

What is Art ?

A work of art may be described in basic, non-philosophical terms as having two primary components -

- 1. Form**
- 2. Content**

Art is distinguished by three elements -

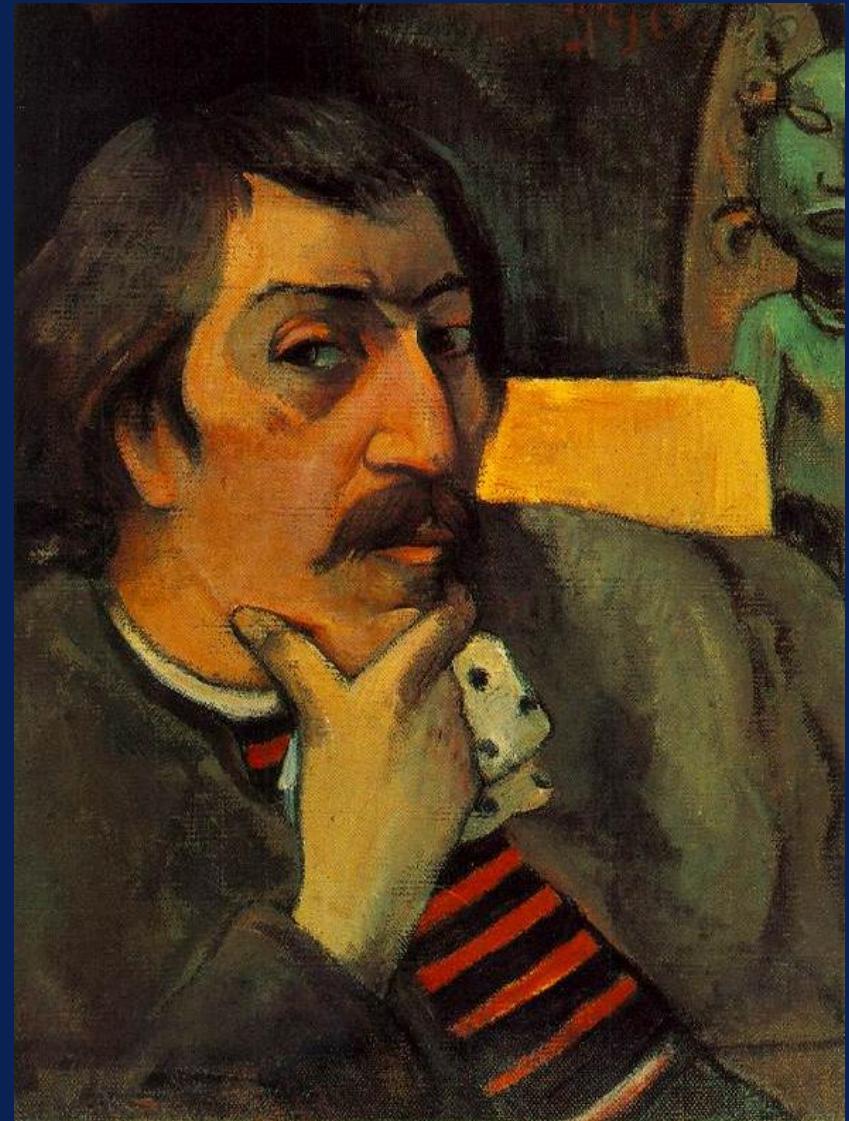
- 1. Style**
- 2. Medium**
- 3. Period**



Form

Refers to purely visual aspects of art that includes the following formal elements

- 1. Line**
- 2. Color**
- 3. Texture**
- 4. Spatial qualities**
- 5. Composition**



Paul Gauguin, Portrait of the Artist with the Idol

Line

An element, usually drawn or painted, that defines a shape with more or less continuous mark.

Movement of viewer's eyes over the surface of work may follow a path determined by artist.



Vincent, Starry Night

Colour has several attributes

Hue what we think of as color.

