

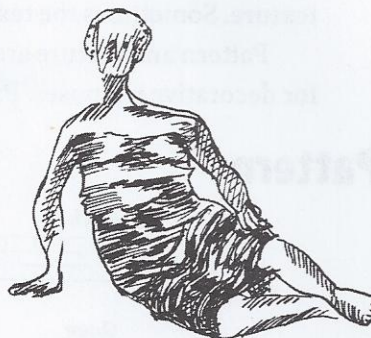
HANDOUT

SPACE

Space is the area that a subject occupies in two-dimensional or three-dimensional artworks. It is the area around objects and between them. Drama is often added to a composition through the use of open space that calls attention to the actual subject. Renaissance artists used geometric forms such as rectangles, triangles, and circles or formal perspective to create the illusion of space. Sculptors feel that the negative space created by holes or around the outside of a form are as important as the form itself.

Terms Used

- Actual space:* the space that can be measured
- Implied space:* two-dimensional illusion of space
- Shallow:* no actual depth or illusion of depth
- Negative space:* the area surrounding a form
- Positive shapes:* forms that are drawn or constructed
- Foreground:* the area closest to the viewer
- Middle ground:* the area between the foreground and background
- Background:* the area farthest away
- Picture plane:* the flat space defined by height and width



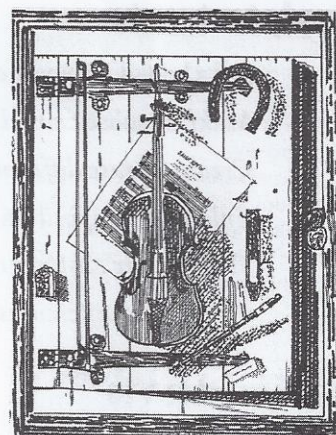
Drawn after *Reclining Woman*, 1957–58, Henry Moore, 1898–1986.

Ways to Use Space

- Aerial perspective:* making areas farther away lighter and less sharp
- Linear perspective:* organizing space using geometry
- Vanishing point:* lines meet on the horizon at this point
- Figure-ground relationship:* the figure (or form) is distinct from the ground
- Foreshortening:* the illusion that the form projects outward
- Projecting form:* an object that actually projects outward
- Gradients:* showing distance through a gradual change in value



Drawn after *Snow in New York*, 1902, Robert Henri, 1865–1929.



Drawn after *Still-Life: Violin and Music*, 1888, William Harnett, 1848–1892.