

# BALANCE

*A Principle of Art*

# Bell Ringer 2/2/2015

What is Balance?

# Bell Ringer 2/3/2015

Turn your worksheet in to the box on Mrs. Brown's desk. (NO Name NO Credit).

What is Origami?

# Bell Ringer 2/4/2015

What are the 3 Types of Balance?

# Bell Ringer 2/5/2015

What is a relief sculpture?

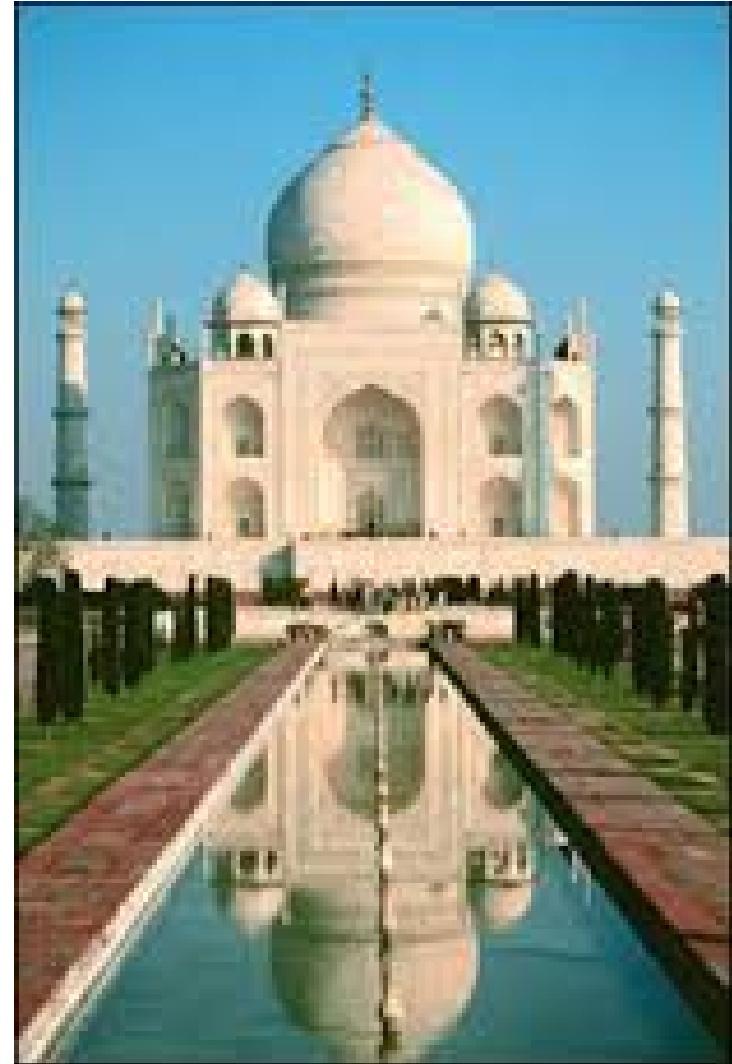
# Bell Ringer 2/6/2015

In order to make your project radial –  
what must you do?

(Besides put stuff in a circle?)

# Bell Ringer 2/9/2015

What type of balance is seen in this image?



*Taj Mahal, India*

# Bell Ringer 2/10/2015

What type of balance is seen in this image?



*Jimson Weed,*  
Georgia O'Keeffe



# Bell Ringer 2/11/2015

What type of asymmetrical balance is seen in this image?

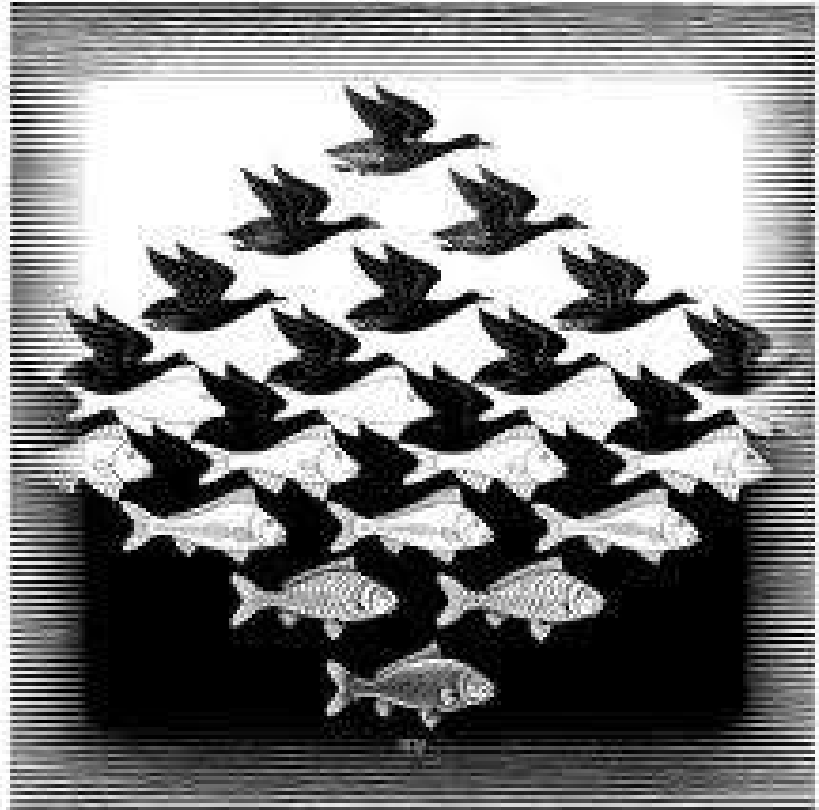


*The Melancholy and Mystery on the Street, De Chirico*

# Bell Ringer 2/12/2015

What type of balance is seen in this image?

SKETCHBOOK  
CHECK  
TOMORROW!!!

