:** When the size, shapes and colors are changed, the dots can create visual sensations of spatial deepness and volume.

**The dot expressive capacity:** The point has a unlimited capacity to represent images and to express ideas and emotions. To do so, visual effects are used.

**Optical Mix:** when colors are mixed with the help of distance. Paint isn't mixed on the palette or on the painting. The optical mix was used first by the pointillists.

Match this pictures with their authors following the descriptions below:



**Yayoi Kusama** is a famous contemporary Japanese artist whose artwork is crowded with dots. Most of the times kusama's dots look like polka dots. She makes paintings, costumes or spaces crowded with them.

**Roy Lincchestein** was an American pop artist who used the aesthetic of comic and printed images that always have dots as well because of the procedure of printing.

The **aboriginal art** is an ancient, but also modern, way of representing any kind of images in Australia. This type of images use the dot constantly..

**Robert Delaunay**, from France, was one of the first abstract painters. He loved representing circles in his artworks.

Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/enkaytee/>



*Joie de vivre*  
Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/enkaytee/>



I will pray with all my love for tulips.  
Source: [regbit.blogspot.com](http://regbit.blogspot.com)



1964  
Source: [regbit.blogspot.com](http://regbit.blogspot.com)

Here you can watch a [Youtube video](#) showing Obliteration room. An art instalation by Yayoi kusama related to dots.  
<http://youtu.be/-xNzr-fJHQw>



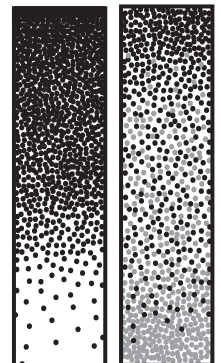
here you can watch a [Youtube video](#) showing "Soul under the moon" (Infinity room). Another art instalation by Yayoi kusama related to dots.  
<http://youtu.be/s1rcJZRqZH8>



**TWO WAYS OF FILLING IN SURFACES WITH DOTS:**

**Dots gathering:** When several dots are put together too close to each other they are perceived as color spots.

**Dots dispersion /spreading:** When several dots are dispersed from each other.



## FROM OLD SCHOOL POINTILLISM TO ROBERT SILVERS PHOTOMOSAICS

On the right there is an artwork detail by Seurat. This painter belonged to a group of impressionist painters called **POINTILLISTS** because of their style. They composed the images with pure colors little brushstrokes that actually get mixed being the artwork viewed from the distance. That way of mixing colors with the distance is called "optical mix"



La parade de cirque. Seurat. 1888.  
Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/>

**Robert Silvers** is a pioneer in the technique of **PHOTO-MOSAIC**. This technique is about composing images with little tiny pictures that are usually related to the main theme. The little pictures work as dots to compose the images.



Louis Armstrong. R. Silvers. 2000  
Source: <http://www.photomosaic.com/>



Detail of Another Photomosaic online

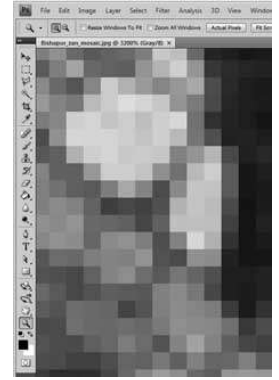
## FROM ANCIENT MOSAICS TO COMPUTER BIT MAPS AND PIXELS



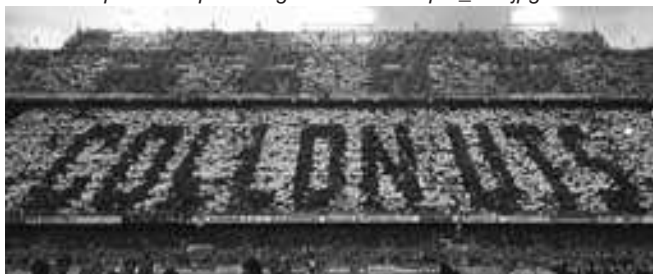
Marble mosaic, ca. 260 AD . From the palace of Shapur at Bishapur, Iran. At Louvre.  
Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bishapur\\_zan.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bishapur_zan.jpg)

Mosaic is artistic technique consisting in creating images assembling of small pieces of colored glass, stone, or other materials. So we can consider mosaics as dotted images. Most mosaics are made of small, flat, square, pieces of different colors, known as tesserae (from latin tesera). Mosaics are also made by modern artists.

