VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: movement, visual rhythm, kinetic art

DO NOW: Page 229, Picture 12-5

# 12 Movement and Rhythm

#### Key Vocabulary

visual rhythm kinetic art compositional movement progressive rhythm HEN YOU WALK ACROSS A ROOM, you display simple movement.

A figure skater's performance is a more complex movement. In design, artists achieve a variety of effects through the use of movement.

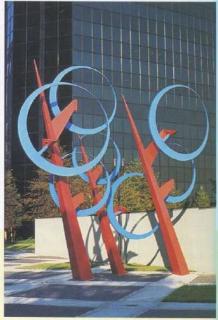
Movement can create a path for the viewer's eyes to follow across a composition. It can also set a mood or convey a feeling. In some designs, such as mobiles, actual movement is present. In others, such as a photo of a horse jumping over a fence, movement is recorded by the work.



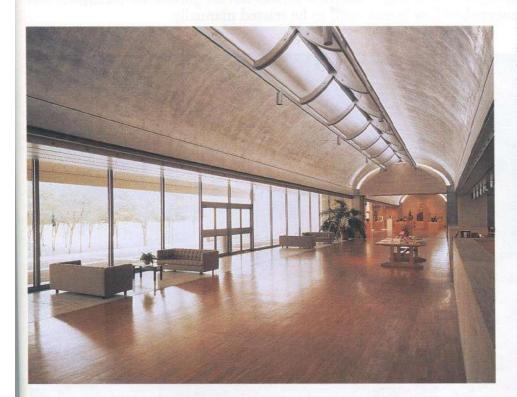
12-1 How does the artist lead your eye across the composition? How is your eye stopped at the edges of the image?

Miriam Schapiro (b. 1923). Master of Ceremonies, 1985. Acrylic and fabric on canvas, 90" x 144" (228.6 x 365.8 cm). Collection of Elaine and Stephen Wynn. Courtesy of the Steinbaum Krauss Gallery, New York, New York.

12–2 Notice how curving and diagonal lines provide a feeling of motion. Artists frequently use these devices to add movement to a composition. In the case of this sculpture, the blue circular forms actually do move. Jerome Kirk (b. 1923). Avion, 1986. Painted aluminum and stainless steel, 312" x 300" x 120" (792.5 x 762 x 304.8 cm). Irvine, California. Courtesy of the artist. Photo by J. Selleck.



Visual rhythm, similar to rhythm in music and dance, is closely related to movement. It may be produced by repeating one or several units of a design, such as a triangular shape or the color green. These motifs are depicted in a certain order or pattern, which creates a rhythm. Artists and designers can choose from a variety of visual rhythms, including regular, flowing, or alternating. Compare the images on these two pages. How would you describe the different movements or rhythms that you see?



12–3 Repetition of architectural elements often sets up a rhythm that helps lead us through the building. Here, the verticals move our gaze down the hall. Louis Kahn (1901–74). Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, 1972. West lobby with window wall and view into south galleries. Photo by Michael Bodycomb.