Primary colors - red, yellow, blue

Such colours create Secondary colors by mixing - orange, green, purple

Warm and Cool colors

Value relative degree of lightness or darkness

Deeper

Lighter

Intensity degree of brightness or dullness of color

Also called *saturation*

Texture is the tactile quality of a surface

Smooth

Polished

Satiny

Rough

Coarse

Oily

These are also present in two forms -

- Actual surface of the work of art
- Surface of the object the artist is representing



Brancusy, King of kings



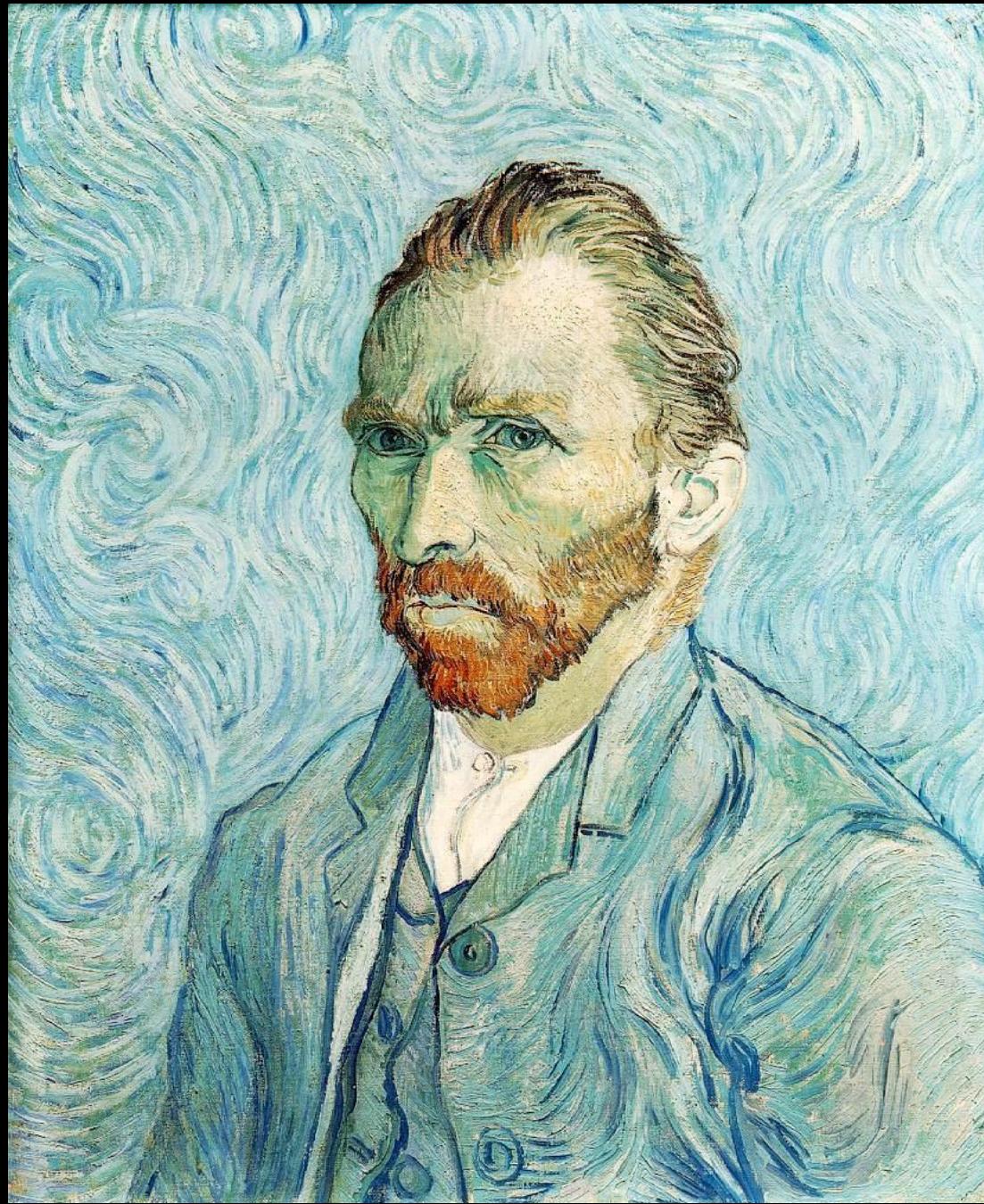
Brancusy, Bird in space



Giacometti, Spoon woman



Giacometti, Standing woman



Vincent, self-portrait

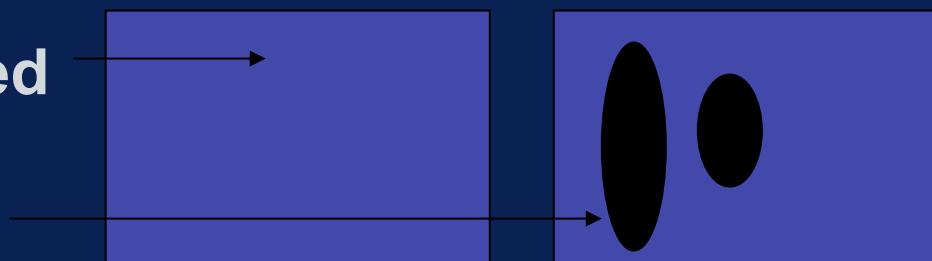
Spatial Qualities

1. **Mass**
2. **Volume**
3. **Space**

Claes Oldenburg, Soft Pay-Telephone



- **Mass and volume are properties of 3-D objects - they take up space.**
- **Space may be 3-D and actual (sculpture, architecture), or represented in 2-D - illusionist.**
- ***Negative space:* unfilled**
- ***Positive space:* solids**



Composition is an organization or arrangement of form in a work of art.

