Perryman Art

Analysis Sheet Guide

I find this analysis sheet useful when critiquing artwork or planning future projects. After you use it for a while, it will become second nature, but it might be a little tricky at first, so let's go over each question in detail.

Analysis Sheet

What do you think the artist was trying to communicate? (one sentence)

Overall mood (one word):

Viewpoint: ☐ close ☐ medium ☐ far

Dominance

Line: ☐ curved ☐ straight

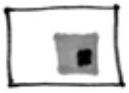
Shape: ☐ organic ☐ geometric

Texture: ☐ rough ☐ hard ☐ soft

Temperature: ☐ warm ☐ cool ☐ black and white

Direction: ☐ vertical ☐ horizontal ☐ diagonal

Value Pattern:

☐  ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

What is the center of interest?

How did the artist concentrate interest at this point? (check all that apply)

☐ value contrast ☐ color contrast ☐ edge contrast ☐ placement
☐ size contrast ☐ detail contrast ☐ direction contrast

Major strength:

Major weakness:

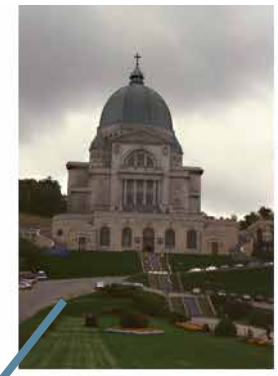
What would you do to fix it?

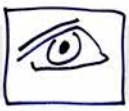
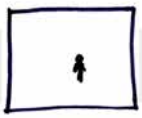
What do you think the artist was trying to communicate? (One sentence)

Overall mood (one word):

Artists are driven to share their feelings. We want to evoke a response in the people who look at our work. The first two questions help us focus on this. There is no wrong answer to these questions. What is important is how we respond to the image. The questions encourage us to consider the conceptual nature of the work in question and how it might be applied to our own work. With this we have a framework that puts the rest of the questions in context—we can see how the artist was able to use design to express what he wanted to say.

Each of the next set of questions asks you to determine what design characteristic is dominate. This is best explained through examples.