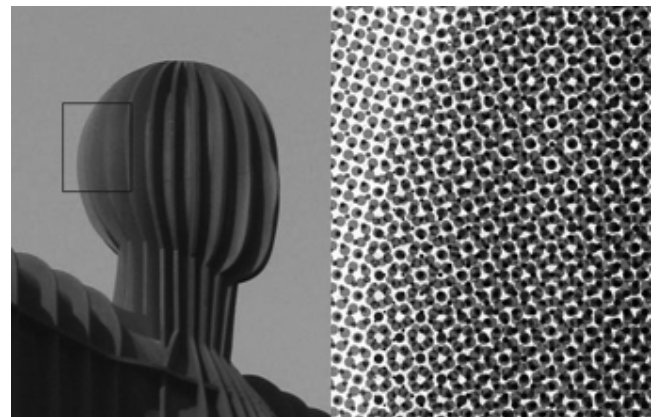
Bit maps are computer images composed by little tiny square dots. These dots are actually squares and are called pixels. Depending on the size of the pixels images have higher or lower resolution. Resolution is usually measured in "Pixels per inch" (ppi). A good quality or resolution for regular or normal computer screens is 72 ppi, while a good resolution for printing is 300 ppi.



Zoom In: pixels in Photoshop.



Human mosaic in Mestalla Stadium. Valencia 14-5-2004  
Source: <http://www.mediavida.com/>



Printing spot or dots process.  
Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bishapur\\_zan.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bishapur_zan.jpg)

Watch **Robert Silvers** **webpage** and his Photomosaics .



Watch **The human printer video** on vimeo an learn the process for printing with colored dots.



<http://www.photomosaic.com/>

<http://vimeo.com/61119339>

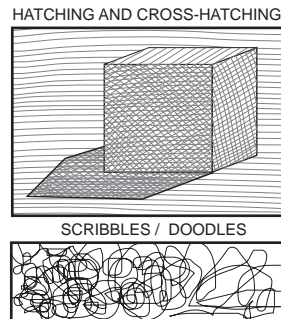
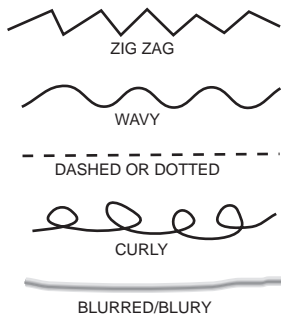
### Fill in the gaps using the words given below:

Robert Silvers uses little..... to compose his.....  
The little fotografies work as .....which set together..... a bigger image.  
Pointillists made their artworks using a similar..... .They used their..... to paint small colored dots that, seen from the distance, form figurative representations  
This way of..... things is also used by computer design. BIT MAPS are a kind of image files in which dots are, called..... , have a.....shape.

TECHNIQUE   SQUARED   PICTURES   PIXELS   BRUSHES   ARTWORKS   DOTS   SHOW   DEPICTING

## SOME VOCABULARY ABOUT LINES:

**Line:** It can be defined as a dot in movement. It has position and direction in the space and one of its principal function consists on marking the shapes' outlines.



**Zig Zag or Broken lines:** They are formed by several fragments of straight lines with different directions.

**Wavy line:** They are formed by several fragments of curved lines.

**Curly lines:** they hold more curves than wavy lines and show loops.

**Scribble:** Chaotic or meaningless lines that are traced randomly, ususally in first stages of childhood or to fill in some area with a particular texture.

**Hatching:** It is a way of shading or giving tones to the areas of objects or surfaces with parallel lines.

**Cross-Hatching:** It is a way of shading areas of a drawing or surfaces with parallel lines in several directions.

**Dashed (or dotted) lines:** They are lines which are not continuous, formed by little traces or dots.

**Blurred:** They are very soft or vanished so they are hard to see and opposite to intense and deep.

**Simple Lines:** Those that are formed by only one line.

**Composite lines:** They are lines composed by fragments of several straight and curved lines.

## EXPRESSIVENESS OF LINES

**Vertical lines expressiveness:** They express an ascendent or descendent movement, depending on how they are used.

**Horizontal lines expressiveness:** They produce visual feeling of stability and calmness or tranquility, but they can be monotone if they are used too much.

**Skew lines expressiveness:** They produce unsteadiness and movement feelings. These feelings give inclined lines the sensation of dynamism.

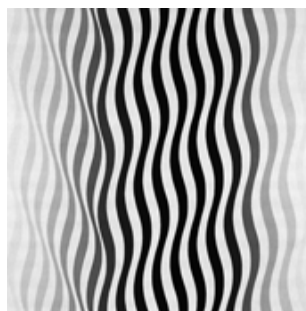
## ARTISTS AND MOVEMENTS THAT USE LINES:

Many artists have worked with lines. Bridgette Riley also liked to work with lines, as well as dots, trying to give many different impressions of movement or depth to the people observing her artwork. Eusebio Sempere was a Spanish (Onil, Alicante) artist who also used lines in a similar way to Bridgette Riley. Thomas Pavitte is a current artist living in Australia who likes to make artworks playing the classic game of connecting dots labeled with numbers following the right order. Yaacov Agam is a kinetic artist from Israel who also uses lines as a media for expression.