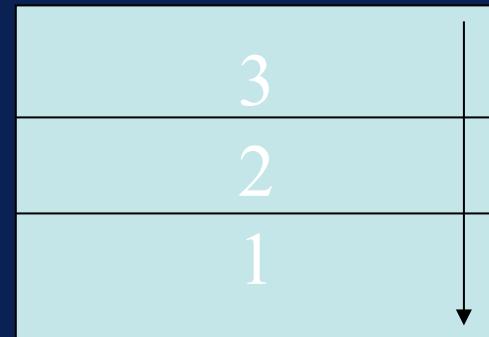
Pictorial depth (spatial recession) an aspect of composition in which the 3-D world is represented in 2-D in paintings, drawings, etc.

Picture plane is the 2-D surface

Artists have used many methods to depict objects as seeming to recede (move away, diminish) from the 2-D surface.

Picture space is the area "behind" the picture plane and conventionally contains 3 zones –

1. *Foreground*
2. *Middle ground*
3. *Background*



Perpendicular to the picture plane, forming the "floor" of the space, are these **ground planes**.

Methods employed on the planes to create a composition with images –

1. *Overlapping*
2. *Diminution (reduction)*
3. *Perspective*



David Hockney, Mr. and Mrs. Clark and Percy

Content includes;

- 1. Subject matter**
- 2. Ideas contained**
- 3. The social, political, economic contexts in which the work was created**
- 4. The intention of the artist**
- 5. The meaning in the work of art**
- 6. The reception (reaction) of the audience to the work**

Style is a combination of form and content.

Characteristic feature that makes a painting distinctive has specialized terminologies.

