

The Illusion Of Atmosphere Or Volume Space

Comparing the Early Renaissance work of Bellini, on the left, with the High Renaissance painting of Leonardo da Vinci's on the right, we see early evidence of the new visual phenomenon discovery, **AERIAL PERSPECTIVE**.



Both painters create an illusion of deep space, incorporating another Renaissance invention called **LINEAR PERSPECTIVE**. (Distant objects diminish in size according to a law of predictable change.)

Da Vinci, however, recognizes that distant objects also diminish in clarity as atmosphere veils both hues and values. Both perspective laws are key ingredients in creating the illusion of 3D space. What's often overlooked is the unity such predictability brings to the work. Objects are "OF" and not simply "ON" the canvas.

SHAPES APPEAR TO BE...

"OF"

AND NOT MERELY...

"ON"

THE BACKGROUND.

Exercise 1. The Illusion Of Liquid Immersion.

Imagine what four white index cards would appear to be if immersed at varying depths in a colored liquid. Recreate this phenomenon in Color-aid paper, using a format similar to that of Fig. 3. Better yet, create your own composition.



Fig. 3

Exercise 2. The Illusion Of A White Atmosphere.

Create the illusion of four shapes of the same color, placed in varying depths of a white atmosphere or haze. Or, create your own illusion.

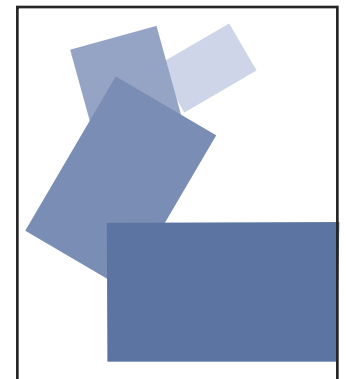


Fig. 4

