

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS RELATED TO THE SHAPE:

Shape: It is the external appearance of an object or element in an image.

Natural shapes: They are the ones related to nature. They haven't been created by any human.

Artificial shapes: Shapes which have been created by humans or mechanical procedures.

Organic shapes / Free forms: They are shapes that have irregular profile or silhouette as well as their inner surface. Organic shapes are usually natural even though they are sometimes artificial.

Geometric shapes: Shapes whose parts follow a mathematic order, laws or pattern.

Flat shapes: They have two dimensions such a paper sheet , a cinema screen or a canvas.

Form: They are volumetric shapes, they appear and are three-dimensional.

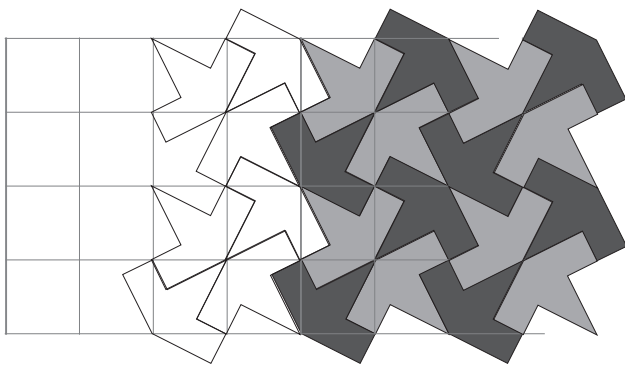
Outline: It is the line enclosing the shape of an object in a drawing or image. In art it is sometimes called **contour**.

Silhouette: It is a shape filled up with a **solid color**, just like a shade.

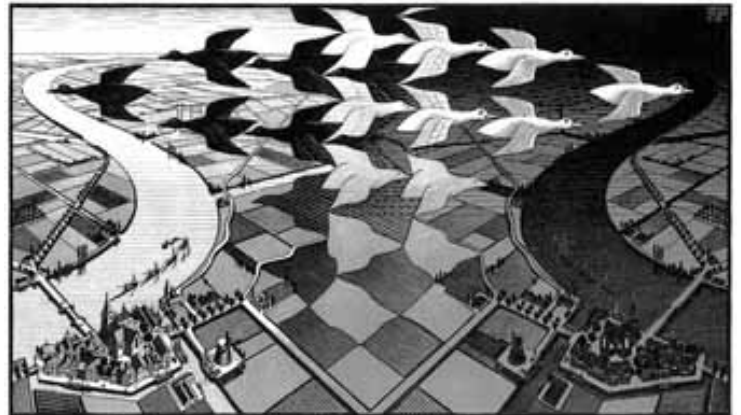
Infill: The inner part of a shape. It is usually formed by lines, dots, colors and textures.