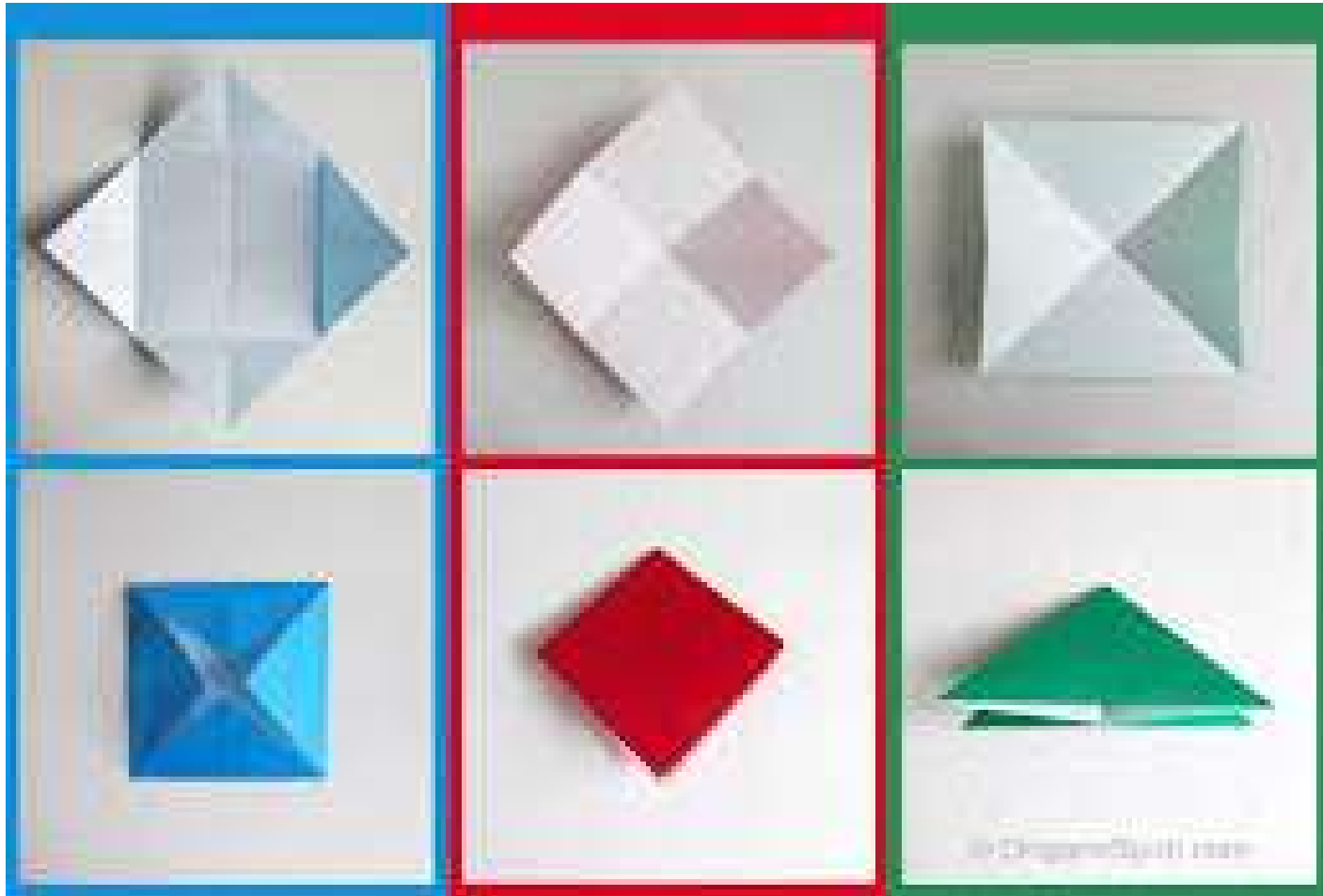


M.C. Escher

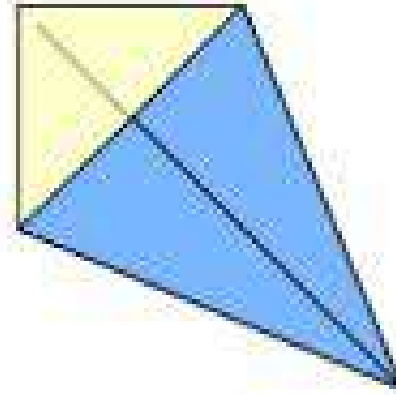
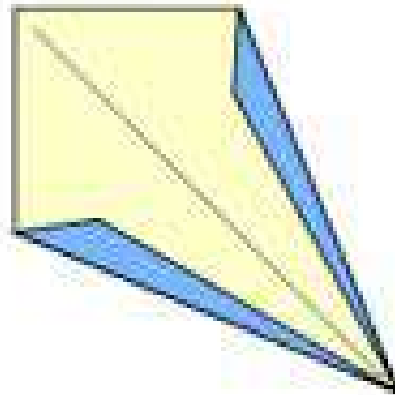
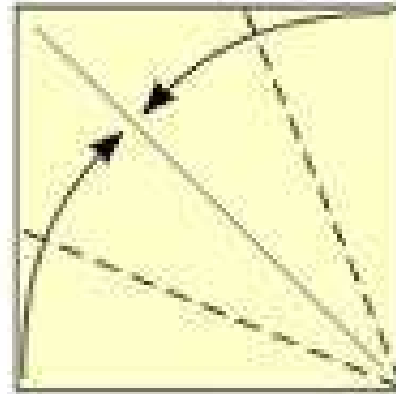
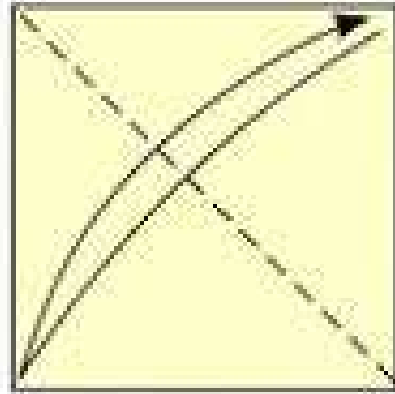
Cushion Fold

Diamond Squash

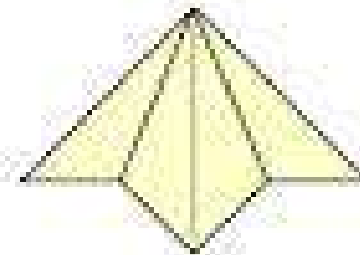
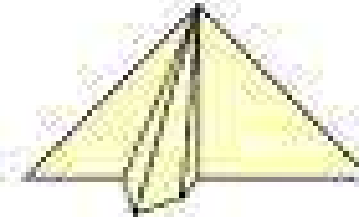
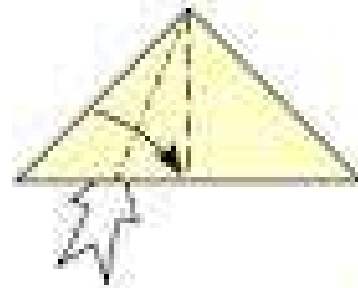
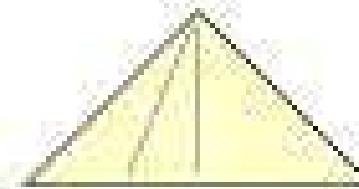
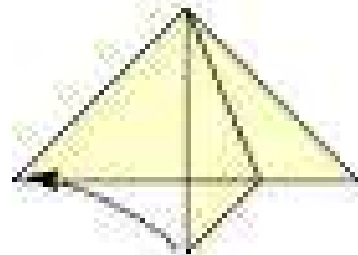
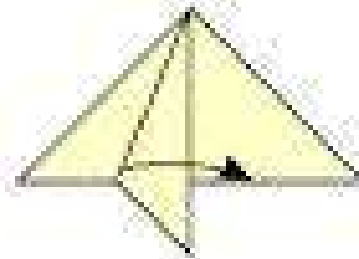
Triangle Squash



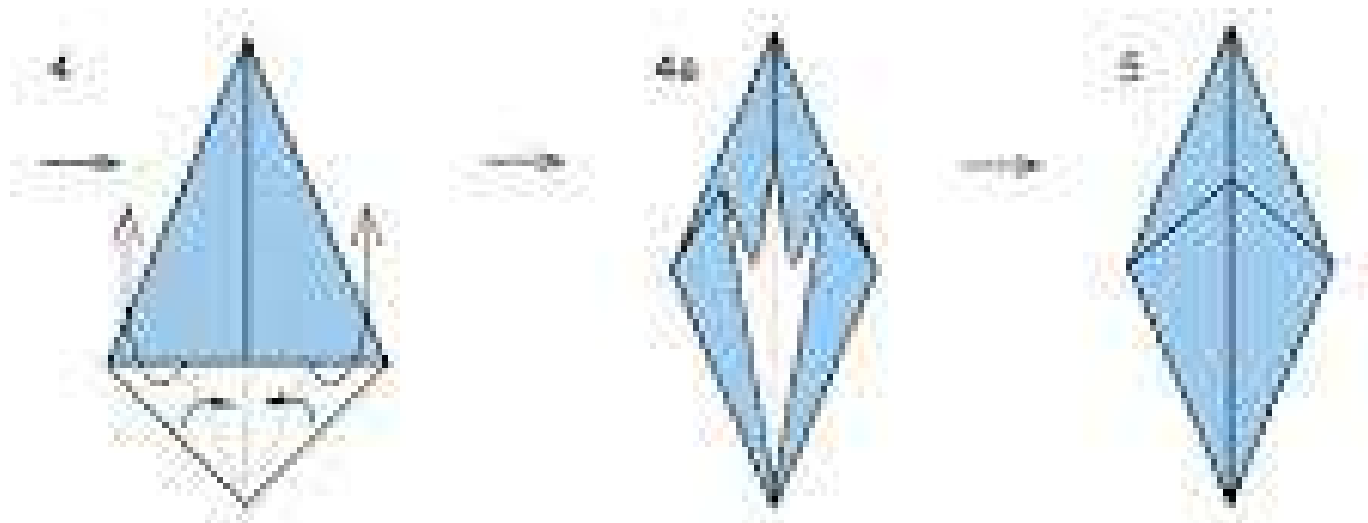
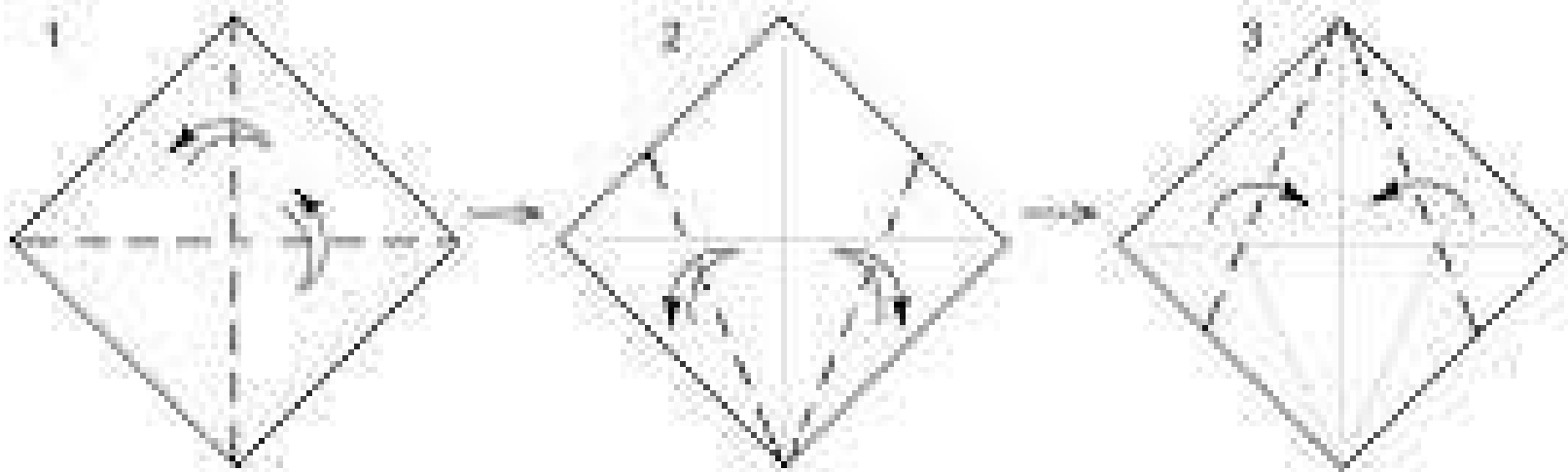
# Kite Fold



