

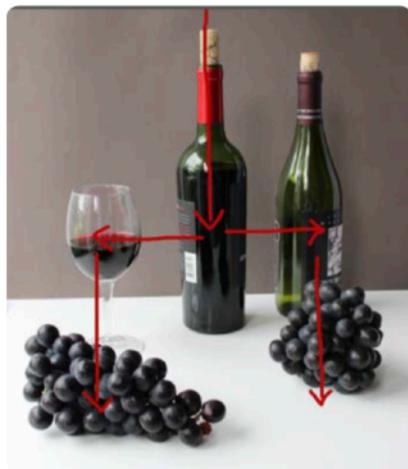
Composition refers to the manner in which elements are arranged or “laid out” within a picture plane. The composition of the artwork affects how a viewer interacts visually with your work.

The most important factors are: eye flowing or movement; variety and unity; the rule of thirds.



You can see three different compositions created using the same subjects. We are going to evaluate each of these compositions to decide which one is the most successful.

The first rule is "eye flow or eye movement". It indicates the way a viewer's eye flows or moves through a composition. The viewer's eye should move through the work smoothly and without restricting the flow which may confuse the viewer.



The first composition may pull the viewer's eye into the work at the central bottle and then lead the viewer downward towards the center of the image. The viewer would then be required to choose to focus on the elements on the left or the right of the bottle. This composition does not encourage eye flow through the work.



The second composition may encourage the viewer's eye to move into the picture plane at the central bottle, then downward to the other elements. While this arrangement does encourage better eye flow, it is still restrictive. The viewer's eye may become stuck directly in the center of the picture plane. While this composition is better than the first, the eye flow can be improved with a better arrangement.



The third composition encourages the viewer to enter at the bottles on the right, downward to the grapes, and then over to the wine glass and the grapes in the foreground. Most of the picture plane is included in the “flow”. The third composition encourages the viewer to move from element to element making the visual experience stronger.

The second rule which you need to consider is Variety and Unity. Our goal should be to provide variety while still keeping the work unified. Too much variety or too much unity can detract from a work. A balance of variety and unity within a work is desired.



The first composition has an ample amount of variety in the arrangement. The objects are spread apart from each other allowing for areas of negative space between. But this composition is lacking unity. There is simply too much space between the elements. This composition is an example of excessive variety.

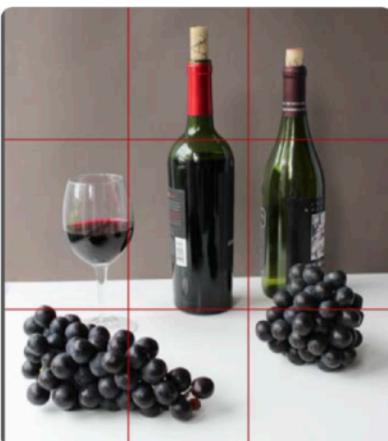


The second composition is unified. The main elements of the arrangement are all overlapping each other. However, the second composition is lacking variety. The arrangement lacks the negative space between the elements that is essential for a balanced composition. This arrangement is an example of excessive unity.



The third composition is balanced. This arrangement has variety with ample amounts of negative space around the objects. The composition is also unified. Overlapping occurs visually connecting the elements in the scene and unifying the composition.

The rule of thirds is a compositional device in which the picture plane is divided into thirds - both horizontally and vertically. Placing elements on the lines that divide the picture plane results in compositions that are aesthetically more successful.



The first composition does not have any subjects that are in alignment with the sectional divisions on the picture plane. The edge of the table is close, but not quite on a sectional line



The second composition shows that the edge of the table very closely aligns with the divisional line. The wine bottle on the right is aligned with one of the vertical divisions. This composition is a clear improvement over the first.



The third composition features several elements that are aligned with divisional lines. The edge of the table is in alignment with the divisional line at the bottom of the picture plane. The two wine bottles on the right side of the picture plane meet very closely to a vertical division.

After analyzing these compositions, it is clear that the third composition is the strongest of the three. For this reason, we will use this composition as our reference for the colour pencil project.



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