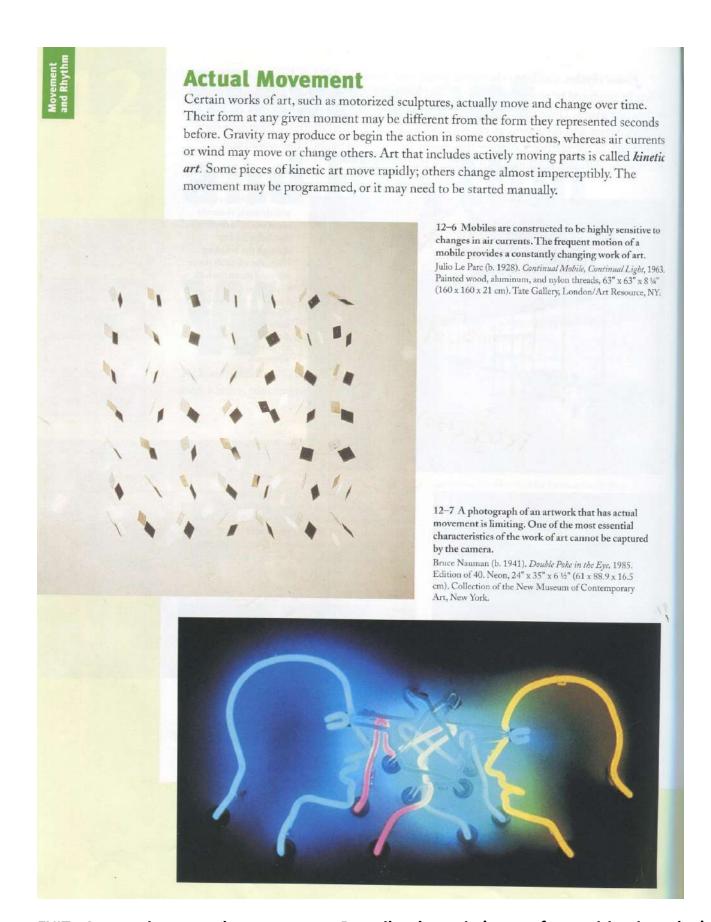


12-4 Movement in nature is often rhythmic. Birds in flight, North Carolina. Photo by N. W. Bedau.

12–5 In 1988 *Tin Toy* became the first completely computerized animated film to win an Oscar from the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences. Why might the artist have included the long black diagonal shadow lines in this computer-generated image from *Tin Toy*? How do the lines help move your eye through the scene?

From Tin Toy. ©1988 PIXAR.





EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of repetition in today's Do Now Art Image.

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#### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 2---pages 280-293**

**VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: landscape designer, visiual composition** 

DO NOW: Page 280, "Central Park"





Artist unknown. Japanese Tea Garden. Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA.

#### **Before the Design**

When you look at an area, what appeals to your eye? A landscape design is a visual composition, an arrangement of objects in a given space. Because nature is the starting point, landscape designers must work with the natural setting. They note topography, or how land rises and falls. They consider the soil conditions, patterns of sunlight and shade. They also consider wind direction, drainage, what is nearby, and how birds or other wildlife may be affected. Finally, they think about how people will use the space.

Landscape designers determine which plants will grow in a specific climate. They often plan water features, such as ponds and fountains, and how these will work with the surroundings and overall design. The designer then formalizes the plan on paper.

#### Sketchbook Journal

Look carefully at physical features of landscape designs in your community. Draw a few of these spaces from a bird's-eye view. Take notes on how the design is laid out and balanced and whether it works with the natural environment.

28

EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of repetition in today's Do Now Art Image.

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#### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 2---pages 232-235**

**VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: recorded action, compositional movement** 

DO NOW: Page 235, Picture 12-14

Movement and Rhythm

#### **Recorded Action**

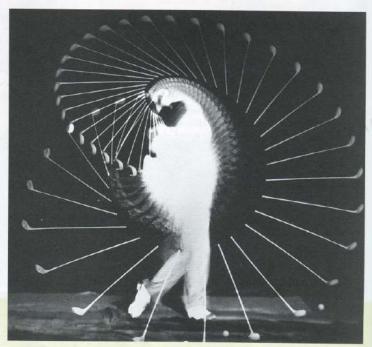
One of the marvelous qualities of vision is the ability to shift our eyes to follow action. We can see a speeding car off to the left and follow it as it zooms to the right. If we couldn't follow the movement of the car, we would see only a blur. This kind of image is like a moving image captured by film or videotape. However, the images in paintings and photographs don't move—and even several sequential photographs or drawings cannot display fluid action—but they can record movement or freeze a moment of action.



12–9 How does the photographer use contrast in values to emphasize the change from stillness to motion in this image?

Akiko DaSilva (agc 18). *Untitled*, 1996. Print. Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, Los Angeles, California.

12–10 A 1/100,000-second strobe flashed every 1/100 second to make this extraordinary image. Dr. Harold E. Edgerton (1903–90). Densmore Shute Bends the Shuft, 1938.
Print. ©Harold and Esther Edgerton Foundation, 1998. Courtesy of Palm Press, Inc.



A design also can capture action through the use of multiple images. Look at the photograph of a golfer (fig.12–10), for which the artist used a strobe light to repeatedly stop and record sequential moments of a single motion. Because the multiple images are recorded on one piece of film, they give the sense of continuous fluid movement.



