

# Visual Explanations: Images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative

# Introduction

- Written by Edward Tufte, an American statistician and professor of political science, statistics, and computer science at Yale University
- Understanding *what cause provokes what effect, by what means, at what rate*
- How such knowledge is represented
- Describes design strategies (the proper arrangement in space and time of images, words, and numbers) for presenting information about motion, process, mechanism, cause and effect
- Clarity and excellence in thinking = Clarity and excellence in display of data
  
- First Half: examining the logic of depicting quantitative evidence
- Second Half: design strategies

# Images and Quantities

Depicting Quantities:

- *direct labels* (numerically labeled grids of statistical graphics, or dimensional tripods in architectural drawings)
- *encodings* (color scales)
- *self-representing scales* (objects of known size appearing in an image)



Direct label: Watch documents the hour

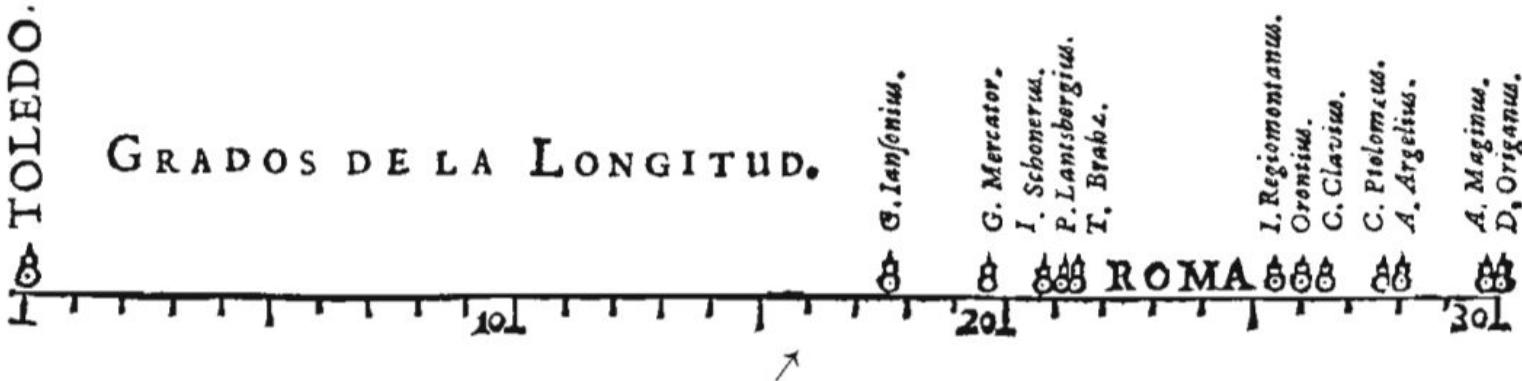
Encoding: Shadows and gray light hint at time of day

Self-Representing Scales: familiar objects in perspective demarcate the street and photographers location



## Early Maps to Modern Statistical/ Scientific Visualization

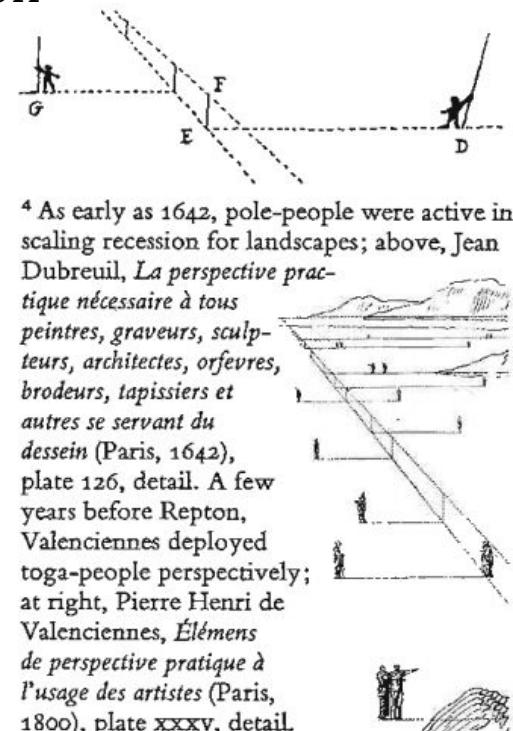
- Maps express quantities visually by location (*two-dimensional addresses off latitude and longitude*) and by areal extent (*surface coverage*)
- To go from maps of existing scenery to graphs of newly measured and collated data was an enormous conceptual step
- Took around 5,000 years to change the name of the coordinates from *west-east* and *north-south* to empirically measured variables X and Y

