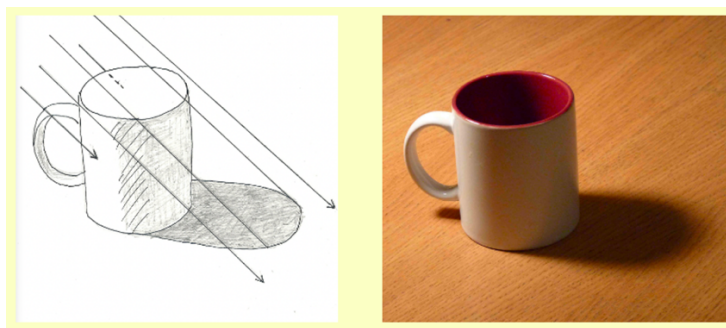


ARTFUL SHADOWS – UA FALL 2024
CLASS 1 – February 21, 2024

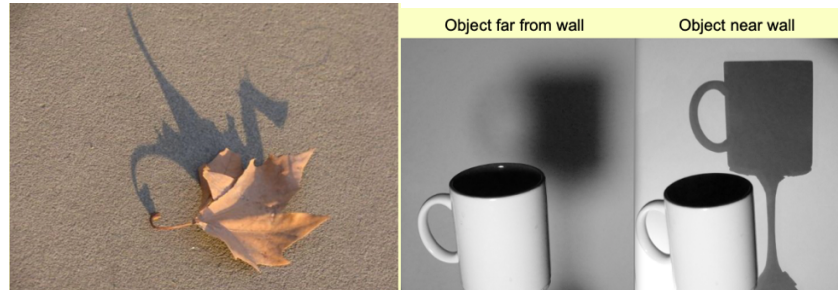
1. Opening Video: Me and My Shadow. “Performance art” but the message – that shadows are important – is what the course is about.
2. Definition of shadow: Shadows occur when an object blocks light. There are two kinds of shadows. Cast (on the surface behind the cup) and attached (on the back of the cup).



3. Although the definition of shadows is simple, shadows are extremely variable, because many things influence the size, shape and sharpness of shadows.
4. Two things that influence shadows: (1) angle of the light; (2) Object's shape – Shadows with about the same shape as the object are called copy-cat shadows.



5. Some more properties of shadows: (1) Can distort an object's shape; (2) Can indicate an object's identity; (3) Can be fuzzy or sharp; (4) They are always dark, but some shadows are darker than others.

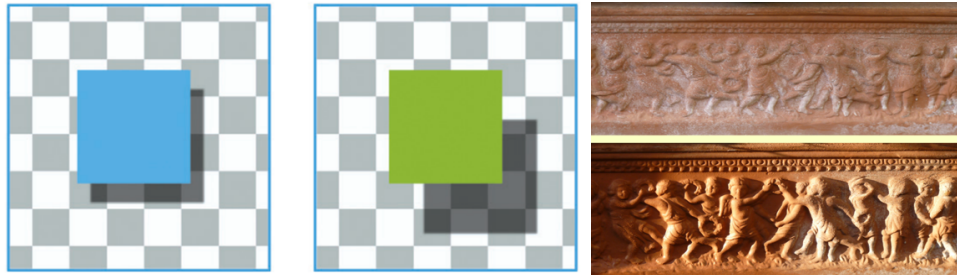


6. How shadows get dark: Although people often describe shadows as occurring when light is subtracted from an area on a surface, that isn't the case. When light hits an object and casts a shadow, the intensity of the light inside the shadow remains the same. When the intensity of the light is increased the shadow gets darker but the intensity of the light inside the shadow remains the same.

A light meter measuring the light intensity just in back of the cup below would indicate the same intensity in all three cases. Shadows get dark because light is added to the area around the shadow. So shadows are not caused by the subtraction of light inside the shadow. They are caused by addition to light outside the shadow which causes contrast between the shadowed area and its surroundings.



7. Shadows also: (1) Indicate an object's position in space; (2) Reveal contours and shapes; (3) Enhance texture; (4) Exaggerate texture (bas relief ambiguity); (5) Can hide objects because of their darkness.