Representational /non-representational or nonobjective:
Whether the subject matter is recognizable or not

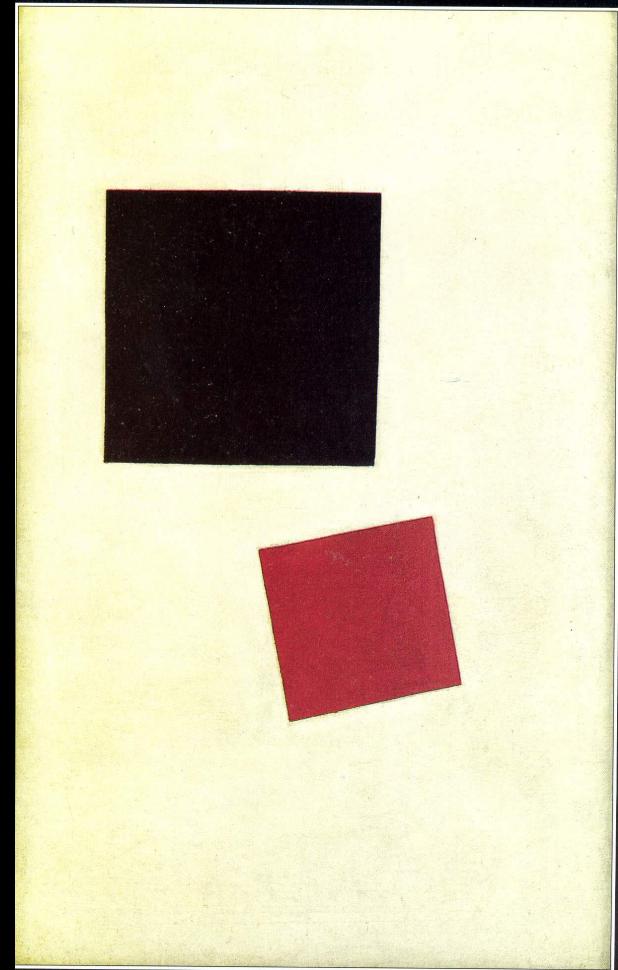
Linear : line as primary means of definition

Painterly : shadows, shading, modeling, highlights dominate.