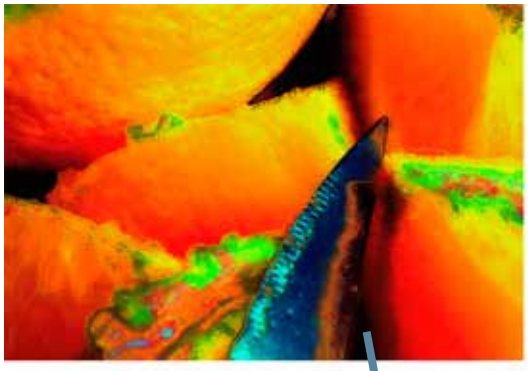


Viewpoint: ☐ close  ☐ medium ☐ far 

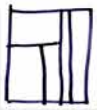
Line: ☐ curved ☐ straight

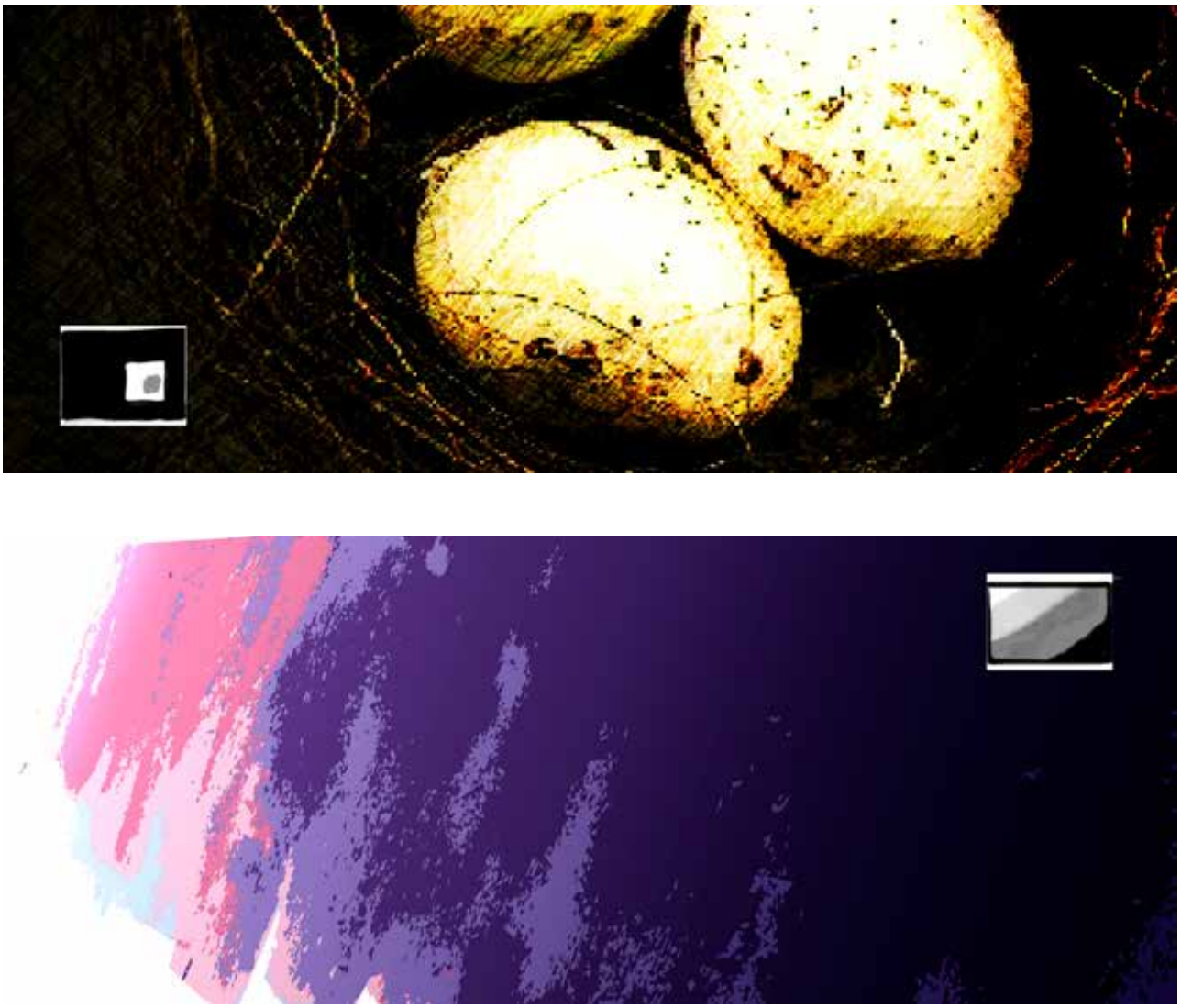
Shape: ☐ organic ☐ geometric

Texture: ☐ rough ☐ hard ☐ soft

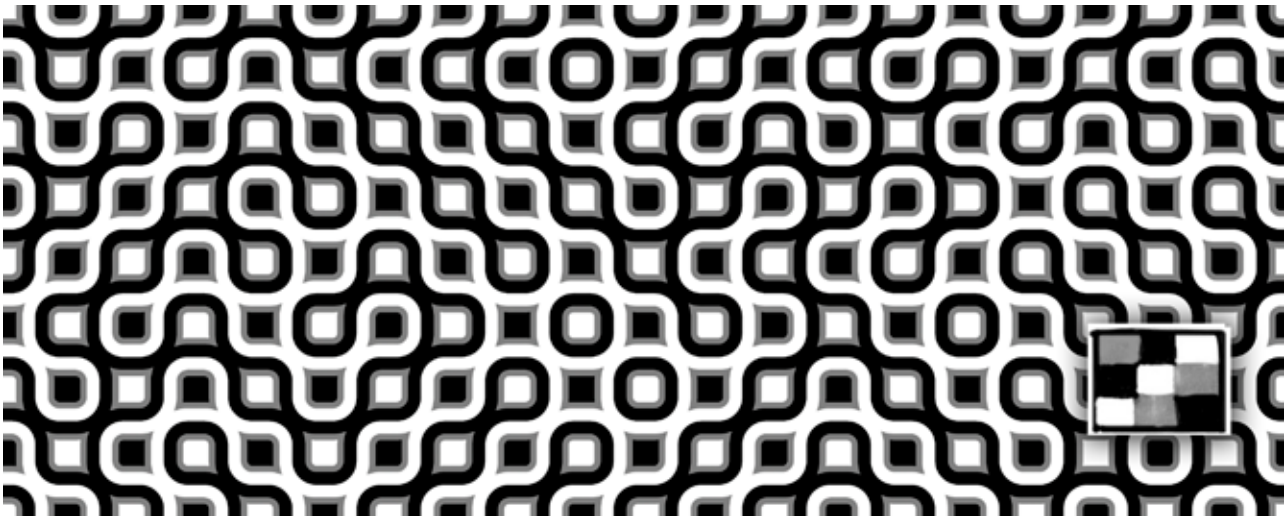


Temperature: ☐ warm ☐ cool ☐ black and white

Direction: ☐ vertical  ☐ horizontal ☐ diagonal



This value pattern gradates from light to dark. The gradation can be in any direction—vertical, horizontal, or diagonal, as in this example.



This value pattern uses equal amounts of black, white, and gray. The values can be laid out in a checkerboard pattern, as above, or distributed more unevenly throughout the image as in the example on the next page.

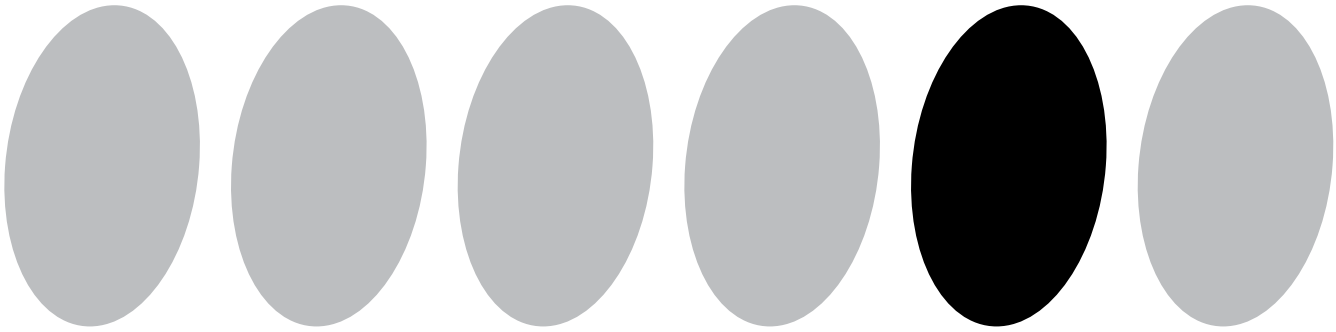