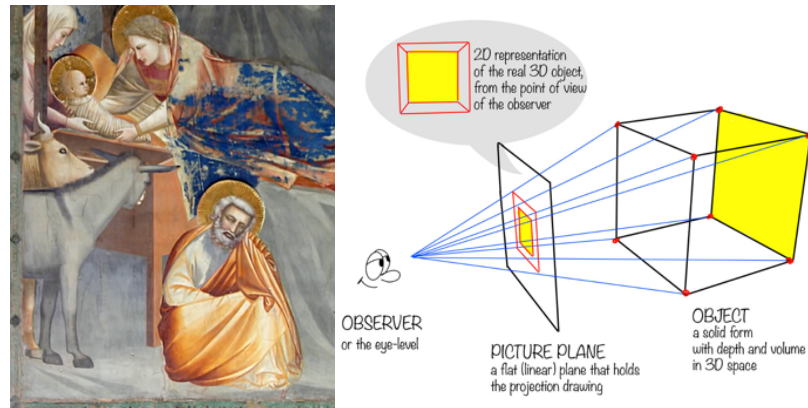
8. Brief history of shadows in art, beginning with cave painting. There were no or few cast shadows in early art. Some attached shadows. Story of Butades of Corinth, in which the woman traces the outline of her boyfriend's shadow who is going away on a journey. This story is used to support the idea (myth) that painting and drawing originated from shadows.



9. Greek and Roman art. Little art survives. Some attached shadows, and a few cast shadows. Chinese, Islamic, and Byzantine art avoided cast shadows and often attached shadows, as well.



10. Finally, in the 1300's Giotto created paintings with some cast shadows. A century later, in the 1400's, Brunelleschi set forth the rules of perspective, which made it possible to draw 2D pictures of 3D scenes and to accurately depict shadows.

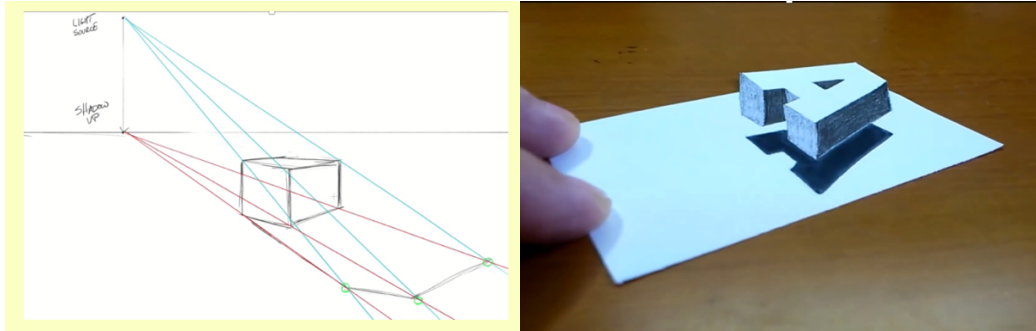


11. Some renaissance artists included shadows in their paintings, although often these were just attached shadows, with cast shadows being omitted from some objects or were painted without concern for the rules of perspective.



12. We pause in our history of shadows in art to consider why Renaissance artists (1300 – 1400) often avoided including shadows in their paintings, even though the rules of perspective for creating pictures of three-dimensional scenes on a two-dimensional canvas were known.

13. Reason #1: Principles for applying perspective to shadows were needed. We saw a video which showed how present-day artists apply the principles of perspective to drawing shadows.



14. The principles for applying perspective to shadows was, however, not totally understood by artists, even though they were able to apply Brunelleschi's rules of perspective to creating depth in their paintings.
15. Reason #2: Lots of things are variable in paintings. Shadows depend on where the light is, where the blocking object is, what the shape of the blocking object is, and many other things.
16. Another example of variability is that changes can take place while the artist is painting a picture. An example: When painting cows, they keep moving, so the artist has to make a decision about where to place the cows. We call the fact that artist's have to make decisions about things in paintings the "cow problem." As we will see, this holds not only for moving cows, but for many other things. Thus, decision-making is an important part of creating art.

In CLASS 2 we will consider:

- (1) More reasons renaissance artists didn't include shadows in their paintings
- (2) Some of the ways artists dealt with the problems posed by shadows
- (3) How shadows have been used in the composition of paintings, and to create attention, perception, emotion and tell stories.

URL'S of Videos

Stephen Colbert and James Cordon: Me and My Shadow

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRj99Gje7MI&list=PLsa_IB3EW2g3fPSh4QtF8zC9UOpFuX5te

Shadow of chair time lapse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvhjbrr5GI8>

Dog drinking a shadow

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7ofKDydgKOc>

Bouncing Basketball (National Geographic, near beginning)

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xq1rfl>

How to draw a cast shadow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XLgmiExAbw>

Drawing an “A” in perspective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jr-zAzxfTVU>

Shadow time lapse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgZbhogv9Q8>