12–11 In this partially ruined ancient sculpture, rippling garments capture the movement of a winged figure as she descends from the sky.

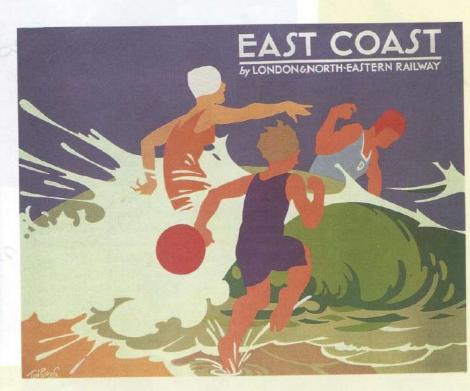
Ancient Greece. Nike of Samothrace, c. 200-190 BC. Marble, 8' high (2.44 m). The Louvre, Paris.

# 12–12 The artist has designed this advertisement for maximum effect. The movement of the figures and waves sends a message of fun-filled action.

Tom Purvis (1888–1959). East Coast by London and North Eastern Railway. Color lithograph poster, 40" x 50" (101.6 x 127 cm). Victoria and Albert Museum, London/Art Resource, NY.

#### Try it

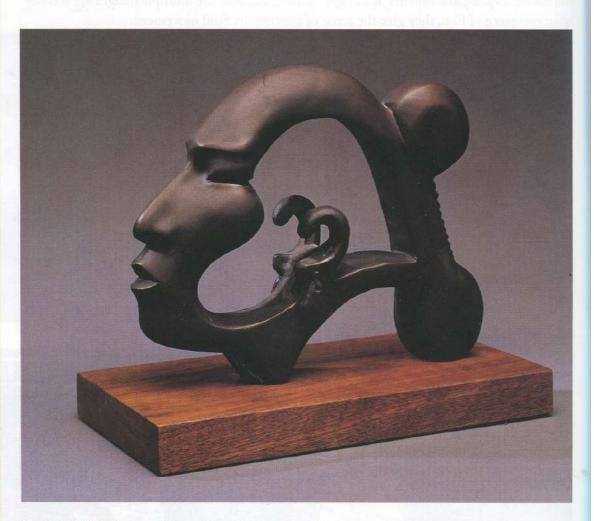
Draw a model from one angle. Then use a different color or drawing medium to draw the model from another angle. Draw the second pose on top of the first one. Then draw one more pose in another color on top of the first two. How does your drawing suggest movement? What might you add to emphasize movement or change?



2

### **Compositional Movement**

Compositional movement is neither action nor a record of action. It is experienced by comparing the positions of stationary objects or spaces within a design. Although a picket fence cannot move, it definitely conveys movement as it leads your eye from one end of the fence to the other. Compositional movement may be generated by contrast, emphasis, direction lines, shapes and colors, and other devices—and it can occur in both three-dimensional and two-dimensional art.



12–13a,b Multiple images of a three-dimensional artwork can offer some notion of the changes that occur as a viewer walks around it. There is no substitute, however, for experiencing a work of art firsthand.

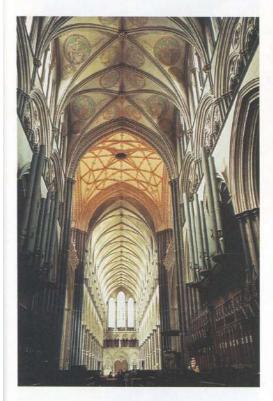
Allan Houser (1914–94). Desert Dweller, 1990. Bronze, edition of 18, 7 ¼" x 8 ½" x 3" (18.4 x 21.6 x 7.6 cm).  $\odot$ Allan Houser, Inc.



#### **Compositional Movement in Three-dimensional Art**

When we stand in front of a building or sculpture, our attention is drawn first to any large shape, textured surface, or area of contrasting values. Then we might notice the details of construction. In most three-dimensional art, compositional movement cannot be read or judged from a single point of view. A stationary sculpture will display change or movement as a viewer walks around it. Each new angle of vision often creates a shape or form that greatly contrasts with those seen from other angles. Compare the two views of Houser's Desert Dweller (fig.12–13a,b). Much of this sculpture design depends upon the relationship between negative and positive space, yet when the face is viewed frontally the appearance of the piece dramatically changes. The emphasis from this perspective is on the elongation of the face and the relationship of the forms.