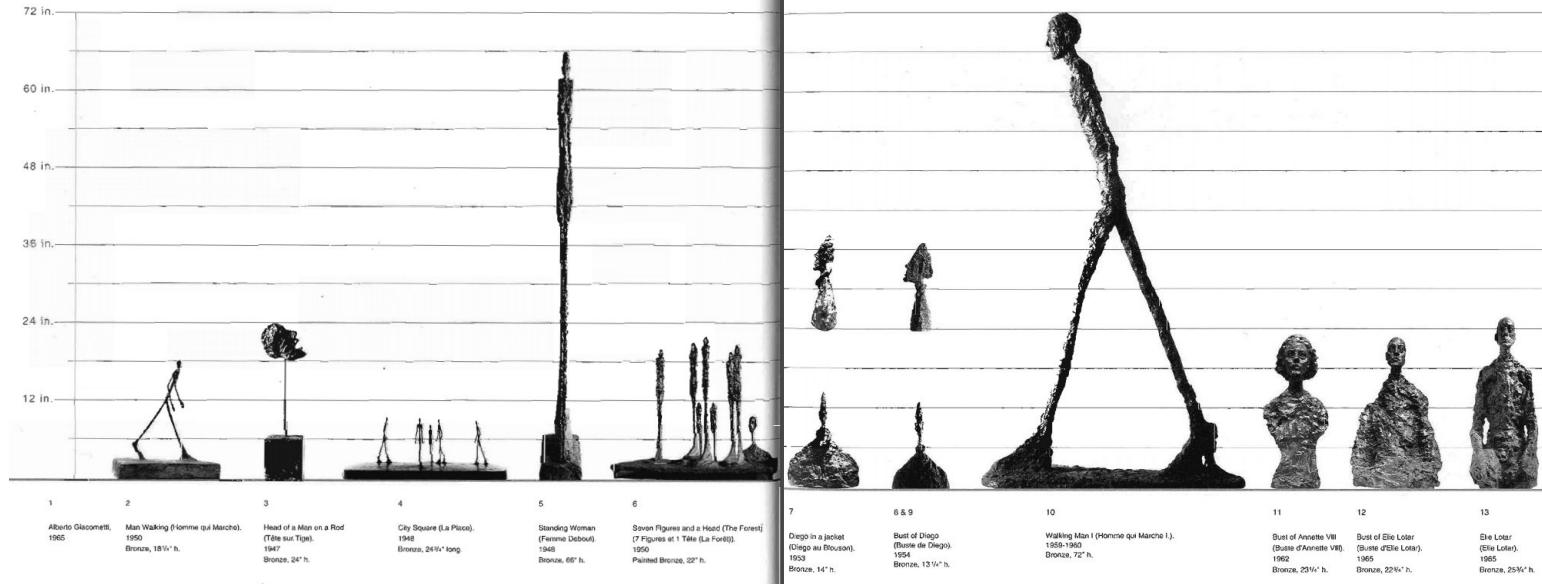


One of the earliest visual representations of statistical data drawn in 1644 by Michael Florent van Langren. Shows 212 diverse estimates of distance between Toledo and Rome. A one-dimensional map of data, Tufte believes that the chart is remarkably advanced for its time, as it spatially arranged (rather than merely recording in a table) various estimates of the same quantity. It is Tufte's candidate for the first statistical graphic ever.