# Fat Arrow Fold



# Fancy Diamond Fold



# BALANCE

**The Principle of Art concerned  
with equalizing visual forces, or  
Elements in a work of art.**

# BALANCE ... In Art.

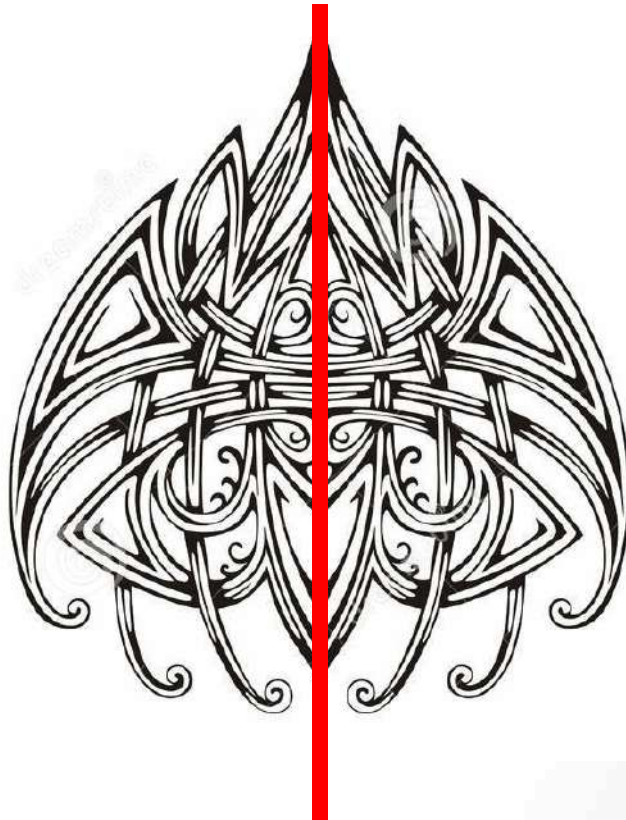
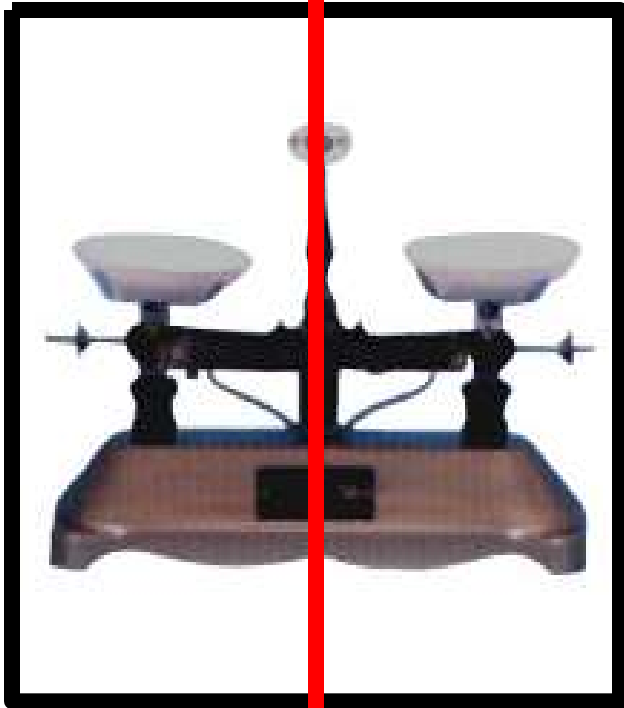
To see if two objects are of equal weight (or balanced), a balance scale can be used. In Art, balance must be *seen* rather than *weighed*.





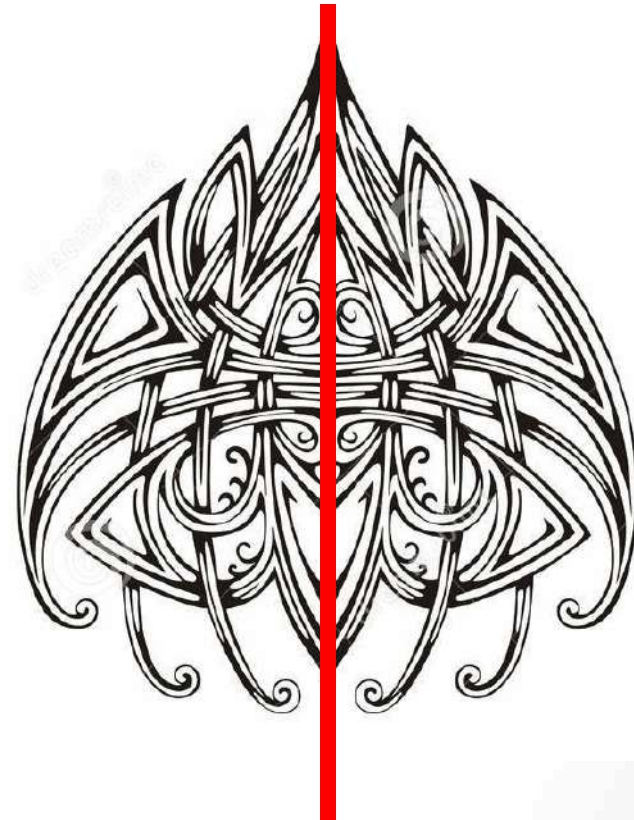
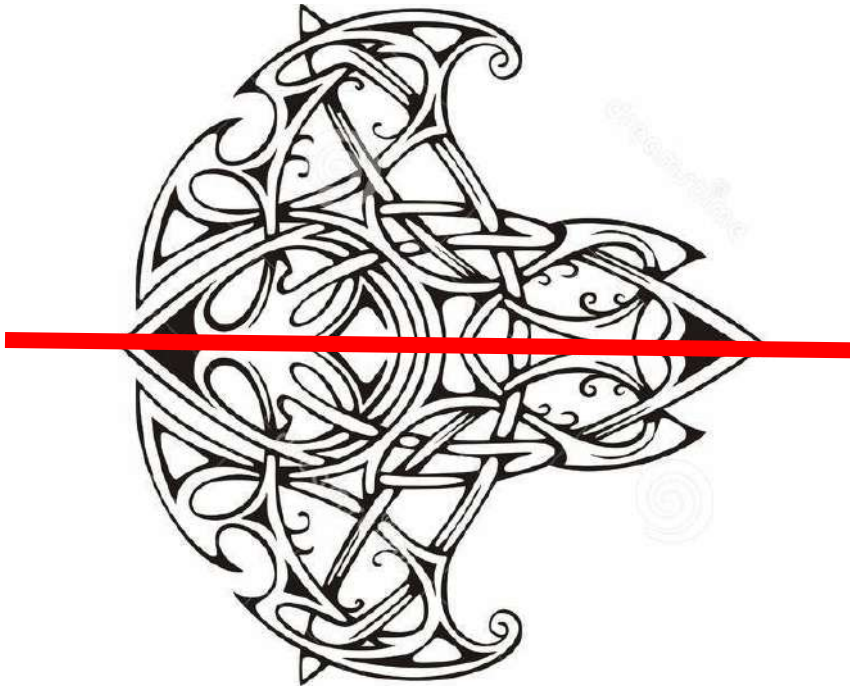
# BALANCE ... In Art.