Architects can produce movement by creating physical paths or other indicators that lead people to a building's entrance. Look at the photograph of a library (fig.12–15). The entryway juts out and is covered by an large arch and flanked by tall pillars and hedges. The doorway itself is a large opening of contrasting value. All these elements contribute to the compositional movement in the design of one structure. And when several buildings are clustered, movement is increased as a viewer's attention shifts from one structure to another.



12–14 Gothic architects, trying to lead the eyes of worshipers toward God, built the interiors of their cathedrals as tall as possible. These great heights convey a feeling of strong vertical movement, High, narrow windows, ribbed columns, and exterior spires all enhance and strengthen this sense of movement toward heaven.

Salisbury Cathedral, 1220–1380. Salisbury, England. Interior view of nave facing west.

12–15 Generally, an architect gives a visual cue to let us know where to find a building's entrance. Here, the curved arch attracts and holds the eye amidst the many verticals. The eye has a tendency to keep wandering back to the arch, as though the arch were creating a circle around the point of access.

Michael Graves (b. 1934). San Juan Capistrano Library, San Juan Capistrano, California, 1983. Photo by J. Selleck.

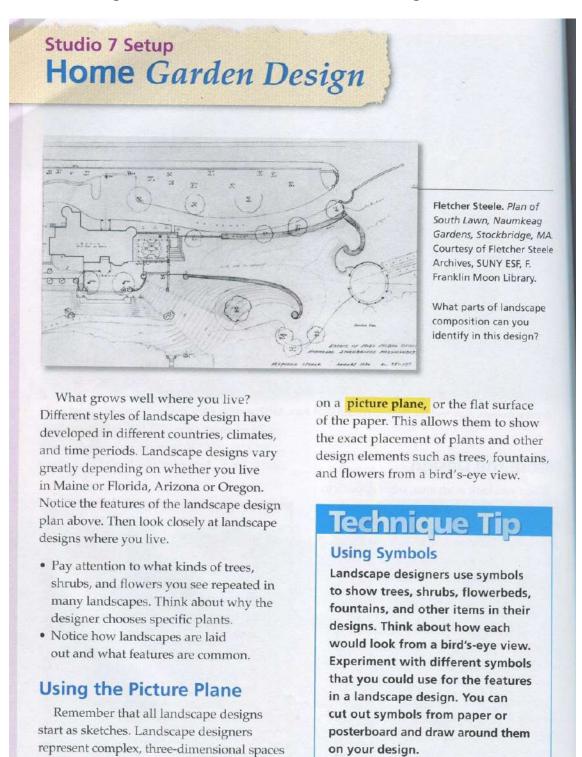


EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of emphasis in today's Do Now Art Image.

#### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 2---page 282**

**VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: picture plane** 

DO NOW: Page 282, "Plan of South Lawn, Naumkeag Gardens"



EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of emphasis in today's Do Now Art Image.

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 3---pages 238-240

#### VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: visual rhythm, regular rhythm, flowing rhythm

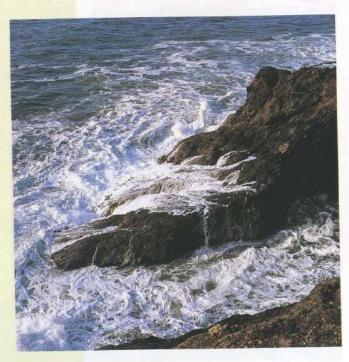
DO NOW: Page 240, Picture 12-24

Movement and Rhythm

**Types of Rhythm** 

When a musical band starts to play, do you drum your fingers on a table or tap your foot? Do you experience a special feeling when fall comes each year or when school lets out for summer? The repetitious beat of music and the repeated pattern of activities related to seasonal change are both examples of rhythm. So, too, is the continuous crashing of waves on a beach. Rhythm is fundamental to our lives. We are surrounded by it, and we learn to walk, run, dance, talk, and eat in patterns of repetition.