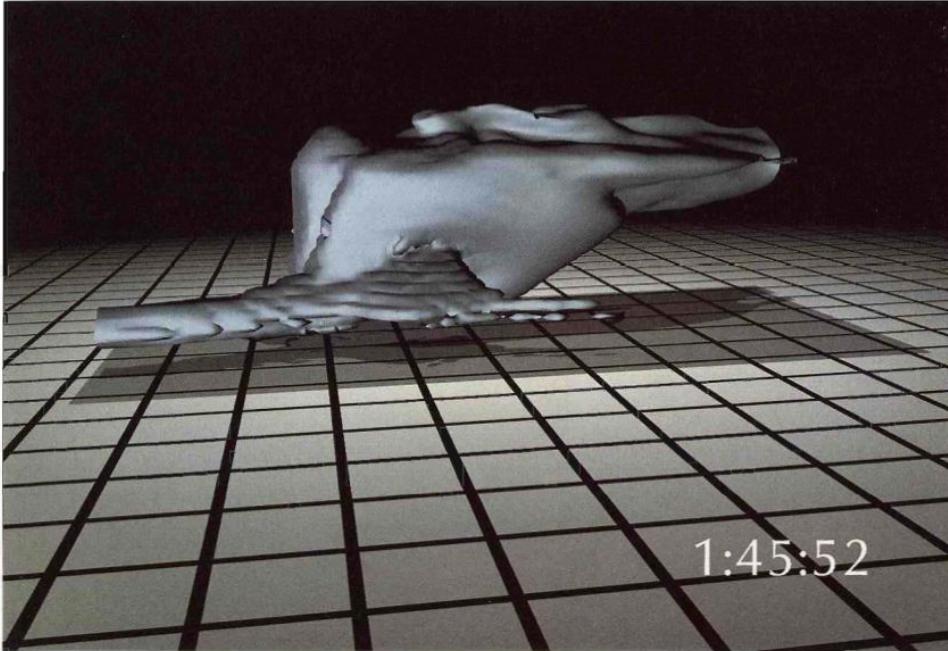
## Early Maps to Modern Statistical/ Scientific Visualization

- By 1765, modern scientific graphics were now in place; the two-dimensional plane was quantified, available for any measured data - graphical grids were not analogous to maps
- However, a great amount of substantive problems are not exclusively two-dimensional, the world is generally multivariate
- Humphrey Repton, a British landscape architect, tried to address this, but this suffered visual consequences as the scaling was not accurate

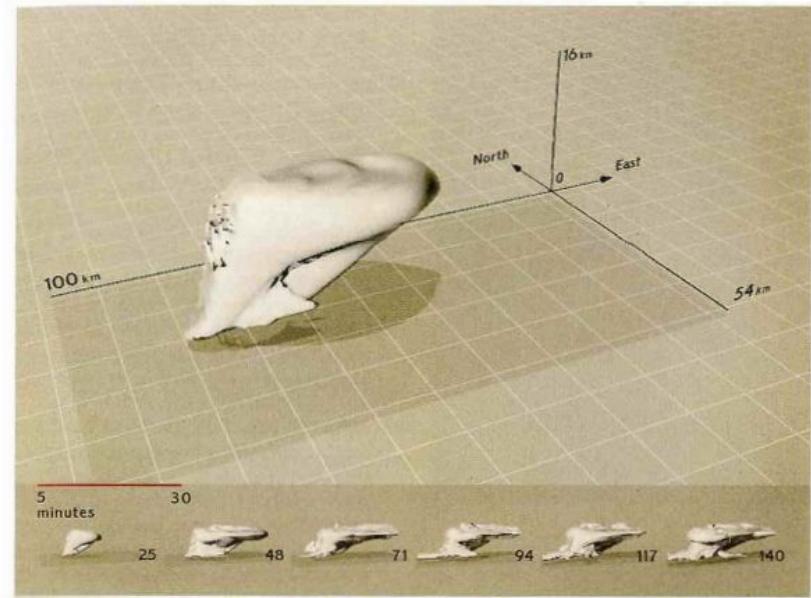
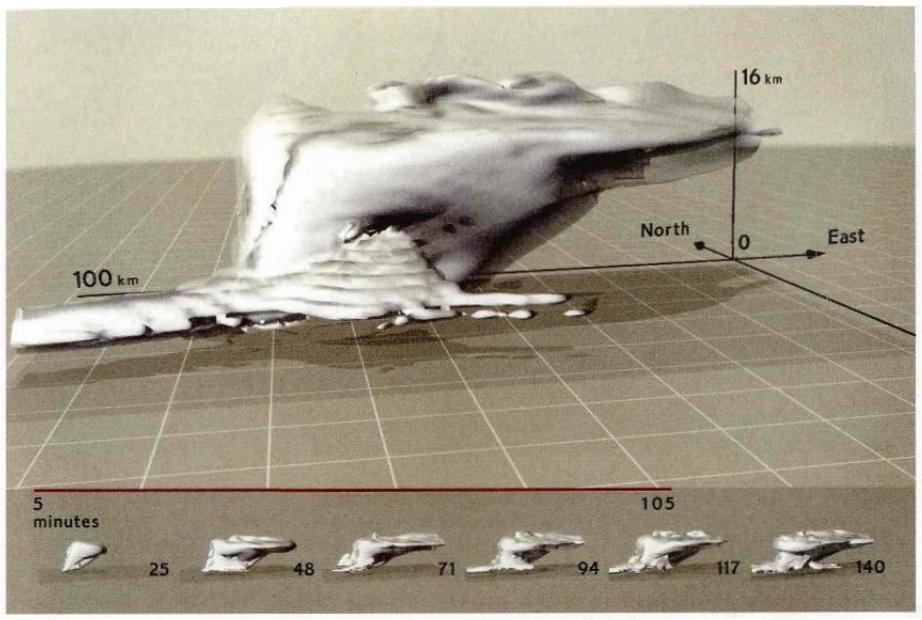