GEOMETRIC AND ORGANIC TILINGS

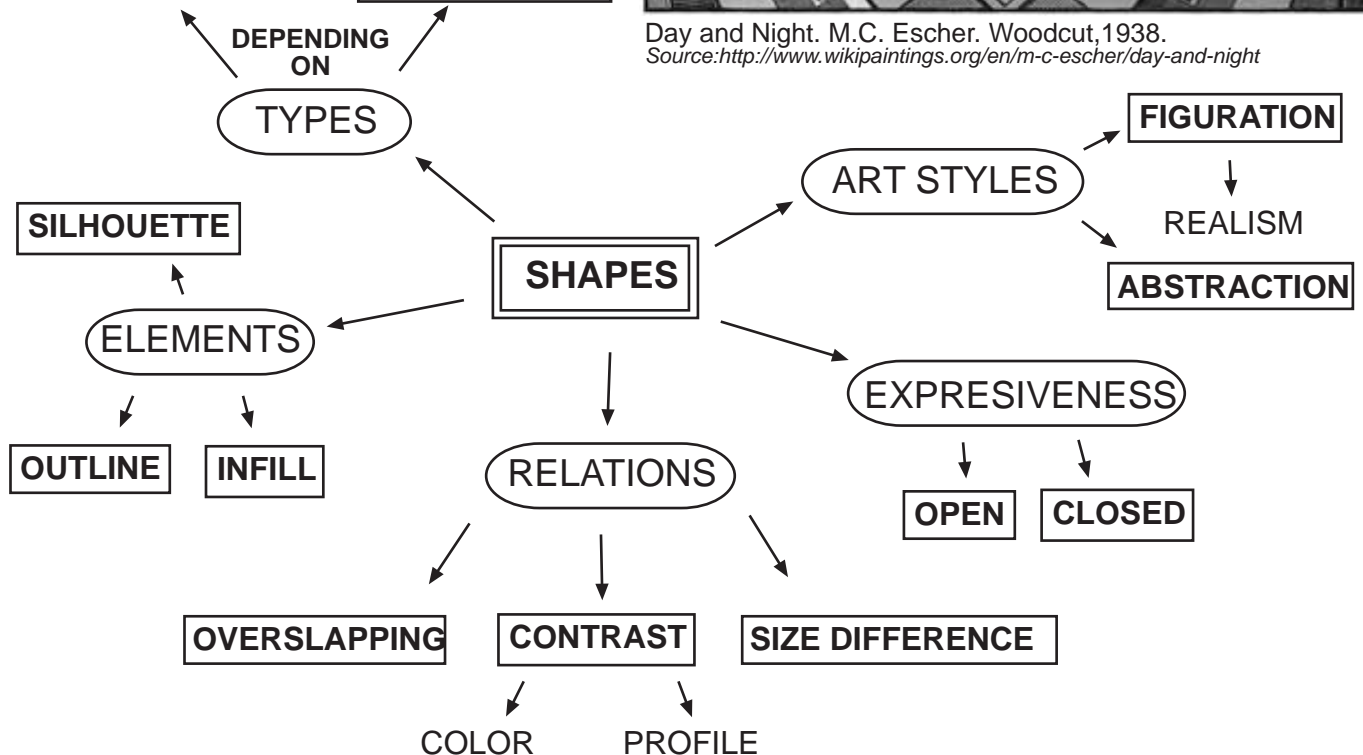
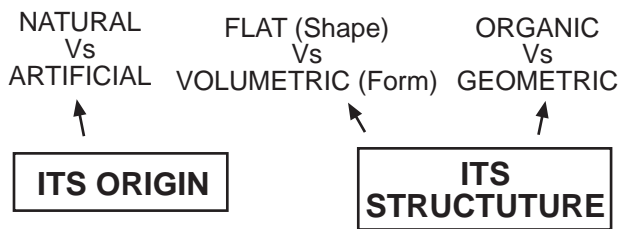
In visual arts **tiles** are design units that are repeated to form a structure. Tiles can hold any kind of shape and contents. and they can generate different types of grids.



On the left we can see the Alhambra Pattern or tiling repeating a tile or shape called "the pigeon" which is a totally geometric shape. M.C. Escher (Picture below) was a Dutch artist who got inspired in La Alhambra to create new and original tilings with shapes that weren't as much geometric and more organic



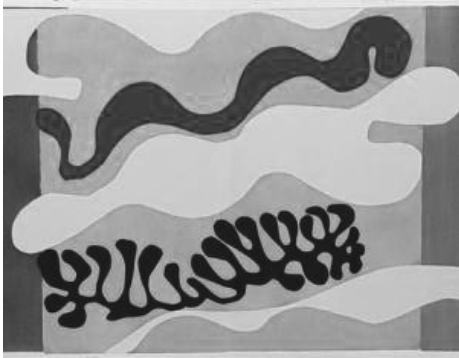
Day and Night. M.C. Escher. Woodcut, 1938.
Source: <http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/m-c-escher/day-and-night>



ARTISTS THAT PLAYED WITH THE SHAPES' INFILL AND SILHOUETTES

- Rene Magritte (1898-1967): He was a Belgian surrealist painter. He sometimes liked to change the infill of the shapes for the backgrounds content.
- Gustav Klimt (1862 -1918): was an Austrian symbolist painter whose shapes' infills were may times too particular being filled with golden colors and basic visual elements.
- Henri Émile Benoît Matisse (1869 -1954): French Fauvist painter who used bright pure color silhouettes in his paintings and collages.