In art, visual rhythm, which is similar to pattern, may be produced by repeating one or more motifs in a recognizable or predictable order. Visual rhythm can be easy to read, or it can be extremely complex. Both artists and designers use rhythm to help organize a composition, and also to create interest, emphasis, or unity. They might vary visual rhythm by changing the size, position, or direction of the repeated motifs and by altering the intervals between them. They might also combine two or more rhythms. In your work, practice and experimentation will help you to determine which rhythms work best in certain situations.



12-20 Visual rhythm in nature is often accompanied by sound rhythm.

Rock and wave action, from Driftwood Series. Photo by J. Scott.

12–21 This wall sculpture is completely regular in its rhythm. If the work were extended, the addition would be highly predictable.

Donald Judd (1928–94). Untitled, 1967–80. Galvanized steel and Plexiglas, ten units, each unit 9" x 40" x 31" (15.6 x 68.6 x 61 cm). Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, California. ©Estate of Donald Judd/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.

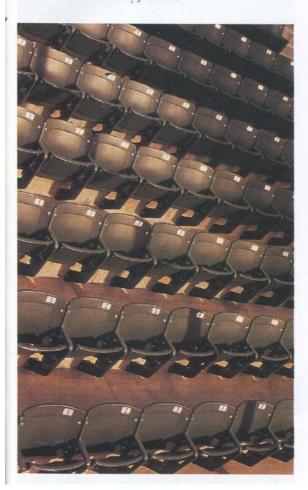


#### Regular

Look at Judd's sculpture (fig.12–21), in which the design repeats a rectangular form, and the space between the forms remains constant. This is an example of regular rhythm. Regular rhythm creates a repeated pattern that is both predictable and continuous. The pattern may be restricted to the borders or edges of a design, or it may cover the entire surface of a building or a sheet of wrapping paper. Note how a photographer captured the regular repetition of rows of seats at a sports arena (fig.12–22).

12-22 A series of similar elements placed at a constant interval produces a regular rhythm.

Tennis-court seats. Photo by J. Selleck.





12–23 A regular rhythm is created in this student work by the row of similar marching figures.

Jang Cho (age 18). *Mannequin Center Stage*, 1997. Colored pencil, 11" x 14" (27.9 x 35.6 cm). Lake Highlands High School, Dallas, Texas.

#### **Flowing**

Smooth, flowing rhythms seem to unify whole compositions in a peaceful but powerful way. Usually, large movements that sweep across an entire work tie each of the parts together. Some flowing rhythms move along curved, circular, or wavy paths, and may be similar to radial patterns.

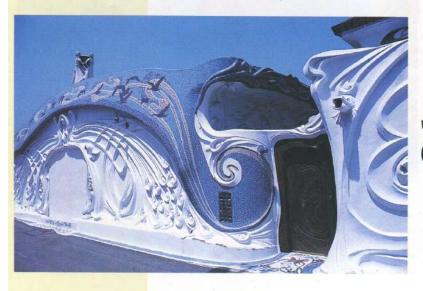
In nature, the swirling form of a seashell, smoothly rolling hills, and the winds of a hurricane are all examples of flowing rhythms. In art, flowing rhythm can communicate freedom and grace. Artists and designers commonly employ it in landscapes, figurative designs, and in abstract and nonrepresentational works. Flowing rhythms produce compositional movement along a definite path. In fig.12–24, the viewer is led from the immediate foreground into the distance. This motion creates a flowing rhythm that is continuous and without sudden change in direction.

12–24 Notice that the flowing lines created by rhythmical fish shapes and background plants combine with the dominant plant shape to contribute to a unified sense of flowing rhythm.

John Forbes (b. 1946) and Jeanne Rosen (b. 1954). Residential Window, 1985. Stained glass, 4' x 4' (1.2 x 1.2 m). Courtesy Bonny Doon Art Glass, Santa Cruz, CA.

12-25 This design contrasts sharply with the regular rhythms that are typical of architecture.

Don M. Ramos (20th cent.). O'Neill guest house, 1978, Los Angeles, California. Photo by J. Selleck.