Sculptural : three dimensional qualities



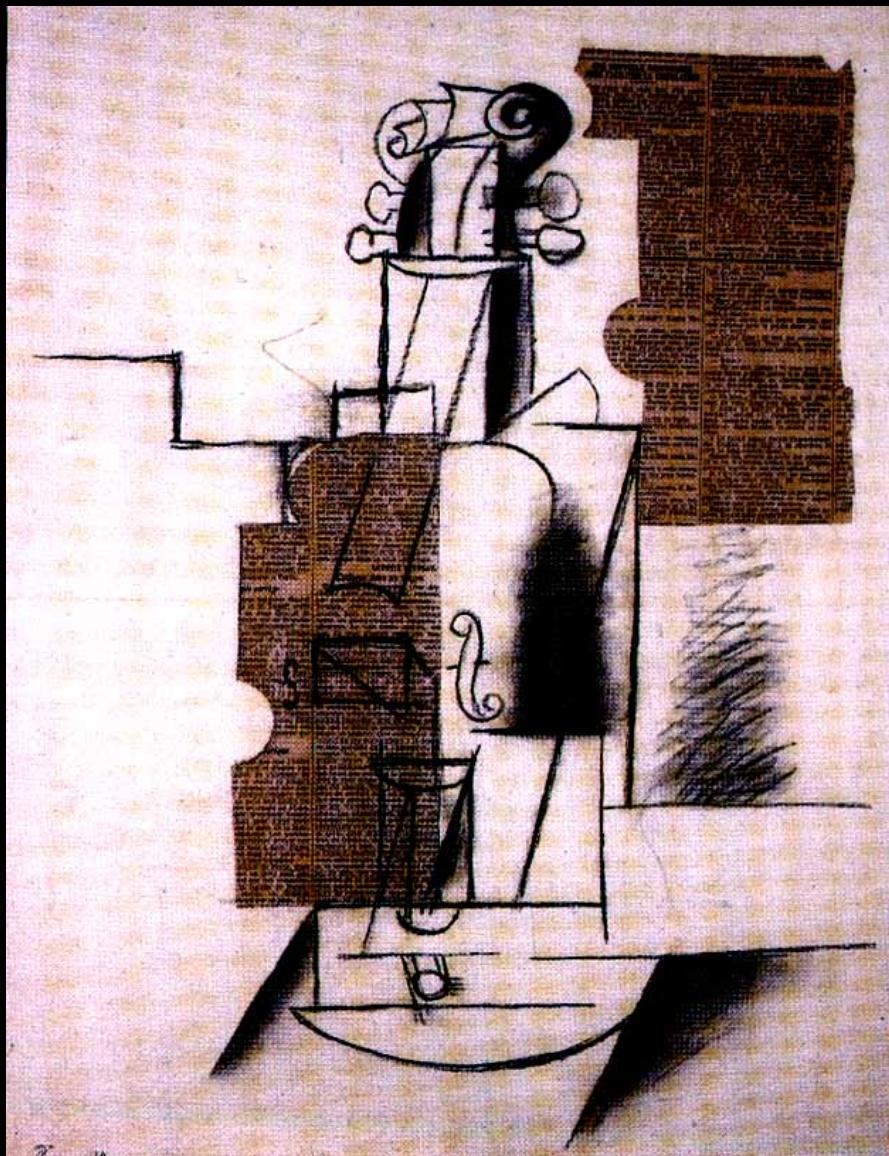
Andy Warhol, Marilyn



Malevitch, Red square and Black Square



Dan Flavin, to Piet Mondrian who lacked green