Using the clues you have been given, Observe the paints in this sheet and try to guess whose paint is each one:



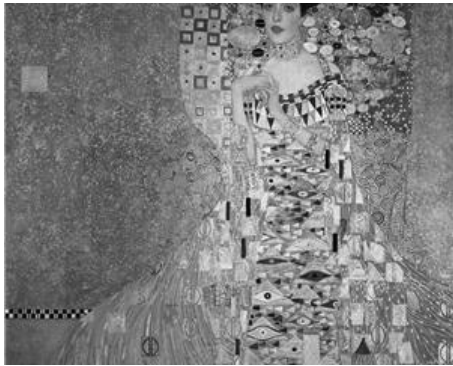
The Lagoon 2.1947.
By _____



The False mirror.1928.
By _____



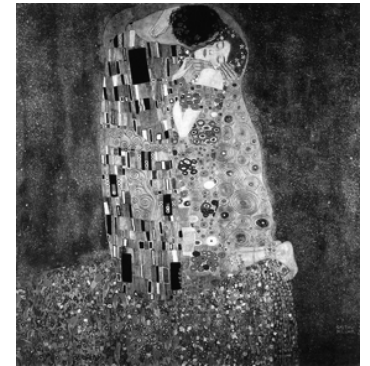
The flowing hair 2.1952.
By _____



Portrait of adele bloch bauer.1907.
By _____



The promise.1966.
By _____



The kiss.1907-1908.
By _____

All pictures above source:<http://www.wikipaintings.org/>

MORE ABOUT SILHOUETTES

Watch this short [Youtube video of a chinese hands shadow show](http://youtu.be/hFe7eLwAXoc), and see how they use their hands to make different silhouettes.



Above: Tam Gram pieces, silhouette and solution

Chinese hands shadowing is a very ancient way to represent mostly animals.

Tam Gram is an ancient Chinese game which consist in silhouettes searching or guessing from some polygons that form a full square silhouette or combined differently infinite shapes.

Some street artist use stencils to achieve their paints, Stencil is a perfect technique to represent any kind of silhouettes.

The traffic (or any kind) of signs which need to communicate any information usually use silhouettes to represent the idea they need to show.



Graffiti by Banksy.

Source:<http://www.popularresistance.org/bloomberg-threatens-banksy-with-arrest-for-outside-art/>

Source:http://www.redtedart.com/2011/11/02/kids-craft-shadow-puppets-cereal-box-theatre-we-heart-it-eo4wke64l-127354-462-700_large/



Chinese hands shadow poster.



OPEN AND CLOSED SHAPES:

Closed shapes: Space that is completely enclosed by a line, or unbroken contour. the outline is generally well defined.

Open shapes: Space that is not completely enclosed by a line. Usually the content of these shapes comes out to get mixed with other elements or the background.

William Turner (1775-1851) was an English painter specialized in landscapes.

His landscapes are very particular because they are usually shown as foggy. In order to get this visual effect Turner used a lot of open shapes.



Dynamism of a dog on a leash. Giacomo Balla. 1912.
Source: <http://www.artexpertswebsite.com/pages/artists/balla.php>



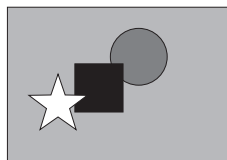
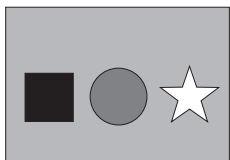
Wreckers, Coast of Northumberland.
William Turner, 1834. Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

Futurism was a movement in the XX century which painters also used open shapes. In this case they wanted to show the sensation of movement in their paintings.

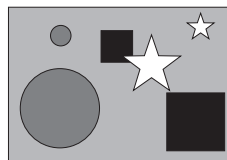
What kind of feelings or emotions do these paintings lead you to?
Do these paintings make you think of the idea of motion?

ILLUSTRATING THE DEFINITIONS BELOW

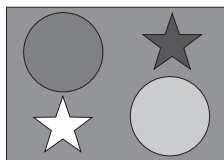
Below these lines you can see some boxes with a few shapes. The box on the left just has shapes one next to each other. No visual resources have been used. The following boxes use different arranging ways to create the sense of depth.



