

Behind Appearance: The Substructure of Design

(Create an abstract composition using geometric shapes. Use repetition and size variations. Use arrows to draw the invisible forces (small and big depending on the power of

Synecitic Energy Encounter: Imagine 2 diff. “armies” of abstract shapes interacting in the same visual space. Symbolize ea. in a different way. Weave the lines together.

Pointillistic Pattern: Make a line drawing of a selected subject. Use an ink pen and render the comp. using only dots. Create light and dark areas.

Patterns by Grouping Letters or Numerals:

Create an all over pattern by using only letters or numerals (in any language) Repeat the units, have them touch but not overlap. Pay attention to positive and negative space.

Proxemic Variations: Make 4 different compositions, each made up of 5 different shapes but ea. arranged in a diff. way. (overlapping and not, symmetrical/ asymmetrical, touching edges, etc.)

Imaginative Projection: Refer to a road map. Use your imagination to develop figurative images using pre-existing lines on the map.

Constellation: Randomly place 100 dots on a page in your sketchbook. Connect them to produce an integrated visual structure.

Combine an organic and in organic subject:

Make an all over pattern by superimposing elements from two disparate subjects. Vary size and proportion and overlap, add texture to create visual interest.

A word and visual description: Make a list of meaningful words. Pick one to illustrate. Use color.

Combing opposites to create a surreal design:

Use opposite qualities, life forms, realities, time-frames, sensory perceptions (hard/soft etc.), or stabilities (order/chaos)

Walking the Line: Start from one edge making a line that depicts the fantastic journey of a moving point. As the line progresses, have it change in thickness and configuration.

Divide and Rearrange: Draw a large geometric shape, divide it into 15 smaller shapes. Cut them out and re-arrange them on a sheet of colored construction paper.

Finish the image: Cut a small square out of a magazine, create a new composition using the cut out as a starting point.

Combining Geometric and Organic Shapes:

Create a comp. by using both. Use both mechanical drawing aids (ruler/compass, etc) and freehand drawing.

Illustrate your friends as cartoon characters
(human or animal)

Design from Nature: Create a design based on a close-packed meander pattern. Make a comp. composed of multiple snaking lines, some thick, some thin, continuous and discontinuous.

Design by Chance: Cut and tear colored construction paper into various geometric and organic shapes. Without consciously controlling the placement, drop the shapes, 1 by 1 and glue. Use view finder to find a new comp.

Art and Issue: Portray your views on a contemporary issue (endangered species, poverty, civil rights, etc) Create a design that signifies your point of view and presents a potent image.

Coactive Images: superimpose or combine 2+ images which, when combined, produce an emotional “Spark” that can signify an idea or metaphor, or simply create a mysterious and compelling image.

Mythmaking: Tell a story by using graphic images. Symbolize a true or imaginary happening or event. Include only 5 or 6 visual elements in your comp. but select and combine them carefully to make a potent conceptual and aesthetic statement.

Dream Fantasy: Create a visual equivalent of a dream fantasy. Picture yourself, along with a mythological character or creature, in a strange and surreal environment.

Preposterous Crosslinks: Create a fantastic hybrid: a “critter” that is part organic, part inorganic. Make a list of animals and a list of inorganic objects (pencil, saw, scissors, etc.) Choose a combination to illustrate.

The Visual Pun: Make up a list of verbal puns (words with double meaning- spelling bee, handy man, home run, hotdog etc.) Create a cartoon based on 1 of the puns.

Making it Strange: Select a common place object (an appliance, tool, sports equip. etc) make 6 drawings of the object: draw it, simplify it, melt it, animate it, hybridize it, change its scale and purpose.

Plants from “The Little Shop of Horrors”:

Create a humorous fantasy flower or plant. Apply selected synecitic mechanisms to produce an outrageous image.

“Movement” in the 2-D Plane: Depict an action event which involves a figure such as a diver, cyclist, runner, hockey player, dancer, etc. Modify the subject and produce a comp. which suggests motion. Simplify, Repeat, Add, Superimpose, Combine,

Dream Fantasy Visualized: Recall or invent a dream scenario. Combine disparate, out-of-context images to produce one surreal image. Make a drawing, collage or comp. using mixed media.

Analogical Thinking Made Visible: Using a fruit or vegetable, 1st make an accurate drawing, next imagine and draw certain physical and psychological associations inspired by the contemplation of the object.

Surreal Signs: Refer to standard graphic signs and apply your imagination to transform them into comic or bizarre images.

Make your own prompt: