

KCPA 110: 2D DESIGN
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ASSIGNMENT III: PROCESS OF ABSTRACTION

DUE 9/24

Objective: Experience an image based on its formal qualities (line, shape, value, form and space, as opposed to its recognizable imagery or conceptual content). Experiment with various methods for abstracting this image and present new abstract designs inspired by the original image.

- Choose an image of a master's artwork with a complex composition. Reduce the image to achromatic values in Photoshop; print six quality copies in a 4" x 6" format.
- Using your original image as a starting point, sketch several variations for each of the following processes of abstraction. For each of the processes, eliminate the subject matter and reduce the composition to formal qualities as directed.
- Choose your strongest design for each of the processes. Using Sharpie, draw the new composition that represents the abstraction process on an overlay of vellum. Adhere images and vellums to white railroad board and mount all 6 final designs to a 15" x 20" black presentation board.
- Label the board with your name, the project name, and the titles of each of the processes.

The Processes:

1. **Reduction of Form:** Simplifications to basic geometric forms: cones, spheres, cylinders, cubes etc.
2. **Flattening of Space:** Remove illusion of linear perspective by reducing forms to basic shapes, patterns, and planes.
3. **Reduction of Value:** Reduce all value gradations to flat values of black or white. Eliminate all grey. Look at where exchanging values (dark for light, etc.) may further abstract your image.
4. **Distortion of Shape and Space:** Exaggerate perspective, forms and planar structures to dissolve recognizable content. You might use Process 2 "Flattening of Space" as a starting point.
5. **Expressionistic Execution:** Reinterpret your image abstractly. You may take an interesting area of your composition and either crop, zoom or shift its placement until it loses its original visual identity. You may also use one of the other processes as a launching point for a new, further abstracted design.
6. **Original image.**

Craftsmanship is key!

Art Fundamentals: p. 13-21 Organic Unity & Abstraction