A Central Axis is a dividing line that works like the point of balance in the balance scale.



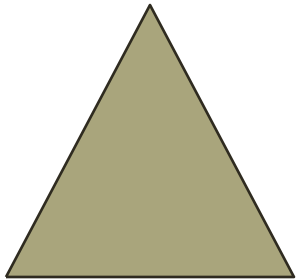
# BALANCE ... In Art.

A Central Axis can also be a horizontal axis.  
In this case, the visual weight is balanced  
between top and bottom.

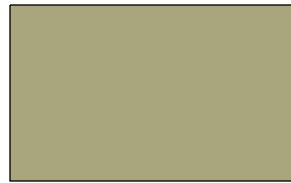


# Balance can occur with all Elements of Design:

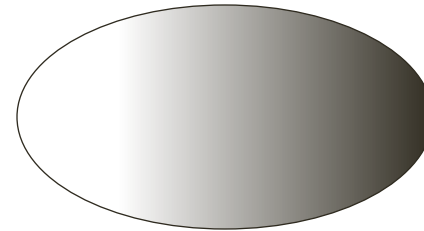
 **LINE**



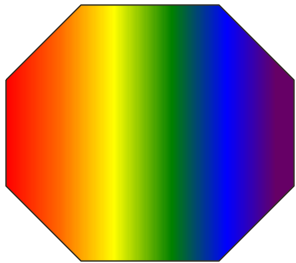
**SHAPE**



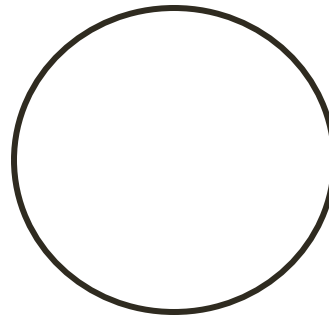
**FORM**



**VALUE**



**COLOR**



**SPACE**

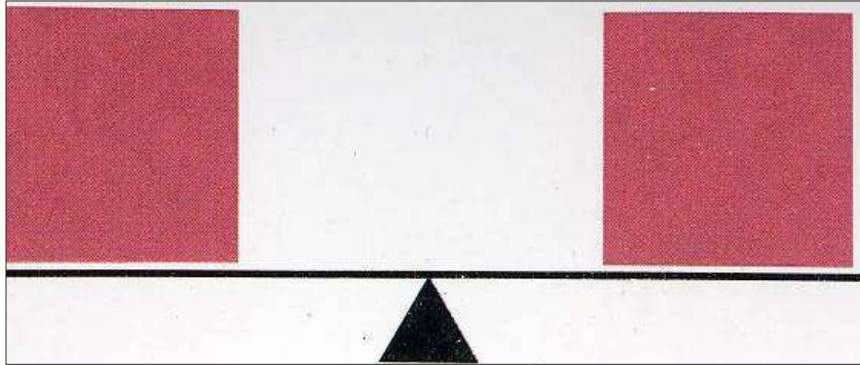


**TEXTURE**

# Three Kinds of Balance

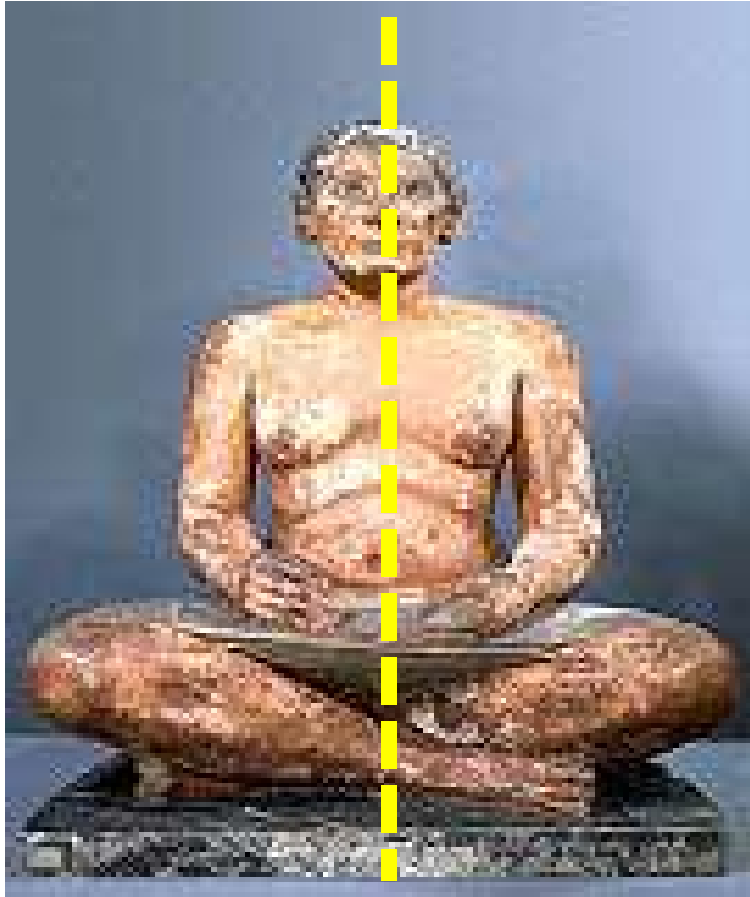
1. **Symmetrical** (Formal Balance)
2. **Radial Balance** (Formal Balance)
3. **Asymmetrical** (Informal Balance)

# Formal Balance



- Occurs when Elements are placed on opposite sides of the central axis creating and equal or *almost* equal balance.

# SYMMETRICAL BALANCE



Symmetry: A special type of balance in which two halves of a balanced composition are identical, mirror images of each other.