#### Try it

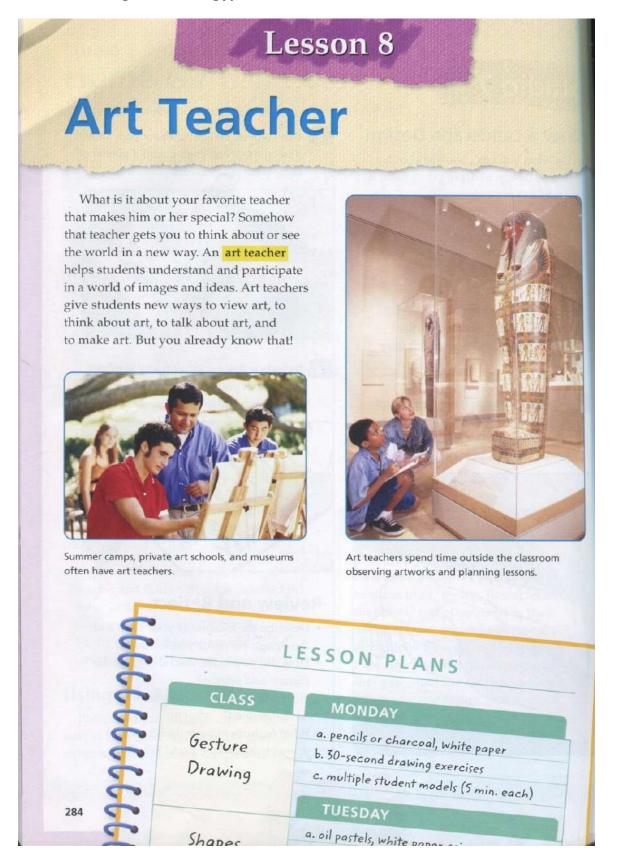
With paint or drawing media, explore patterns that move in flowing rhythms. Plan your composition to include a series of wavy lines so that each line echoes the path of the lines closest to it. Consider how much space to leave between the lines: you might vary the amount to obtain different effects. Allow enough space to add a series of shapes to form a pattern. You could select motifs that emphasize the sense of flowing movement or rhythm, and you could also increase or decrease the size of the units as the pattern advances.

EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of balance in today's Do Now Art Image.

#### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 3---pages 284-285**

**VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY:** art teacher, motivator, curriculum, teaching strategies

DO NOW: Page 2284, "Egyptian Art Museum"





EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of balance in today's Do Now Art Image.

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 4--- page 241-243

#### VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: Henri Matisse, alternating rhythm, progressive rhythm

DO NOW: Page 241, "Self Portrait"

#### **About the Artist**

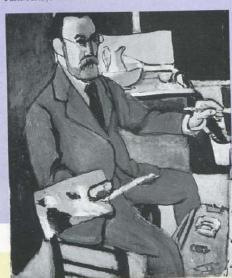
## **Henri Matisse**

Matisse found great joy in creating art, asserting that the purpose of his artwork was to bring pleasure to the viewer. He worked as an artist from 1890 until his death in 1954 at the age of eighty-five. During this time, the art world underwent major changes. Matisse was influenced by movements such as Impressionism and Cubism, yet he held firm to his own path—a steady movement toward extreme simplicity of shape and color. Matisse sculpted as well as drew and painted, concentrating much of his effort on portraying the human form and exploring the use of color.

One of the few artists to achieve fame and popularity within his lifetime, Matisse became known for his outstanding ability to simplify a complex subject, extracting the pure elements of shape, as in *The Snail* (fig.12–26). To create a sense of movement, he would often exaggerate and distort shapes.

In his final years, Matisse was ill and bedridden. However, he continued to create

Henri Matisse. Self-portrait, 1918. Courtesy Musée Matisse. Art Resource, NY. ©1999 Succession H. Matisse, Paris/ARS, New York.



art, composing powerful abstract collages—
papiers-découpés—from brightly painted
paper cutouts. He was able to work, cutting
paper with scissors, from his bed. At first, he
used the cutout pieces to plan paintings, but
later he made them the actual materials of his
artworks. Despite his physical discomfort,
Matisse felt that reading poetry and creating
art made life worth living.



12-26 This work—which can be seen as an exploration of the boundary between abstract and representational art—is one of the last that Matisse completed. How did he include flowing rhythm in this work?