What is the center of interest?

Most of the time we want a distinct area of interest in our pictures. A place that holds our viewer's attention and reveals the important part of our message. This question forces us to consciously identify it.

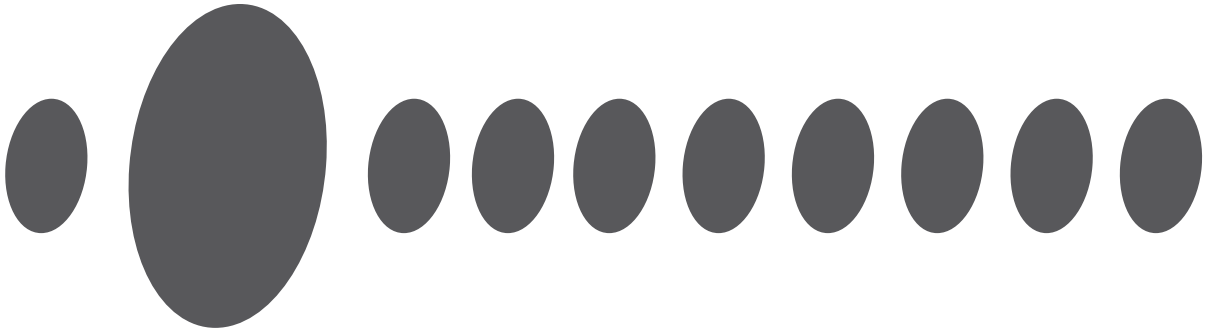
The next question requires us to investigate the techniques used to create the center of interest. Rarely, if ever, is a single technique used by itself. Generally there are at least two or three. However, to better illustrate these concepts, I will use simple graphics where a single technique is featured. Keep in mind that we create a focal point through contrast—most things will be one thing (for unity) and the center of interest will be the exact opposite.