*Seated Scribe, Egypt*



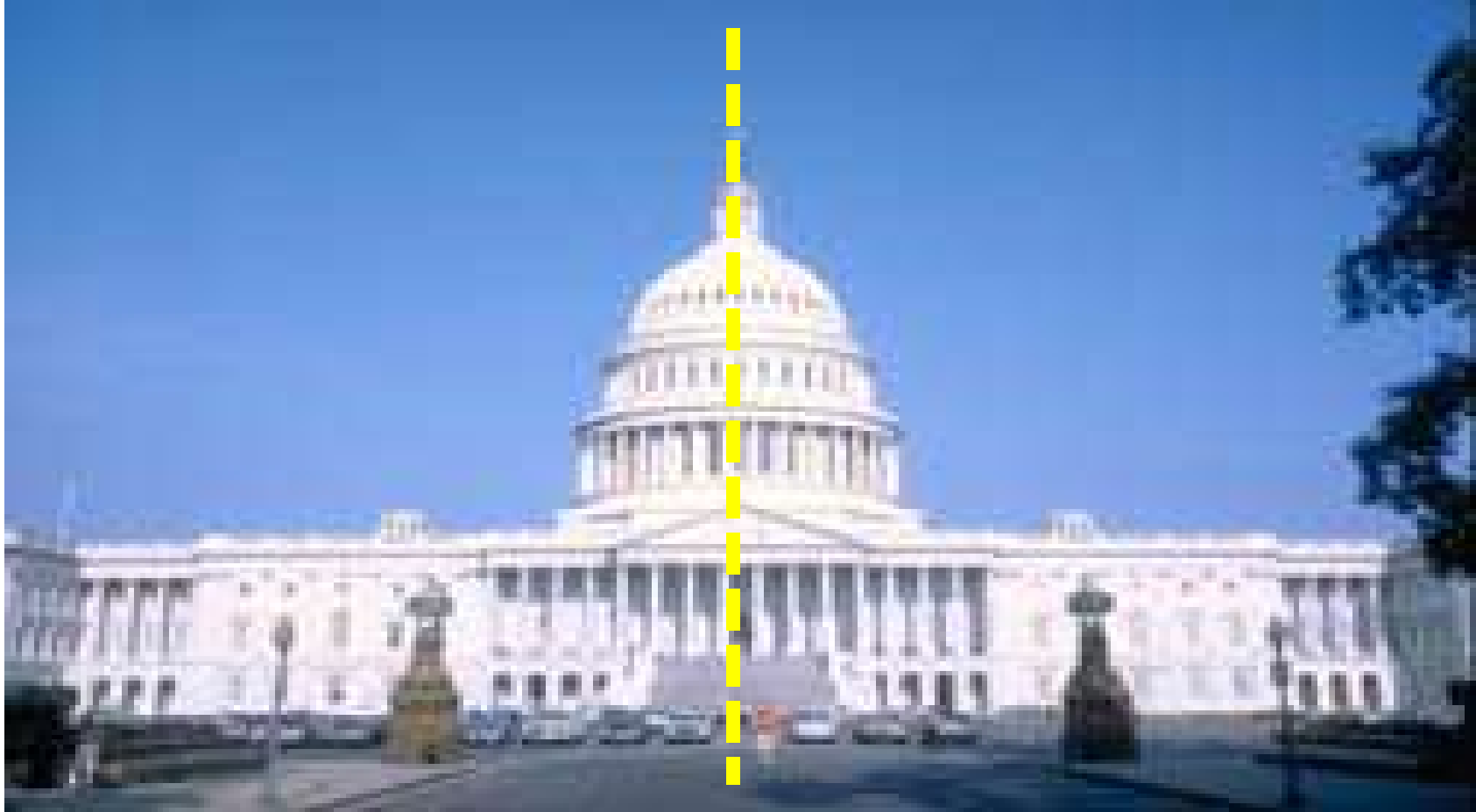
# Approximate – Symmetry Balance



Diego Rivera, *Flower Day*, 1925

Approximate  
Symmetry: Creates more interest. The composition is *almost* symmetrical. There are minor changes from one side to the other.

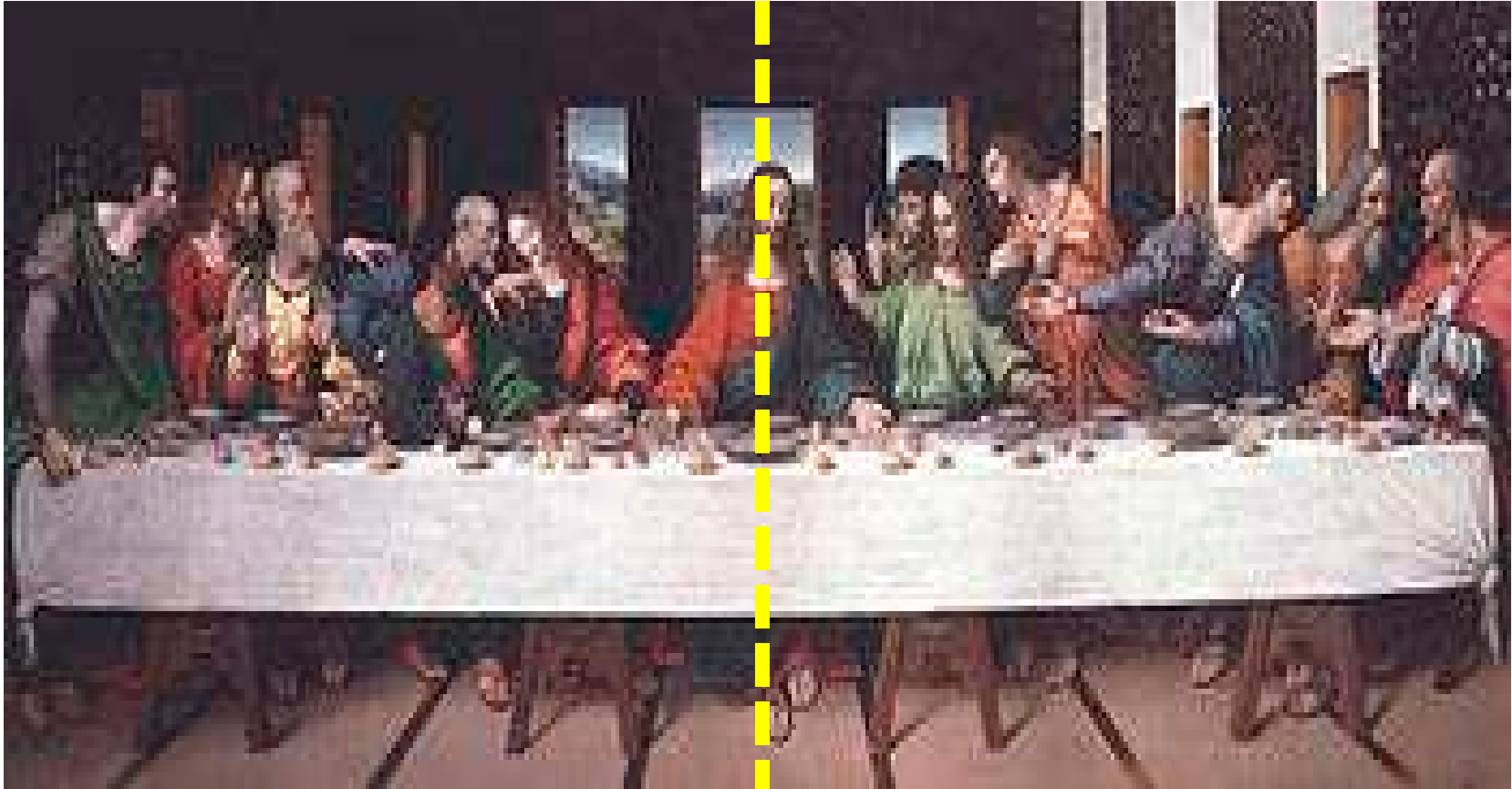
# Symmetrical or Approx. Symmetry?