Partial visual knowledge about size of a subject can be conveyed by maintaining a consistent relative scale throughout an entire set of reproduced images. A constant scale factor is used in this visual table of contents for Herbert Matter's portfolio of photographs of Alberto Giacometti's sculptures.

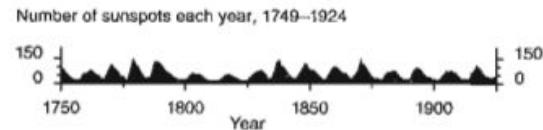
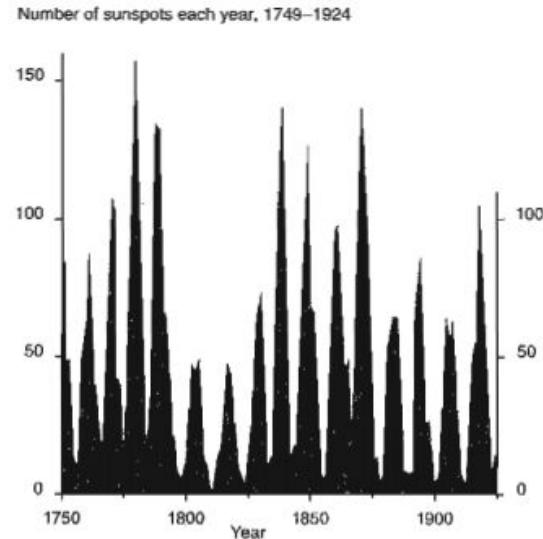


- De-quantification characteristic of art reproductions is seen in scientific and technical imaging
- This is a video frame from a numerical model simulating a thunderstorm - classic of scientific visualization
- How big is that cloud? What direction is it moving? What are the dimensions of the grid? The fundamentals of scale, orientation, and labels are often missing from these visualizations



- Restores quantitative order, locates the storm within a 3-dimensional tripod of scales and directional arrows
- Six small clouds depict a still-land history of the storm and serve as 3-dimensional tick marks for the red time-line

- Despite the chronic dangers of misrepresentation, appropriate re-expression and transforms of scales are among the most powerful strategies for exploring data
- On the right is an example of a helpful rescaling - from the original spiky mass of data, fresh and subtle information about quantities emerges with a radiant clarity in the rescaled image



<sup>13</sup> William S. Cleveland, *The Elements of Graphing Data* (Murray Hill, New Jersey, revised edition, 1994), pp. 66–79. Redrawn.