Henri Matisse (1869–1954). The Snail, 1953. Gouache on cut and pasted paper, 112 %" x 113" (287 x 288 cm). Tate Gallery, London/Art Resource, NY ©1999 Succession H. Matisse, Paris/ARS, NY.

#### **Alternating**

Regular and flowing rhythms tend to be pleasing because they are predictable and contribute to order and unity. But if rhythms are *too* much the same, they can be monotonous. For example, if all the high-rise buildings in a city were exactly the same height and shape, they would create a dull skyline. Variety is what helps overcome such boredom and can create needed interest in a composition.

By pairing periods of excitement or suspense with moments of quiet and relief, authors of books and directors of movies use alternating rhythm to sustain interest. In design, this type of rhythm might be created with a simple wallpaper pattern that alternates vertical rows of small flowers with vertical stripes. Examine the woodcut (fig.12–27), in which the artist used rows of round apples to create one rhythm, and tall angular sticks to create another. The two work together to provide interest and variety.



12–27 Compare this image with fig.12–22. What rhythmic differences and similarities can you find? Wayne Thiebaud (b. 1920). Candied Apples, 1987. Edition of 200, no. 20. Print, 16 ½" x 15" (41.9 x 38.1 cm). Courtesy of the Allan Stone Gallery, New York, NY.

12–28 What are the alternating patterns in this work? Katherine Porter (b. 1941). *Untitled*, 1981. Charcoal, gouache, and crayon on paper, 26 ¼" x 40 ¼" (66.4 x 101.4 cm). Courtesy of the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University Art Museums. Acquired through the Deknatel Purchase Fund.



#### **Progressive**

Like alternating rhythm, *progressive rhythm* also brings variety to a composition. A rhythm is progressive when its repeated motifs change in a predictable or regular way. A simple example would be a design in which a shape increases or decreases in size each time it is repeated. A more complex example of progressive rhythm is a pattern in which a motif turns a little or becomes darker each time it is repeated. In the student work (fig.12–29), notice how (in a series of five steps) the car progressively changes into a bird.

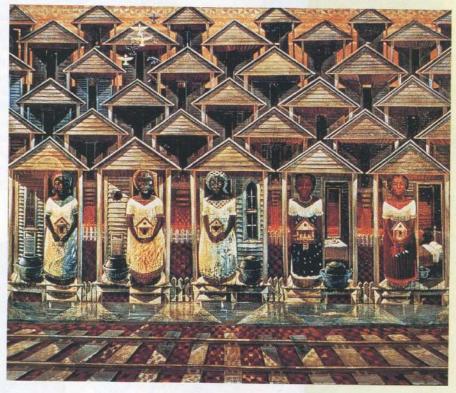


12–29 In this composition the eye of the viewer is rhythmically led from bottom to top where one is inclined to imagine the bird flying out of the picture plane.

Jason Foor (age 18). *Untitled*, 1995. Pencil 24" x 18" (61 x 45.7 cm). Plano Senior High School, Plano, Texas.

12–30 A "shotgun" is a kind of row house built originally by Haitian slaves. Biggers was born in this type of small house in North Carolina. His richly patterned painting combines progressive rhythms.

John Biggers (b. 1924). Shotguns, 1987. Acrylic on canvas, 41 ¾" x 32" (106 x 81.3 cm). Private Collection. Courtesy of the artist.