How did the artist concentrate interest at this point? (check all that apply)

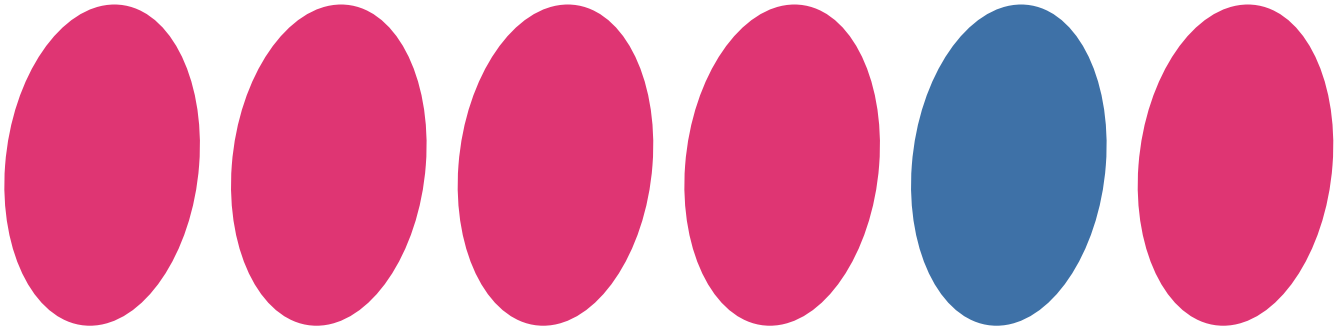
☐ value contrast	☐ color contrast	☐ edge contrast	☐ placement
☐ size contrast	☐ detail contrast	☐ direction contrast	