# Visual and Statistical Thinking: Displays of Evidence for Making Decisions

- Certain methods for displaying and analyzing data are better than others
- Superior methods are more likely to produce truthful, credible, and precise findings
- The difference between excellent analysis and a faulty one can have sometimes have momentous consequences

The chapter examines the statistical and graphical reasoning used in making two life-and-death decisions:

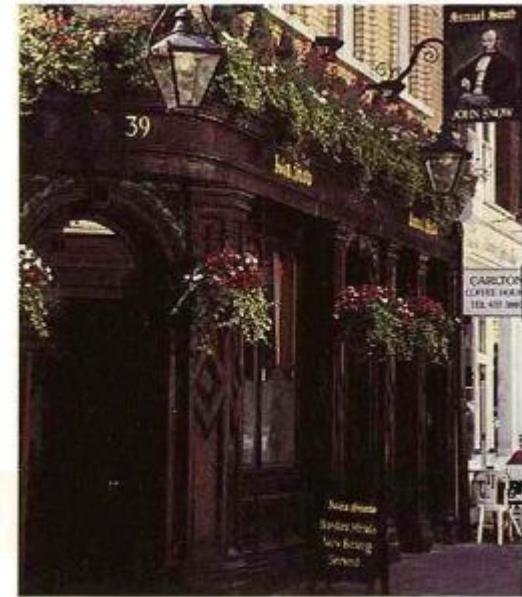
How to stop a cholera epidemic in London during September 1854

Whether to launch the space shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986

For both cases, the consequences resulted directly from the quality of methods used in displaying and assessing quantitative evidence.

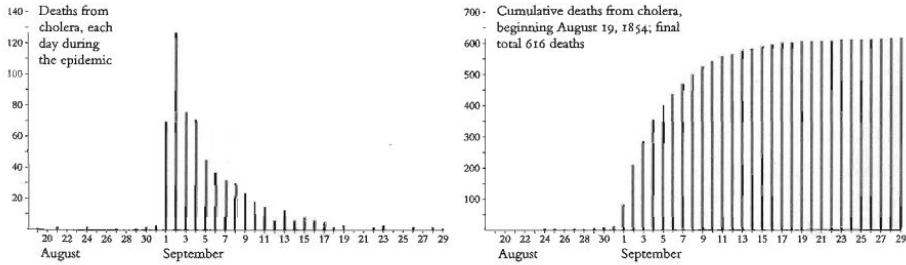
# The Cholera Epidemic in London, 1854

- Cholera broke out in the Broad Street area of central London on the evening of August 31, 1854. John Snow, who'd investigated earlier epidemics, suspected the water from a community pump-well was contaminated.
- Using empirical data, Snow figured out that the cause of the epidemic was a contaminated pump-handle, and the epidemic soon ended
- Today he is celebrated for establishing the mode of cholera transmission and consequently the method of prevention

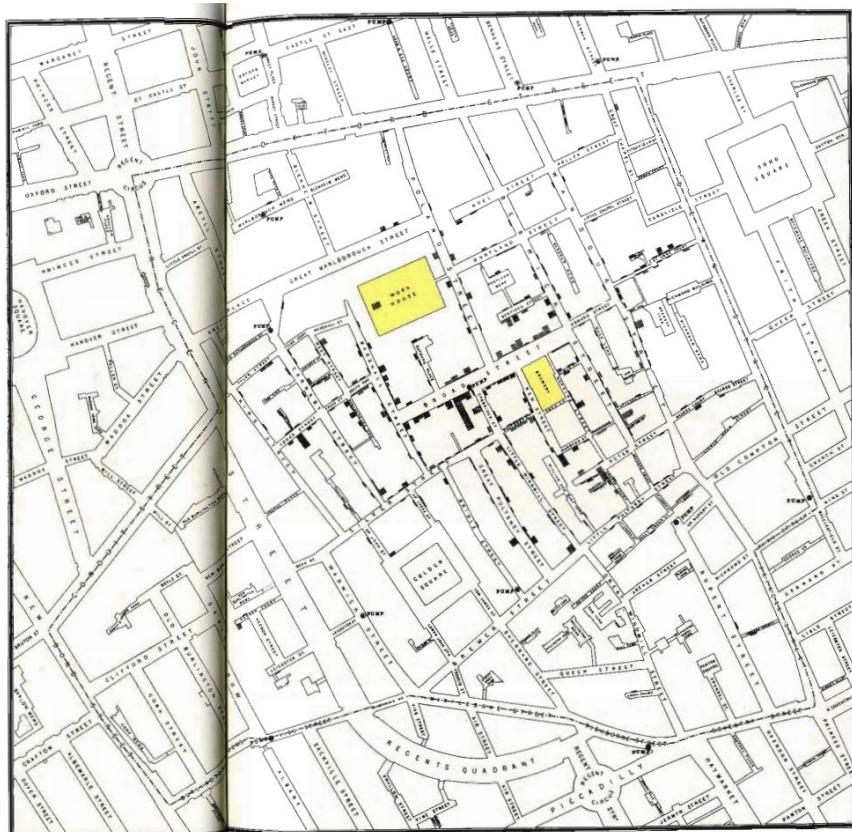


<sup>6</sup> H. Harold Scott, *Some Notable Epidemics* (London, 1934), pp. 3-4.