United States Capitol Washington D.C. begun 1792, completed 1830

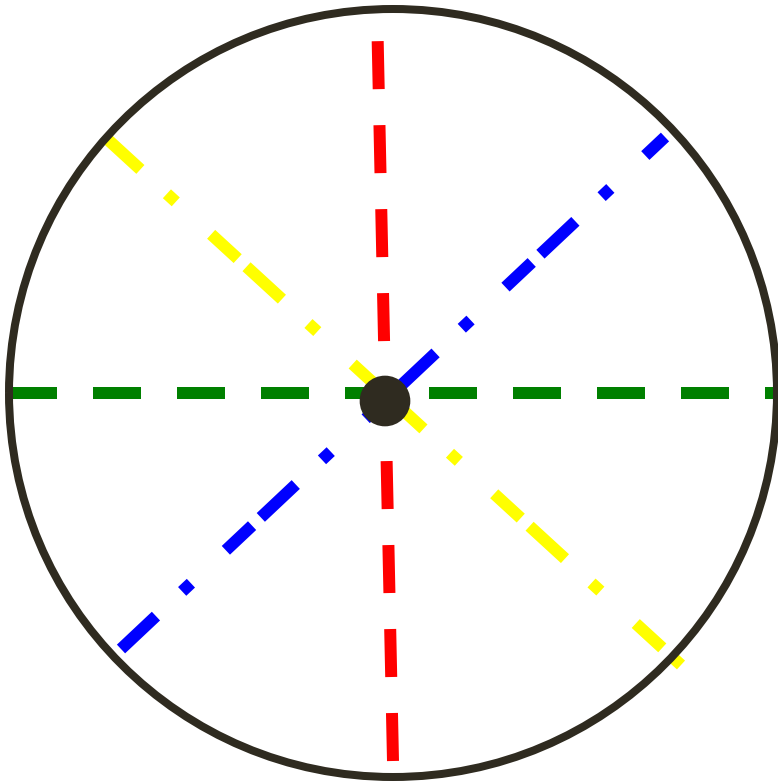


# Symmetrical or Approx. Symmetry?



*The Last Supper. Leonardo da Vinci (1495)*

# RADIAL BALANCE

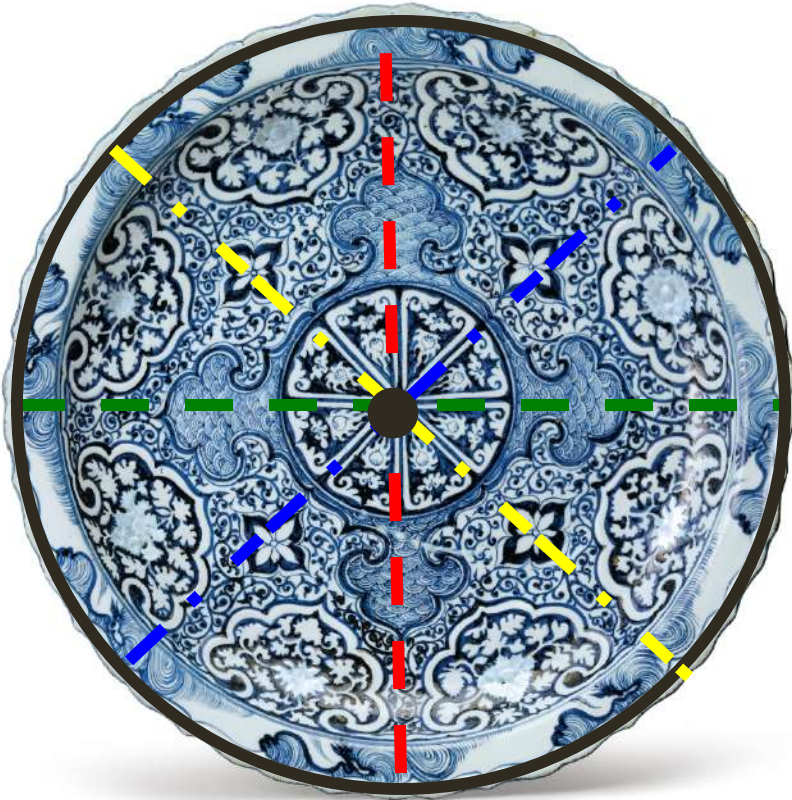


Occur when the forces or Elements of a Design come out (radiate) from a central point.

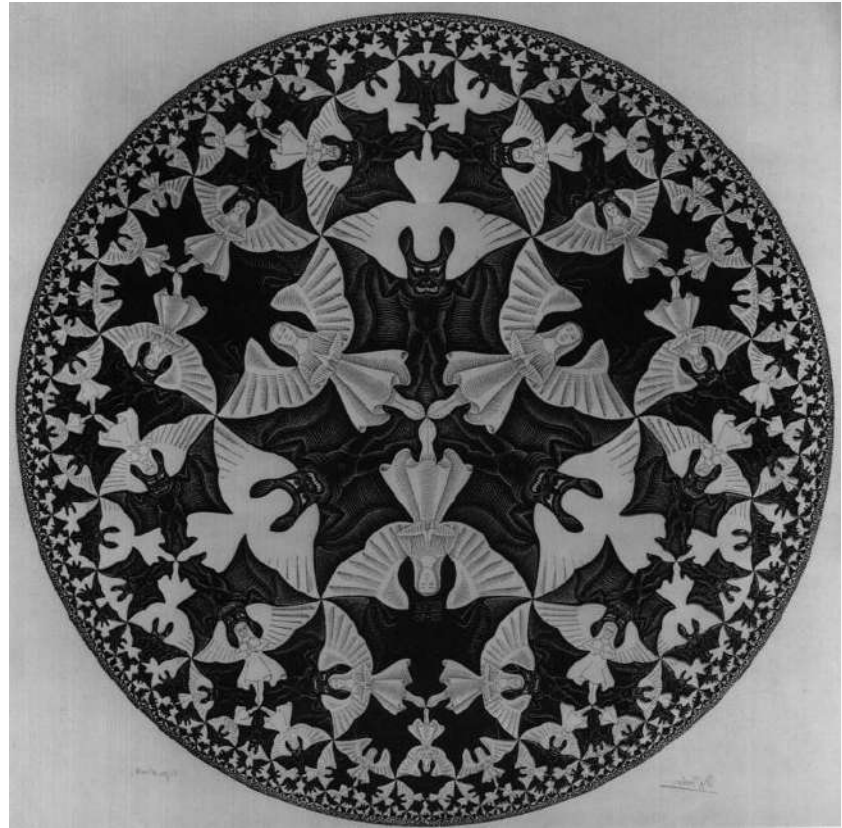
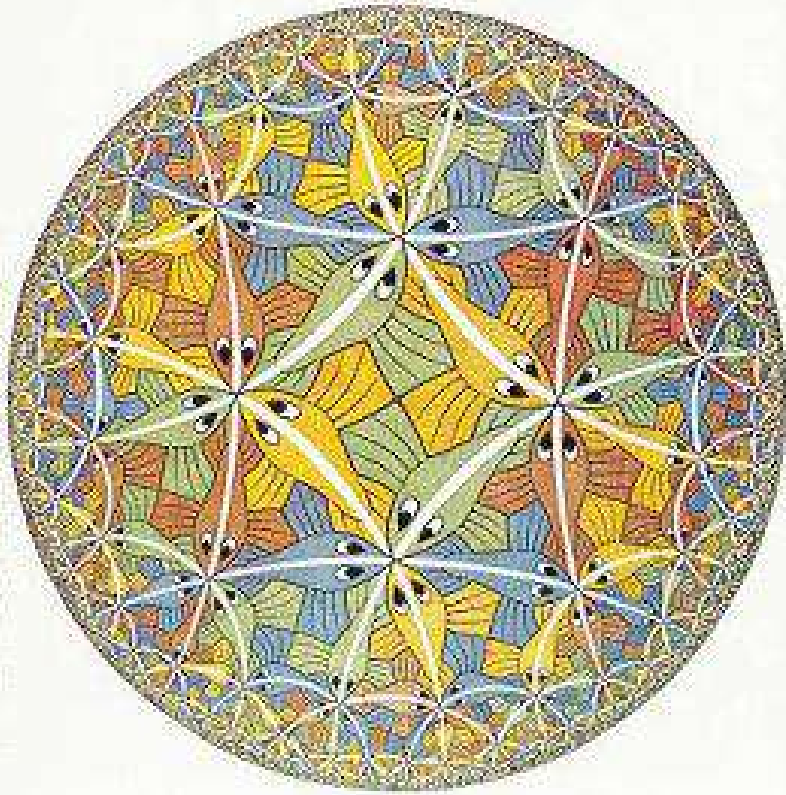
The axis in a radial design is the center point.

# RADIAL BALANCE

Radial balance is frequently found in nature (flowers) & architecture (domes).