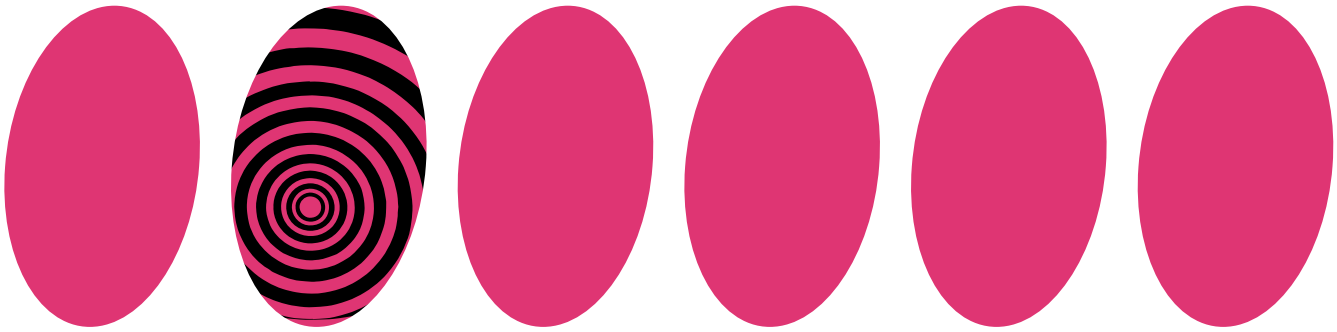
value contrast



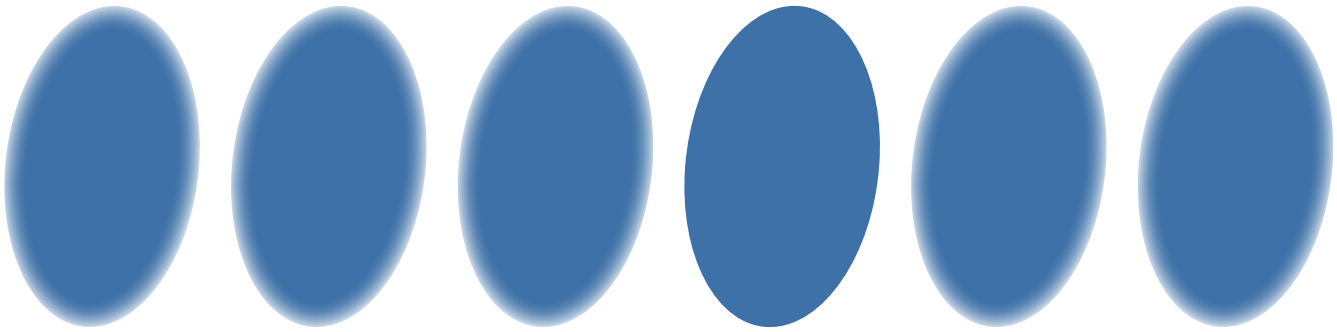
size contrast



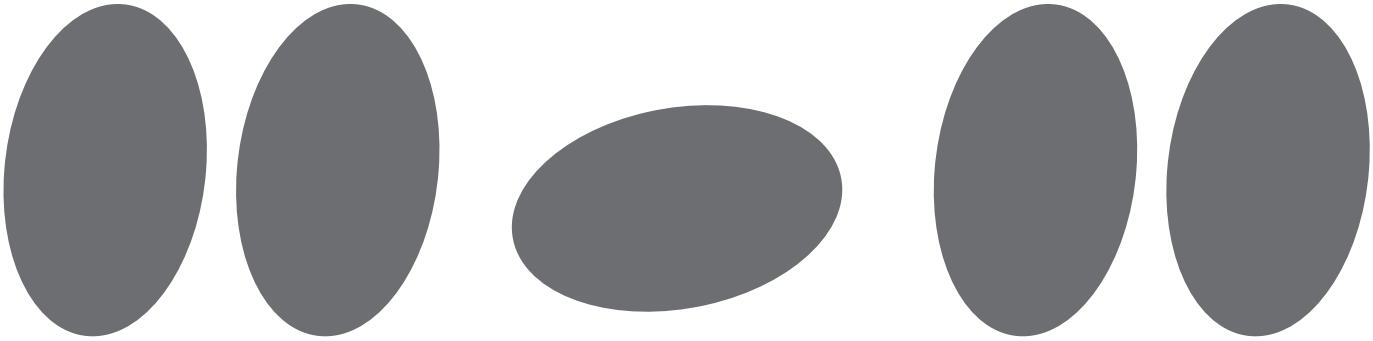
color contrast



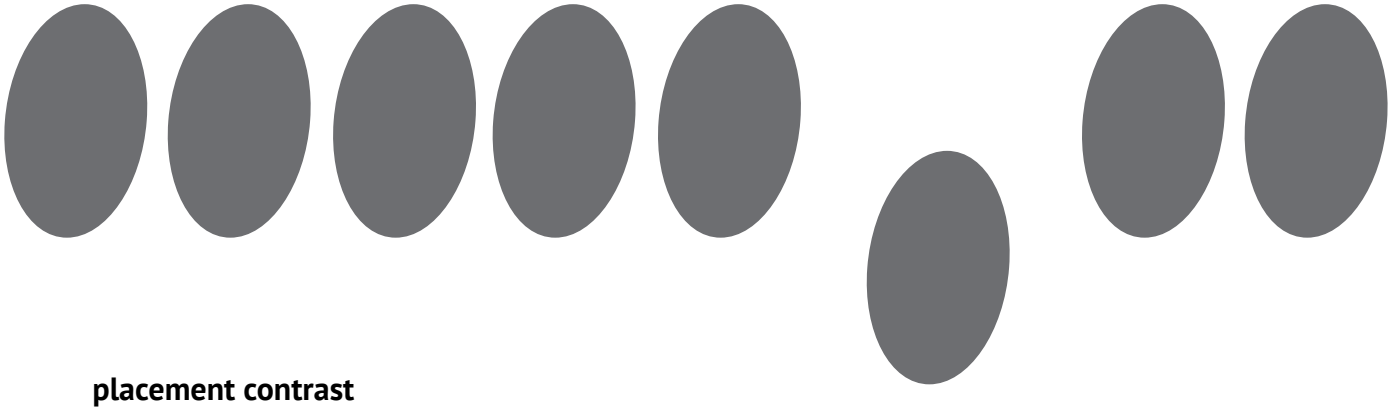