# 1. Placing the data in an appropriate context for assessing cause and effect



Instead of plotting a time-series, Snow constructed a graphical display that provided powerful testimony about a possible cause-effect relationship. Snow marked deaths from cholera (■) on this map, along with the locations of community water pump wells (○). Revealed strong association between cholera and proximity to Broad Street



## 2. *Making quantitative comparisons*

Snow not only analyzed data of victims of cholera, but also those who escaped the disease

## 3. *Considering alternative explanations and contrary cases*

The credibility of a report is enhanced by careful assessment of all relevant evidence, not just evidence overtly consistent with explanations enhanced by a report. The point is to get it right, not to win the case.

## 4. *Assessment of possible errors in the numbers reported in graphics*

# The Decision to Launch the Space Shuttle Challenger

- On January 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded and seven astronauts died because two rubber O-rings leaked.
- The clear proximate cause: an inability to assess the link between cool temperature and O-ring damage in earlier flights. Such a pre-launch analysis would have revealed the flight was a considerable risk.
- In the field of statistics, this accident evoked to demonstrate the importance of risk assessment, data graphs, fitting models to data, and requiring students of engineering to attend statistics class
- Engineers at NASA had prepared 13 charts to make the case that the Challenger should *not* be launched, however, the charts were unconvincing, the arguments against the launch failed; the Challenger blew up.

## HISTORY OF O-RING DAMAGE ON SRM FIELD JOINTS

	SRM No.	Cross Sectional View			Top View		Clocking Location (deg)
		Erosion Depth (in.)	Perimeter Affected (deg)	Nominal Dia. (in.)	Length Of Max Erosion (in.)	Total Heat Affected Length (in.)	
Oct 30, 1985 AFT	61A LH Center Field**	22A	None	0.280	None	None	36°--66°
	61A LH CENTER FIELD**	22A	NONE	0.280	NONE	NONE	338°-18°
	51C LH Forward Field*	15A	0.010	154.0	0.280	4.25	5.25
	51C RH Center Field (prim)***	15B	0.038	130.0	0.280	12.50	58.75
	51C RH Center Field (sec)***	15B	None	45.0	0.280	None	354
	41D RH Forward Field	13B	0.028	110.0	0.280	3.00	None
	41C LH Aft Field*	11A	None	0.280	None	None	--
	41B LH Forward Field	10A	0.040	217.0	0.280	3.00	14.50
STS-2 RH Aft Field	2B	0.053	116.0	0.280	--	--	90

\*Hot gas path detected in putty. Indication of heat on O-ring, but no damage.

\*\*Soot behind primary O-ring.

\*\*\*Soot behind primary O-ring, heat affected secondary O-ring.

Clocking location of leak check port - 0 deg.

OTHER SRM-15 FIELD JOINTS HAD NO BLOWHOLES IN PUTTY AND NO SOOT NEAR OR BEYOND THE PRIMARY O-RING.

SRM-22 FORWARD FIELD JOINT HAD PUTTY PATH TO PRIMARY O-RING, BUT NO O-RING EROSION AND NO SOOT BLOWBY. OTHER SRM-22 FIELD JOINTS HAD NO BLOWHOLES IN PUTTY.