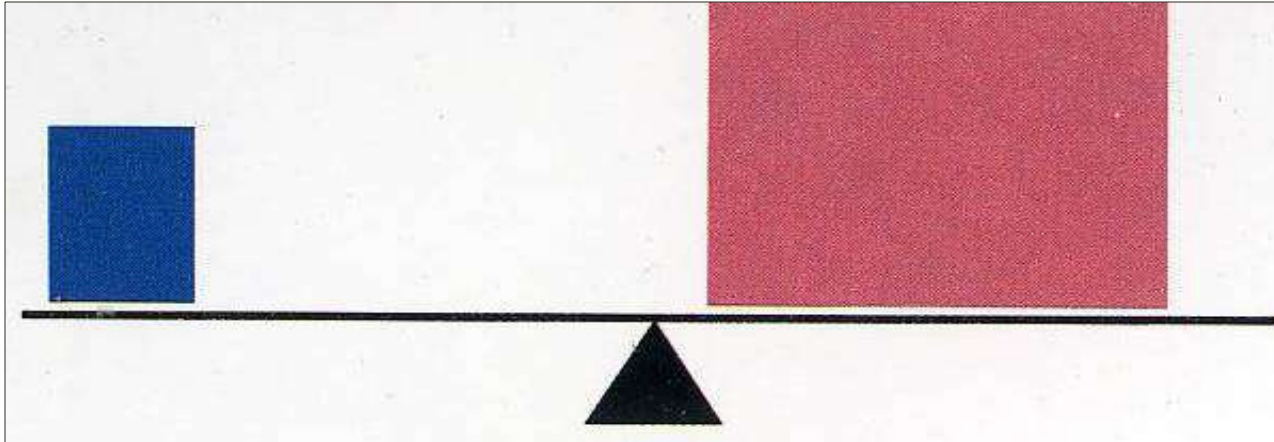
# Radial Balance



M.C. Escher

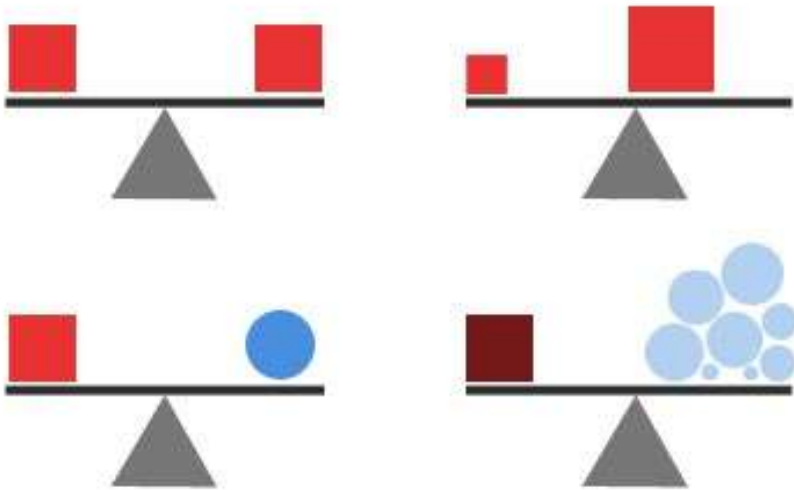


# Informal Balance



- Occurs when there is a balance of unlike objects (or Elements).
- Informal Balance is referred to as Asymmetrical.

# Asymmetrical (Informal Balance)



Can be achieved through:

- Size & Detail
- Color
- Value
- Texture
- Position

# Asymmetry & Size/Detail



Joan Miro  
*Landscape (The Hare)*  
Autumn 1927  
Oil on Canvas  
51 x 76 3/8"  
Guggenheim Museum

Several **smaller shapes** or forms can balance out **one large shape**.

Likewise, **a small, complex object** can balance out **a large, simple object**.

# Asymmetrical & Color



Viewer's eyes are naturally drawn to the areas of bright color.

Therefore, **a small area of bright color** is able to balance a larger area of dull, neutral color.

David Alfaro Siqueiros

*Echo of a Scream*

1937

Enamel on wood

48 x 36"

Museum of Modern Art



# Asymmetrical & Value

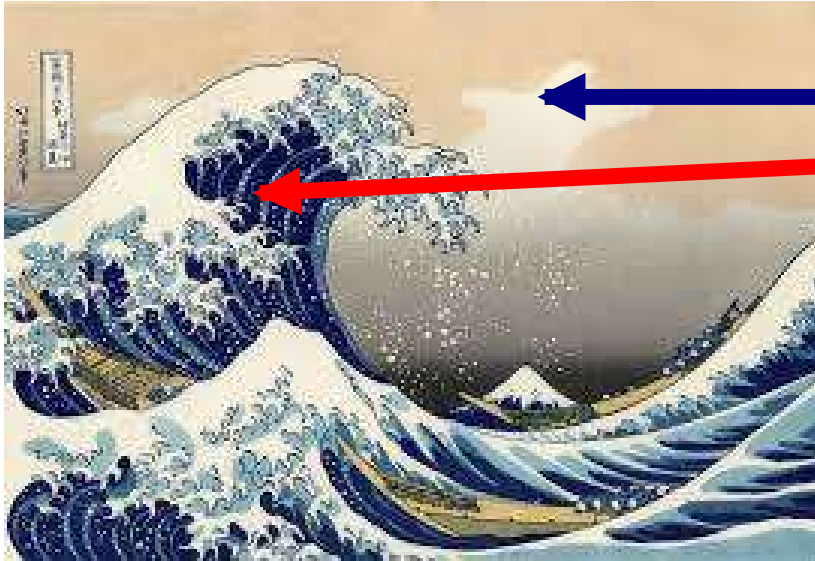


The stronger the contrast in Value between an object and the background the more visual weight the object has.

**Dark values** appear heavier than light values.

Emily Carr  
*A Rushing Sea of Undergrowth*  
1932-35.  
Oil on Canvas  
44  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 27  $\frac{1}{8}$ ”  
Vancouver Art Gallery

# Asymmetrical & Texture



Hokusai

*The Great Wave of Kanagawa*

1829-1832

Woodblock – Color print

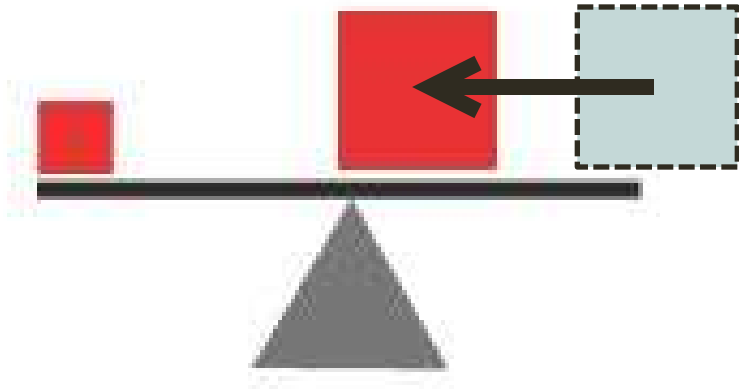
10.1 x 14.9”

Various copies located around the world.

A small, **rough textured area** can balance a large, **smooth surface**.

Text can also fall under “texture” because of the irregular pattern of light and dark created by the printed words.

# Asymmetrical & Position



Adjusting the position of objects can also create a balanced work.

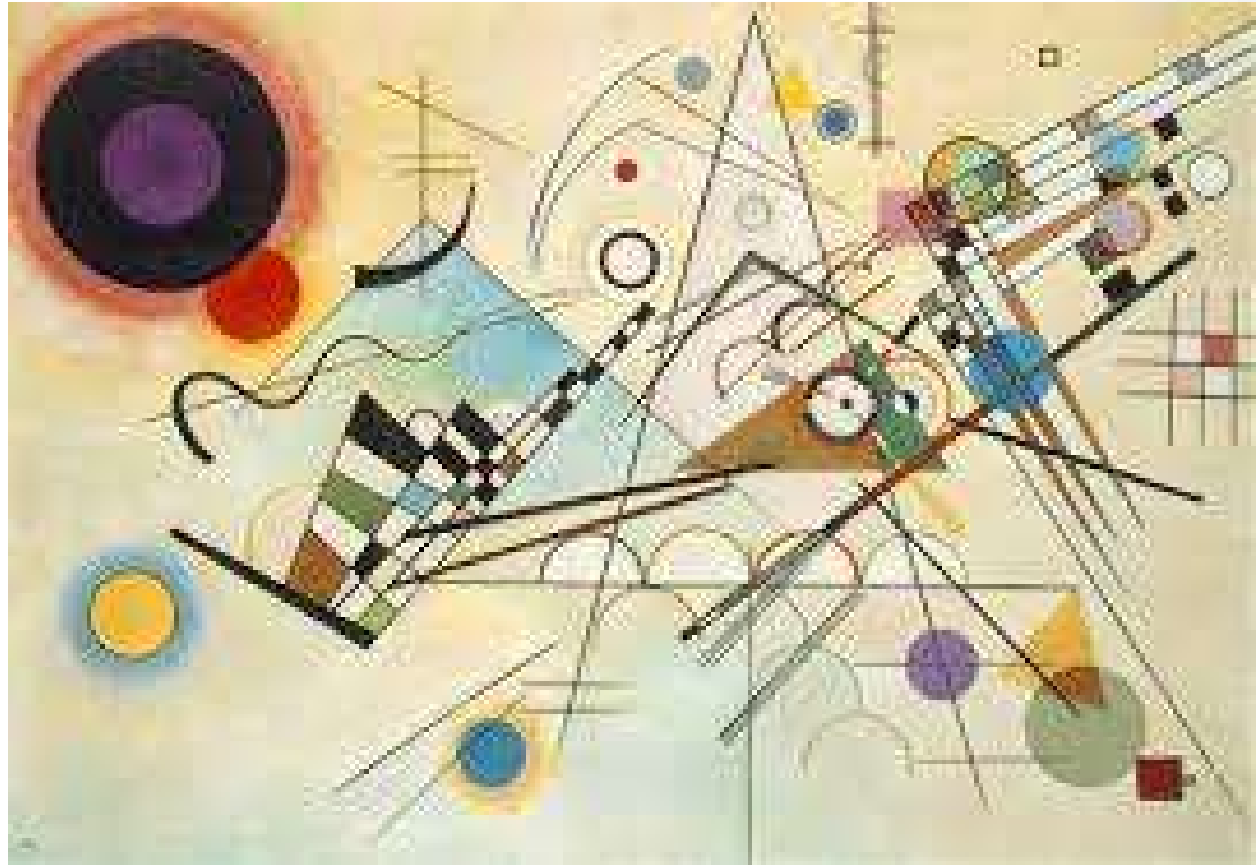
For example – two children of unequal weight playing on a seesaw. If the heavier person moves toward the center; the lighter person moves toward the end. The board is then balanced.