detail contrast



edge contrast



direction contrast



placement contrast

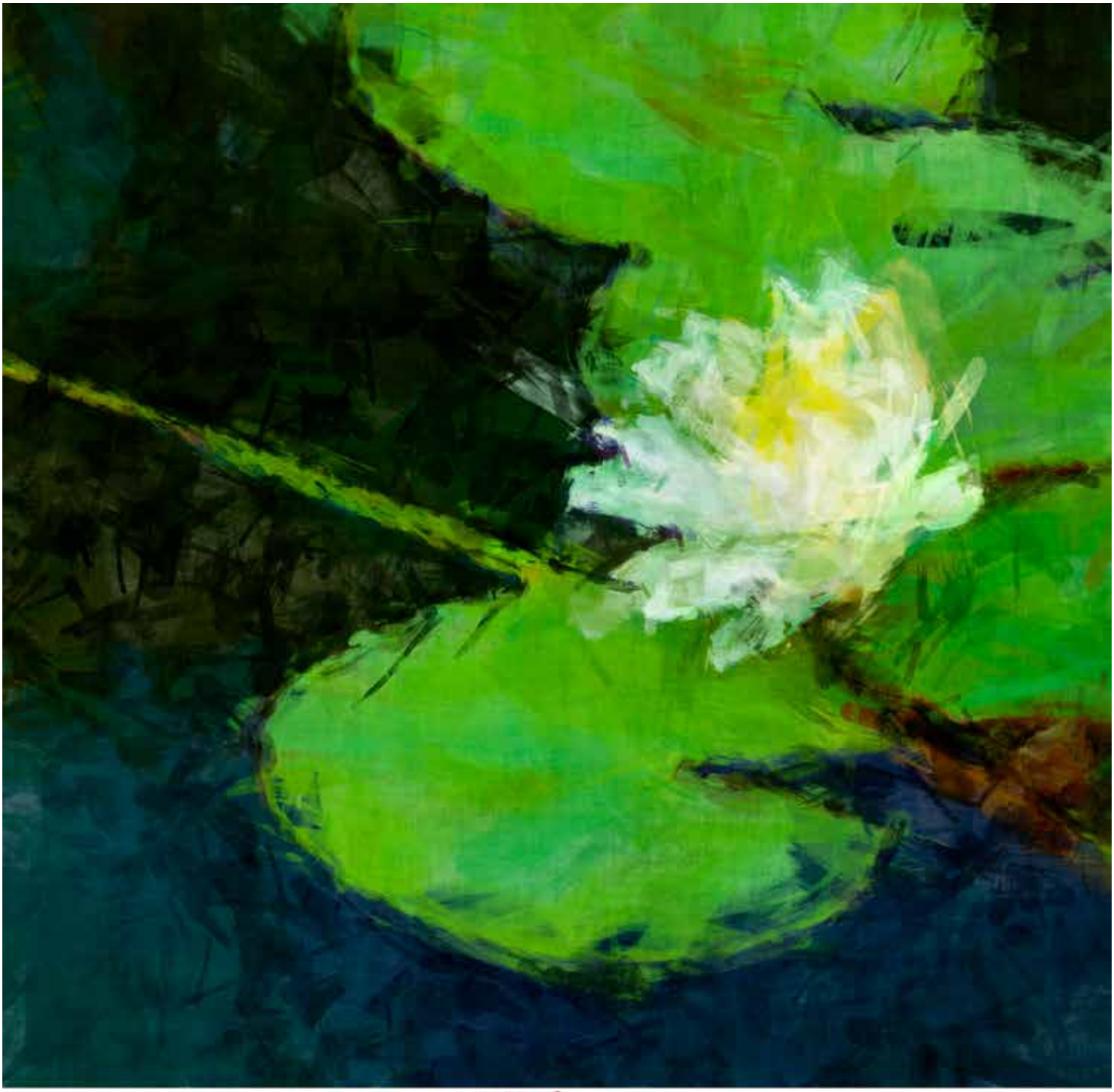
Major strength:

Major weakness:

What would you do to fix it?