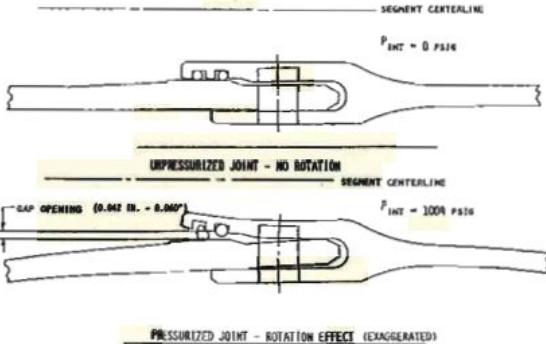
- Does not provide the names of the people who prepared the material
- Public, named authorship indicates responsibility, both to immediate audience and long-term record
- Describes historical distribution of the effect endangering the Challenger, does not provide data about possible cause
- The same rocket has 3 different names

## PRIMARY CONCERN -

## FIELD JOINT - HIGHEST CONCERN

- o EROSION PENETRATION OF PRIMARY SEAL REQUIRES RELIABLE SECONDARY SEAL FOR PRESSURE INTEGRITY
- o IGNITION TRANSIENT - (0-600 MS)
  - o (0-170 MS) HIGH PROBABILITY OF RELIABLE SECONDARY SEAL
  - o (170-330 MS) REDUCED PROBABILITY OF RELIABLE SECONDARY SEAL
  - o (330-600 MS) HIGH PROBABILITY OF NO SECONDARY SEAL CAPABILITY
- o STEADY STATE - (600 MS - 2 MINUTES)
  - o IF EROSION PENETRATES PRIMARY O-RING SEAL - HIGH PROBABILITY OF NO SECONDARY SEAL CAPABILITY
  - o BENCH TESTING SHOWED O-RING NOT CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH METAL PARTS GAP OPENING RATE TO MEOP
  - o BENCH TESTING SHOWED CAPABILITY TO MAINTAIN O-RING CONTACT DURING INITIAL PHASE (0-170 MS) OF TRANSIENT

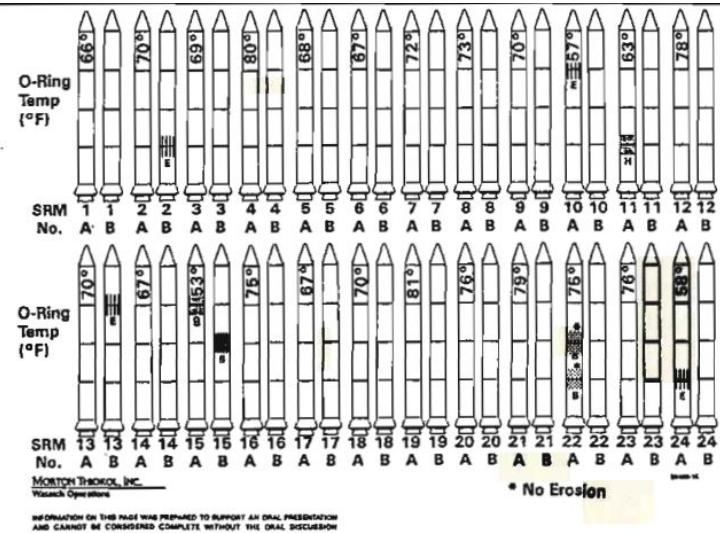
## PRIMARY CONCERN - CONT



<sup>33</sup> The table of temperature data, shown in full at left, is described as a "History of O-ring Temperatures." It is a highly selective history, leaving out nearly all the actual flight experience of the shuttle:

MOTOR	O-RING	
DM-4	47	
DM-2	52	Test rockets ignited on fixed horizontal platforms in Utah.
QM-3	48	
QM-4	51	The only 2 shuttle launches (of 24) for which temperatures were shown in the 13 Challenger charts.
SRM-15	53	
SRM-22	75	
SRM-25	29	
	27	Forecasted O-ring temperatures for the Challenger.

- Charts utilized in presentation did not express the main correlation between temperature and O-ring damage in a clear way
- Displayed data set was thin - comparable to if John Snow had ignored some areas with cholera and *all* the cholera-free areas and their water pumps - Numbers become evidence by being put in context and in relation to



Poor design choices also made it difficult/impossible to learn and decipher information:

- 1. Disappearing Legend
- 2. Chartjunk
- 3. Lack of Clarity in Depicting Cause and Effect
- 4. Wrong Order

## Conclusion: Thinking and Design

1. Documenting the sources and characteristics of the data
2. Insistently enforcing appropriate comparisons
3. Demonstrating mechanisms of *cause and effect*
4. Expressing those mechanisms *quantitatively*
5. Recognizing the inherently *multivariate* nature of analytic problems
6. Inspecting and evaluating *alternative explanations*
7. An endless commitment to finding, telling and showing the truth

When consistent with the substance and in harmony with the content, information displays should be documentary, comparative, causal and explanatory, quantified, multivariate, exploratory, skeptical.