Picasso, Violin



Picasso, Portrait of Gertrude Stein

Styles in Sculpture

Ways of distinguishing basic techniques of a sculpture

Carved

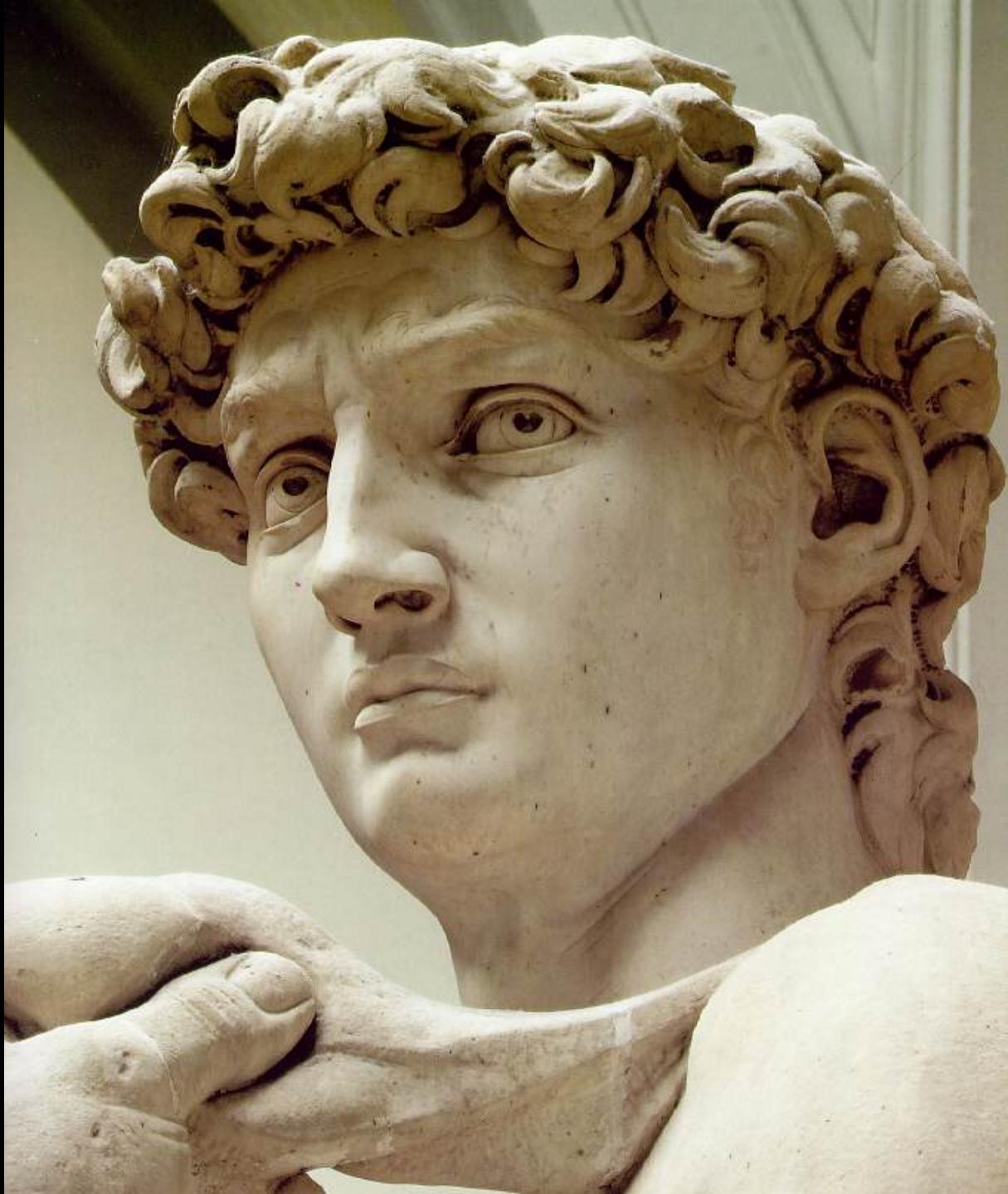