These last three questions force us to evaluate the effectiveness of design decisions and the success of general techniques (drawing, photography, painting, etc.).

Analysis Examples



What do you think the artist was trying to communicate? (one sentence) serenity of Lilly pond

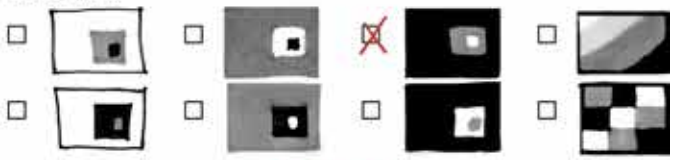
Overall mood (one word): TRANQUIL

Viewpoint: ☒ close ☐ medium ☐ far

Dominance

Line:	☒ curved	☐ straight	
Shape:	☒ organic	☐ geometric	
Texture:	☒ rough	☐ hard	☐ soft
Temperature:	☐ warm	☒ cool	☐ black and white
Direction:	☐ vertical	☐ horizontal	☒ diagonal

Value Pattern:



What is the center of interest? flower

How did the artist concentrate interest at this point? (check all that apply)

☒ value contrast	☒ color contrast	☐ edge contrast	☒ placement
☐ size contrast	☐ detail contrast	☐ direction contrast	

Major strength: Strong simple shapes

Major weakness: flower too sketchy

What would you do to fix it? add detail & refine the shapes of the petals

What do you think the artist was trying to communicate? (one sentence) The long forgotten past

Overall mood (one word): melancholy

Viewpoint: ☐ close ☒ medium ☐ far

Dominance

Line:	☐ curved	☒ straight	
Shape:	☐ organic	☒ geometric	
Texture:	☐ rough	☐ hard	☒ soft
Temperature:	☒ warm	☐ cool	☐ black and white
Direction:	☒ vertical	☐ horizontal	☐ diagonal

Value Pattern:

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

What is the center of interest? building

How did the artist concentrate interest at this point? (check all that apply)

☒ value contrast ☐ color contrast ☒ edge contrast ☐ placement

☐ size contrast ☐ detail contrast ☐ direction contrast

Major strength: color harmony

Major weakness: Center of interest too centered

What would you do to fix it? emphasize top right window

What do you think the artist was trying to communicate? (one sentence) Playful joy of childhood

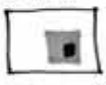
Overall mood (one word): whimsical

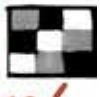
Viewpoint: ☒ close ☐ medium ☐ far

Dominance

Line:	☒ curved		☐ straight			
Shape:	☐ organic		☒ geometric			
Texture:	☐ rough		☒ hard		☐ soft	
Temperature:	☒ warm		☐ cool		☐ black and white	
Direction:	☐ vertical		☒ horizontal		☐ diagonal	

Value Pattern:

☐  ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ 

What is the center of interest? not clearly defined

How did the artist concentrate interest at this point? (check all that apply)

☐ value contrast ☐ color contrast ☐ edge contrast ☐ placement
☐ size contrast ☐ detail contrast ☐ direction contrast

Major strength: strong value pattern

Major weakness: multiple focal points

What would you do to fix it? Pick one & subordinate the rest

What do you think the artist was trying to communicate? (one sentence) The beauty of the city at night

Overall mood (one word):

Viewpoint: ☐ close ☒ medium ☐ far

Dominance

Line:	☐ curved		☒ straight			
Shape:	☐ organic		☒ geometric			
Texture:	☐ rough		☒ hard		☐ soft	
Temperature:	☐ warm		☐ cool		☒ black and white	
Direction:	☐ vertical		☐ horizontal		☒ diagonal	

Value Pattern:

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

What is the center of interest? white rectangle, bottom lower left

How did the artist concentrate interest at this point? (check all that apply)

☒ value contrast ☐ color contrast ☐ edge contrast ☒ placement

☐ size contrast ☐ detail contrast ☒ direction contrast

Major strength: strong direction lines leading to the center of interest

Major weakness: boring center of interest

What would you do to fix it? add detail, maybe lettering