

KCPA 110: 2D DESIGN
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ASSIGNMENT VI: FIGURE/GROUND

DUE 10/22

Objective: Explore *shape* through positive and negative spatial divisions by creating designs with specific figure/ground relationships. You will create two designs, an original and its reversal, for each of the following shape relationships: **Interlocking, Enclosing, Interchanging** and **Interpenetrating**. The project will consist of eight total images, neatly mounted and labeled on black presentation board. You may use Illustrator to create your designs or your designs may be hand drawn. (*If you choose to use Illustrator, you may only use basic line and shape to create the outline of your design... no Effects, etc.)

- Begin by sketching **non-objective shapes** (both geometric and organic) in your sketchbook. Be mindful of the *square* format you are working with; try to find shapes that create interesting spatial divisions within a square.
- Create shapes that define the four techniques listed above: Interlocking, Enclosing, Interchanging and Interpenetrating. (See reverse side).
- Arrange/orient your shapes so as to find the best fit within a 4" x 4" picture plane. Use stencils (you may want to create your own), sharpies, etc.
- **THE GOAL IS TO DIVIDE THE SPACE EQUALLY BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE SPACE. 50% OF YOUR COMPOSITION SHOULD BE BLACK AND 50% OF YOUR COMPOSITION SHOULD BE WHITE, ALLOWING FOR A REVERSAL IN THE PERCEPTION BETWEEN "FIGURE" AND "GROUND" TO OCCUR.**
- For each of the four techniques reverse your positive and negative spaces. Whichever areas are black in your original should be white in your second image. Whichever areas are white in your original should be black in your second image. This will give you a total of eight different designs.
- All designs will be executed in black and white, no gray scales.
- Neatly mount each of your eight images onto a 15" x 20" black presentation board. Label the board with your name, assignment name, and each of the spatial relationship techniques.

Figure/Ground Relationships

- **Interlocking:** Two or more motifs engage with each other by fitting together of projections and recesses to form a unified design. Think puzzle pieces. The motif that describes the positive (figure) space is the same as (or equal to) the motif that describes the negative (ground) space.
- **Enclosing:** Enables the positive or negative spaces to surround, confine or close in on a repeated open form motif.
- **Interchanging:** Allows forms or motifs to be exchanged, traded or substituted for one another. One motif is used in place of another, motifs or forms are *alternated*. Interchanging designs often employ more than one motif repeated in a positive and negative space.
- **Interpenetrating:** Positions motifs, planes, objects or shapes so that they appear to pass through each other; which locks them together within a specified area of space (picture plane).

Art Fundamentals: p. 224-255 Space.