Work by Yaacov Agam.  
Sheba Medical Center, Israel  
Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/>

Bridgette Riley. Arrest 1965  
Source: <http://wikipaintings.org/>



E. Sempere. Reflejos 1978  
Source: <http://www.ilusionario.es/>

Thomas Pavitte. Detail  
Source: <http://thomasmakesstuff.com/>



Watch [Eusebio Sempere webpage](#), he was a spanish (Alicante Geometric abstract painter who used colored lines in most of his artworks  
<http://www.eusebio-sempere.com/>



Watch this [Thomas Pavitte video](#), So you can unsertand better his working process on connecting dots with lines  
<http://youtu.be/wxTk3GwX88>



Watch [Thomas Pavitte website](#) to see some of his current artwork.  
<http://thomasmakesstuff.com/>



## STRIPES

And clothing design also uses lines a lot. When something is covered or decorated with long bands or lines we call it STRIPED, this type of lines, in a decorative or clothing, sence are called STRIPES.

## DEFINITIONS ABOUT THE PLANE OR FLAT SHAPE:

**Plane:** Also called shape in visual arts. It could be a spot or a brushstroke. It is a two-dimensional surface, height and width but not depth, it has position and direction on the space.

**The plane Three-dimensional capacity:** One of the main goals of the plane consists on creating volume when several flat shapes get together in different directions.

**Flat organic shapes:** They follow natural principles and can take countless appearances.

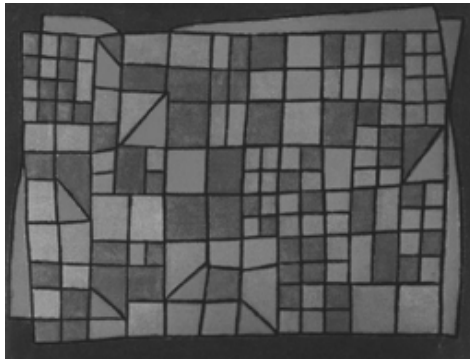
**Flat geometric shapes:** They follow mathematical principles. In visual arts there are three main basic geometric shapes: circle, square and triangle.

### PAUL CEZANNE:

Paul Cézanne was a French artist and Post-Impressionist painter. Cézanne used repetitively exploratory brushstrokes or color planes, which were highly characteristic and clearly recognizable. He used planes of colour and small brushstrokes that build up to form complex fields. It is said that Cézanne's artwork inspired Picasso to start Cubism which was another artistic movement that used planes to build up their characteristic depictions in which planes are one of the main characters.



The card players by Cezanne hit the record for the highest price ever for a work of art in 2012 when it was sold in an auction for \$250 million.



### PAUL KLEE:

Klee was a Swiss artist who lived in Germany. He is related to many artistic movements. But what he always loved the most was studying the color in his artwork. For that he many times used colored planes or flat shapes with lots of different qualities.

Glass facade. Paul Klee. 1940

Source: <http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/paul-klee/glass-facade-1940>

The card Players. Cezanne. 1892-1895

Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/>

## DEFINITIONS ABOUT TEXTURE:

**Texture:** It is the visual and tactile quality of the surfaces due to the material.

**Tactile textures:** Are those that can be perceived through the sense of touch.

**Visual textures:** Those which can only be perceived through the sense of sight.

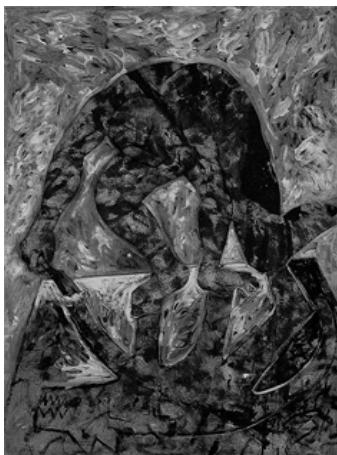
**Natural textures:** Those that can be found in nature.

**Artificial texture:** Are those created by the human being manually or mechanically.

**Rubbing technique:** It consists on frictioning or rubbing a crayon or colored pencil on a thin paper which is over a surface with a tactile texture so the texture gets copied on the paper.

**Scratchboarding:** It is usually done with waxed colors and it consists on giving two coats of color to the media (paper, wood, etc) being the second one darker. So when scratching over the first layer the second one shows up.

### MIQUEL BARCELÓ:



Miquel Barceló is a Spanish artist born in Mallorca in 1957. He is one of the most famous and popular Spanish artist in the moment.

His Artworks mix many kinds of materials and usually show a richness of textures.

One of his latest works was the Mural painted in the UN (United nations) Dome in the hall or human rights in Geneva which has been called the UN Sixtine Chapel and was a bit controversial.

For that work he filled in with stalactite forms plenty of bright colors all the surface of the dome.

Pintagossos. Miquel Barceló. 1982

Source: <http://www.miquelbarcelo.info/>

Watch a video of [Miquel Barceló making his dome](https://goo.gl/zRkUum) for the United nations in Geneva.

<https://goo.gl/zRkUum>



Watch some pictures of the [human rights hall dome at ONU making process and final result by Miquel Barceló](http://goo.gl/ul8LQV) in which textures are the most impressive feature.

<http://goo.gl/ul8LQV>