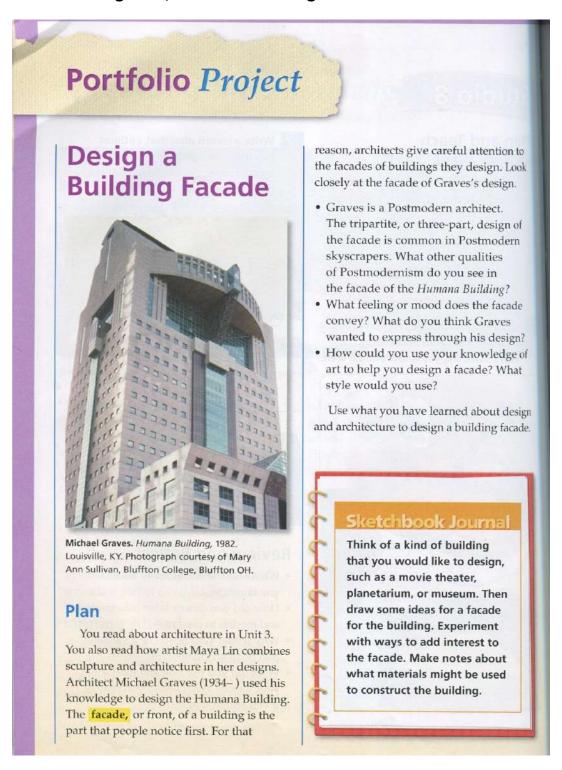


EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of shape in today's Do Now Art Image.

#### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 4---page 288**

#### **VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: facade**

DO NOW: Page 288, "Humana Building"



EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of shape in today's Do Now Art Image.

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#### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 5---pages 244-246

#### **VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: unexpected rhythm**

DO NOW: Page 246, Picture 12-35



Look at the detail from a large wall painting (fig.12–31). The entire work is made up of 988 separate squares; only a small sampling is reproduced here. The viewer's gaze moves from one square to another, encountering a variety of repeated motifs, including circles, houses, and trees. Although the squares are orderly, the color, style, and size of the motifs change throughout the composition. No single planned pattern is apparent. The entire work, called *Rhapsody*, can be compared to a piece of music in which notes are played unpredictably—at varying volumes and even by different instruments.



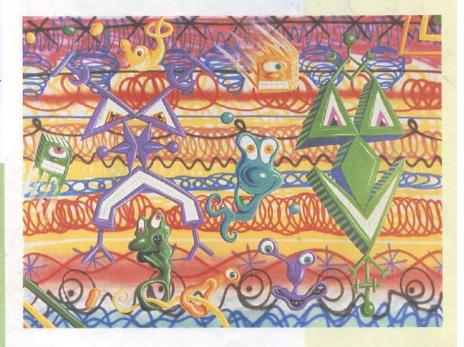
12–33 Compare this painting to fig.12–25. Although both works make use of flowing curves, the ones in this work are not predictable.

Rbythmical grid. Photo by

12–34 Ken Scharf incorporated a few rhythmic sections, but there is no sense of a single pattern or rhythm. The artist uses television and cartoons for inspiration. He creates zany creatures from geometric and organic shapes with a background of spirals, loops, and squiggles. Kenny Scharf (b. 1958). *Travel Time*, 1984. Acrylic and spray paint on canvas, 79" x 103 ¼" (206 x 262.2 cm). Courtesy of the Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York, New York.

#### Try it

Listen to various kinds of music with distinctive beats, such as rock, classical, Caribbean, flamenco, countrywestern, and lullabies. Experiment with art media to suggest the variety of movements and rhythms in each kind of music. Without depicting any recognizable objects or forms, try only to capture the feeling of the music and convey its journey.





## **Another Look at Movement and Rhythm**



## 12–35 How did Lichtenstein express action in this painting? Roy Lichtenstein (1923–97) Whaam! 1963 Magna acryli

Roy Lichtenstein (1923–97). Whaam!, 1963. Magna acrylic and oil on canvas, two canvases, each 68" x 80" (172.7 x 203 cm). Tate Gallery, London/Art Resource, NY. ©Contemporary Art Services, NY.



National Museum, Athens.

12–36 This figure was part of a group that included a now-lost bronze horse running at full gallop. Imagine how the movement in this piece would have been enhanced when the boy was perched on the horse.

Ancient Greece. Jockey from Artemisium, 240–200 BC. Bronze.



12–37 How is your eye directed to move across the surface of this sculpture?

Phineas Kamangira (20th cent.). Elder Wrapped in Blanket, c. 1990. Chiweshe Serpentine, 36" high (91.4 cm). Courtesy of Ukama Press/Zimbabwe Sculpture, Inc. and Mike Spirelli Photography.

EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of unity in today's Do Now Art Image.

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#### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WEEK 18, DAY 5---page 293**

#### **VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK ENTRY: illustration**

DO NOW: Page 293, "Untitled"



EXIT: Answer in a complete sentence: Describe the artist's use of unity in today's Do Now Art Image.

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