Overlapping shapes



Changing sizes



Contrasting color or values

Watch this short [Youtube video](#) telling us the difference between shapes and forms.

<http://youtu.be/JfUIEBUFAF4>



Watch this short [Youtube video](#) telling us a quick review about shapes in art.

<http://youtu.be/Y5VjEjhemIA>



MORE IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS RELATED TO THE SHAPE:

Overlapping shapes: They are shapes that cover themselves partially creating a visual effect of depth.

Changing shape's size: Bigger seem to be closer while the smaller ones are perceived as if they were farther therefore this creates the illusion of depth.

Contrasting colored shapes: Color or value contrasts also transmit depth visual effects as well as other sensations. For example warm colors stand out and seem to be closer than cold shapes which appear to be farther. Lighter values get the shapes look closer indoors, while lighter values make the shapes look further in outdoor depictions.

Figurative image/ Figuration: They are images with a fidelity to reality, so it is possible to relate them to the elements in real world that they are referring. It has different degrees of fidelity depending on how much the image is similar to the model.

Realism: The realistic and natural representation of people, places, and/or things in a work of art. A realistic drawing or paint is very similar to the model.

Abstract image/ Abstraction: They are art representations which content is not possible to recognize or compare to any image of daily life.

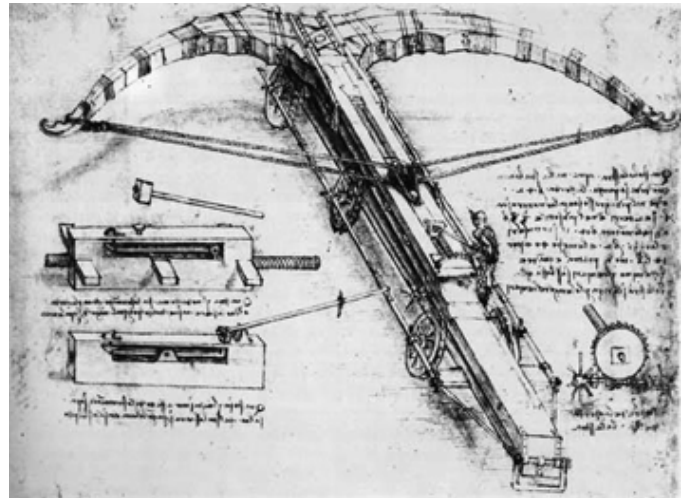
TYPES OF IMAGES OR DEPICTIONS DEPENDING ON THE WAY THEY HAVE BEEN DONE:

Sketched image or sketch: Consists on the first approach to depicting an image. They usually don't show any color, and they used a simple outline drawing with basic figures composing the image.

Image distortion: The author of this kind of drawings or paintings represents the image distorting the original model or image, That is changing its proportions or showing the figures somehow moved.



Self portrait. Francis Bacon. 1969.
Source: <http://www.artrepublic.com/>



Crossbow, Codex Atlanticus. L. Da Vinci, 1478-1519.
Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

EASY QUESTION:

Which of the following pictures on the right you think is the sketch and which one the distortion? Why?

Above Left: You can see a **self portrait** by Francis Bacon. His portray style show big distortions that seem to be caused by some kind of motion.

Above Right: Leonardo Da Vinci made A **sketch book** with thousands of pages all of them filled in with sketches of all sort of things such as imaginary inventions, body anatomy or plants. He mostly used outline drawings and may be some chiaroscuro.

Image simplification: Instead of being realistic, they are images that tend to make any detail or figure as a scheme of the original model.



Menina. Manolo Valdés. 2000.
Source: <http://www.galeriалаurora.com/valdes-manolo-las-meninas-dp8>



Las Meninas. Picasso. 1958.
Source: <http://ca.wikipedia.org/>

Above: Two versions of Meninas are shown. On the right there is a version by Picasso which shows his very particular cubist style sometimes using image simplifications. On the left you can see a Manolo Valdés, Spanish artist famous for his meninas versions, Sketched image that also shows some image simplification.

By clicking on [this link](#) you will see a bunch of famous artwork and different versions of them in a laslaminas.es Pinterest Gallery



<http://www.pinterest.com/laslaminas/artwork-versions/>