Modeled

Assembled

Ways of distinguishing physical characteristics of sculpture

Freestanding

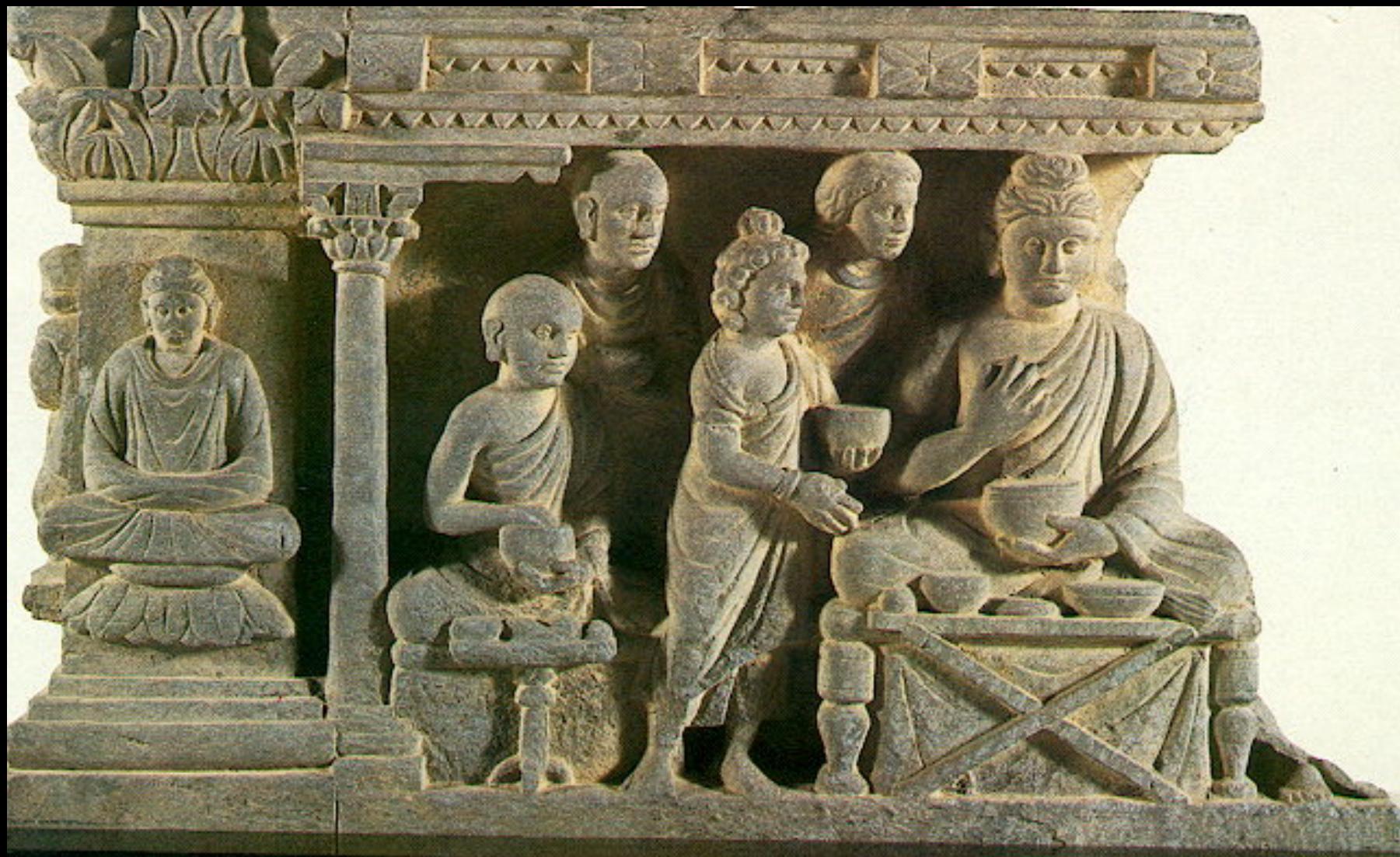
Relief (high, low, sunken)