# Asymmetrical Balance



Andrew Wyeth  
*Christina's World*  
1948  
Museum of Modern Art

How is this piece balanced asymmetrically?



Wassily Kandinsky  
*Composition 8*  
July 1923  
Oil on Canvas  
55 1/8 x 79 1/8"  
Guggenheim Museum.

REVIEW –

What type of Balance do you see

What kind of balance is illustrated in this painting  
*Oriental Poppies*, by Georgia O'Keefe?



If you said **symmetrical balance**, you are correct!

If you could visually divide the paper in half.

There would be a poppy on both sides.

No one side dominates the pictures.

Neither poppy appears to be more important than the other.





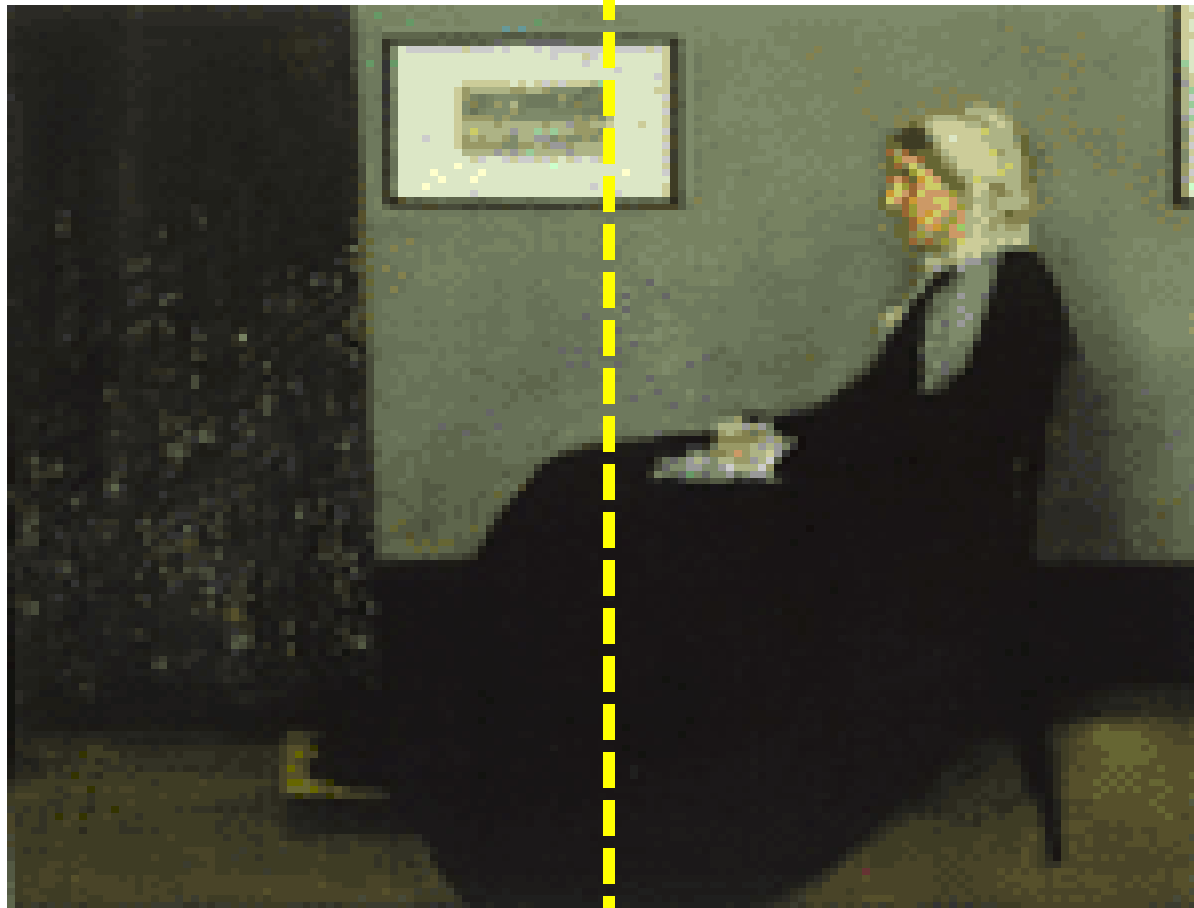
What type of **balance** is shown in this painting,  
*Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of the Painter's  
Mother* (commonly known as *Whistler's Mother*), by James  
Whistler?



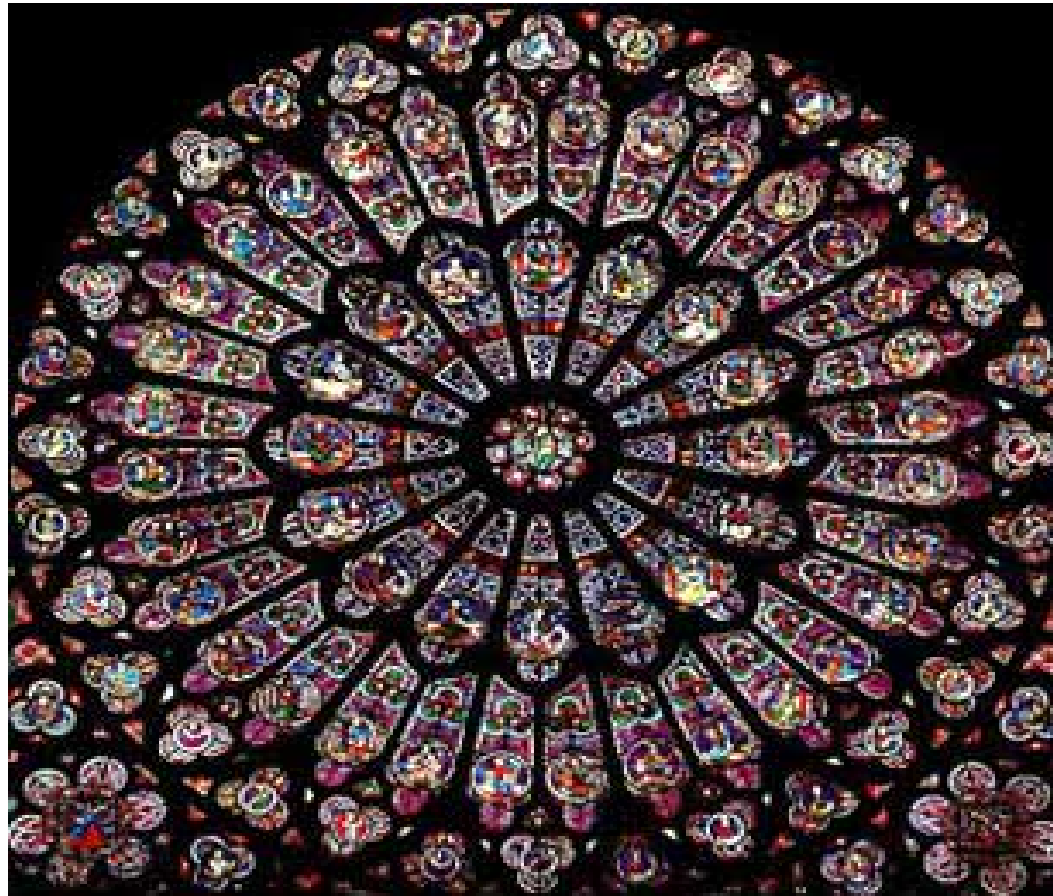
If you said, asymmetrical balance, you were right!

The large form of the woman is “visually equal” to the black curtain and white painting on the wall.

This makes the painting appear **balanced**.



What type of **balance** is shown in this stained glass artwork, *Rose Window*?



## Radial Balance!

Look at the spiral or spinning effect of the pattern.  
The axis is the center point and the design or pattern  
appears to "radiate" from that point.