Michelangelo, David



Rodin, The Monument to Balzac



Mathura school, Buddha



Top,
Claes Oldenburg,
Soft Shuttlecock



Top right,
Richard Serra,
Belts



Bottom right,
Claes Oldenburg,
Knife Ship I

Realistic: depicts object as they are in actual, visible reality

Naturalistic: physical appearance of rendered image in nature is the primary inspiration; simplified object here resembles with less exactitude

Idealized: attempt for perfection grounded in prevailing values of a culture

Expressionistic: appeals to subjective responses of beholder, often through exaggeration of form or expression

Abstract: is a stylistic opposition of above 3; forms do not depict observable objects; Images represented often with intent of extracting essence of object or idea

Conceptual : Concept, sensation, impact etc



Phil, chuck close



Manet, Portrait d'Emile Zola



Manet, Le Bar aux Folies-Bergère



Modigliani, Jeane Hebuterne Seated in Profile

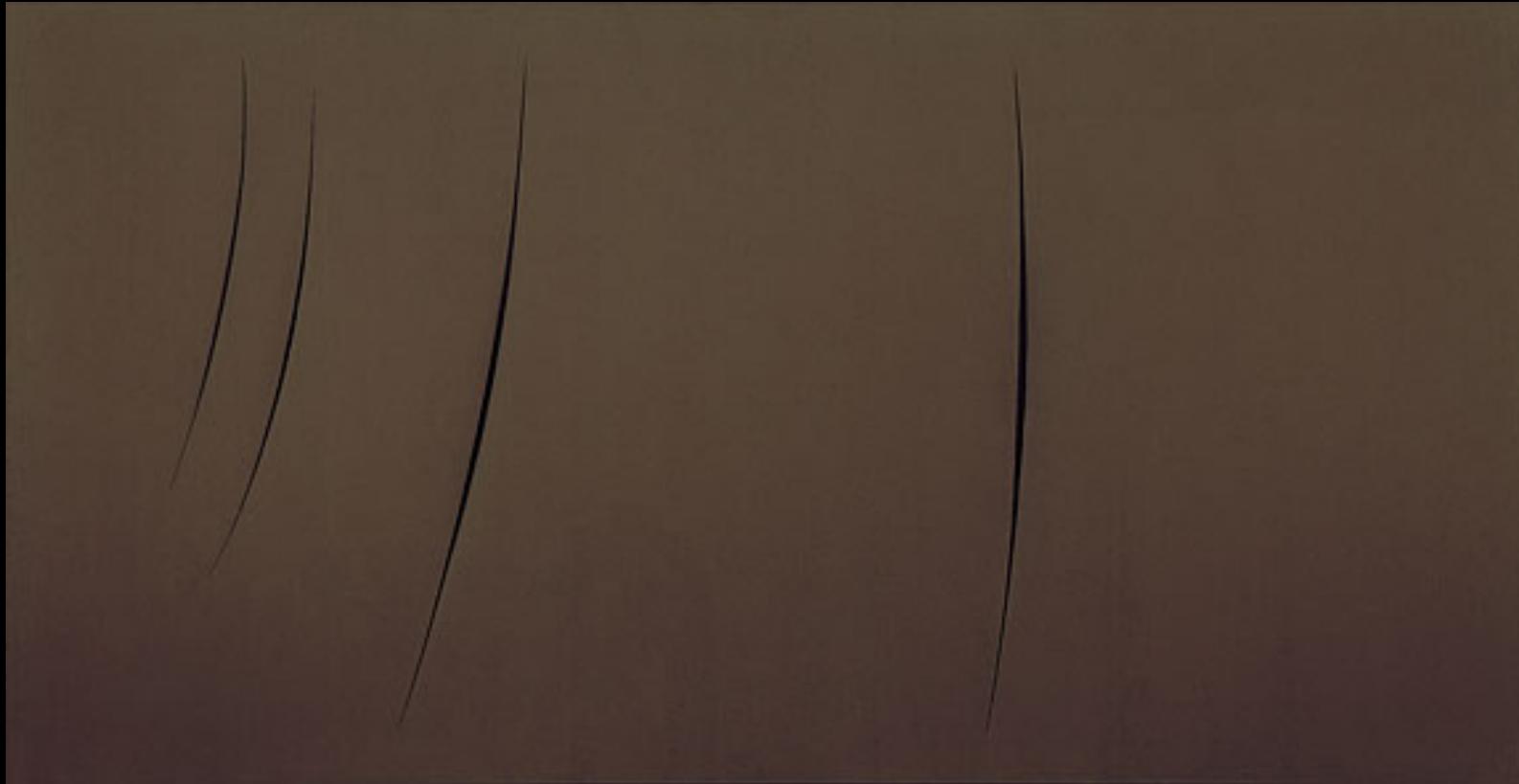
Marcellus



Buddha, Ajanta



Nibuman hunting



Lucio Fontana, Spatial Concept

wa-ter (wâ'tér), *n.* [AS. *wæter* = D. *water* = G. *wasser*, akin to Icel. *vatn*, Goth. *watō*, water, also to Gr. *ὕδωρ*, Skt. *udan*, water, L. *unda*, a wave, water; all from the same root as E. *wet*: cf. *hydra*, *otter*¹, *undine*, and *wash*.] The liquid which in a more or less impure state constitutes rain, oceans, lakes, rivers, etc., and which in a pure state is a transparent, inodorous, tasteless liquid, a compound of hydrogen and oxygen, H₂O, freezing at 32° F. or 0° C., and boiling at 212° F. or 100° C.; a special form or variety of this liquid, as rain, or (often in *pl.*) as the liquid ('mineral water') obtained from a mineral spring (as, "the *waters* of Aix-la-Chapelle").



Christo, Wrapped Tree



Jackson Pollock,
Action Painting

What is Art ?

Medium and **Material** from which object is made;

Broad distinctions include 2-D, 3-D, mixed media, ephemeral arts

2-D: painting, drawing, etc.

3-D: sculpture, architecture, etc.

Mixed media: collage, assemblage, etc.

Ephemeral arts: performing art