# Explaining Magic: Pictorial Instructions and Disinformation Design

- To create illusions is to engage in *disinformation design*
- Two primary principles: *suppressing context* and *preventing reflective analysis*

When reversed, reinforces strategies of informative design: audience should understand and know what you are going to do, so they can evaluate how your verbal and visual evidence supports your argument.

# Disinformation Design Reversed: Practical Advice

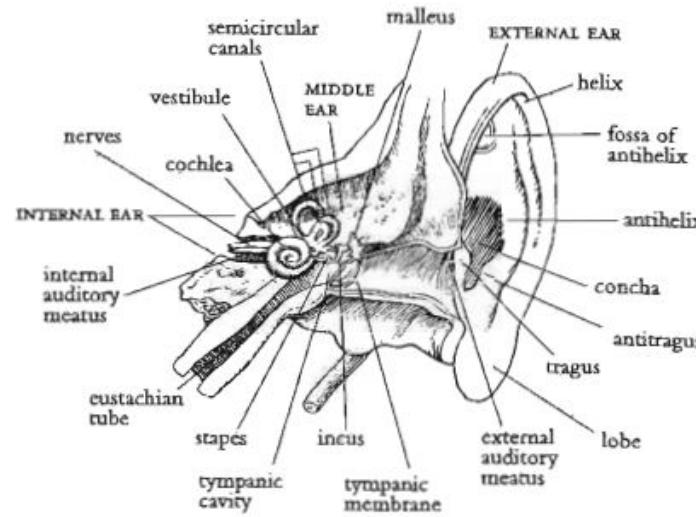
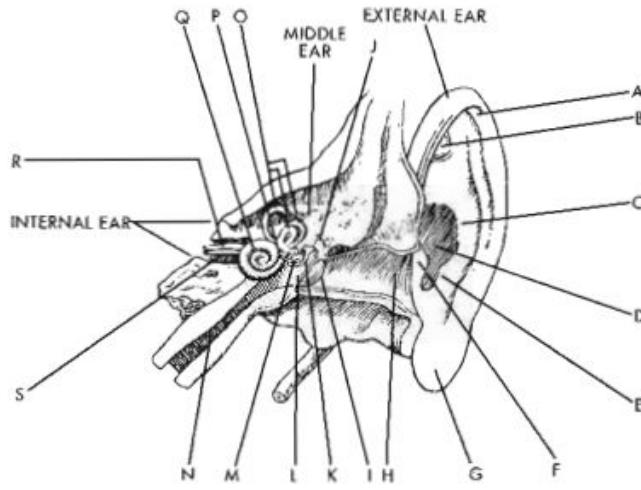
1. **Near the beginning of presentation, tell the audience: what the problem is, why it is important, and what the solution is.** If these questions cannot be answered, it is a sure sign the content of the presentation is deficient
2. **To explain complex ideas or data, use the method of PGP: Particular, General, Particular.** Give high-resolution talks that are clear and rich in content, and seek to maximize the rate of information transfer
3. **No matter what, give everybody in the audience one or more pieces of paper, packed with material related to your presentation.** Paper serves as a testimonial record documenting the talk, letting audience know the speaker takes responsibility for what they say

# Disinformation Design Reversed: Practical Advice

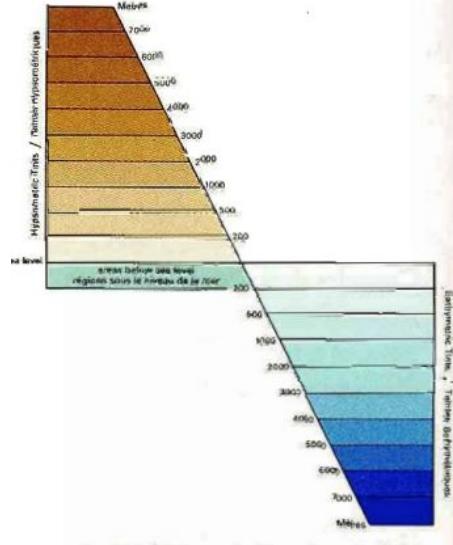
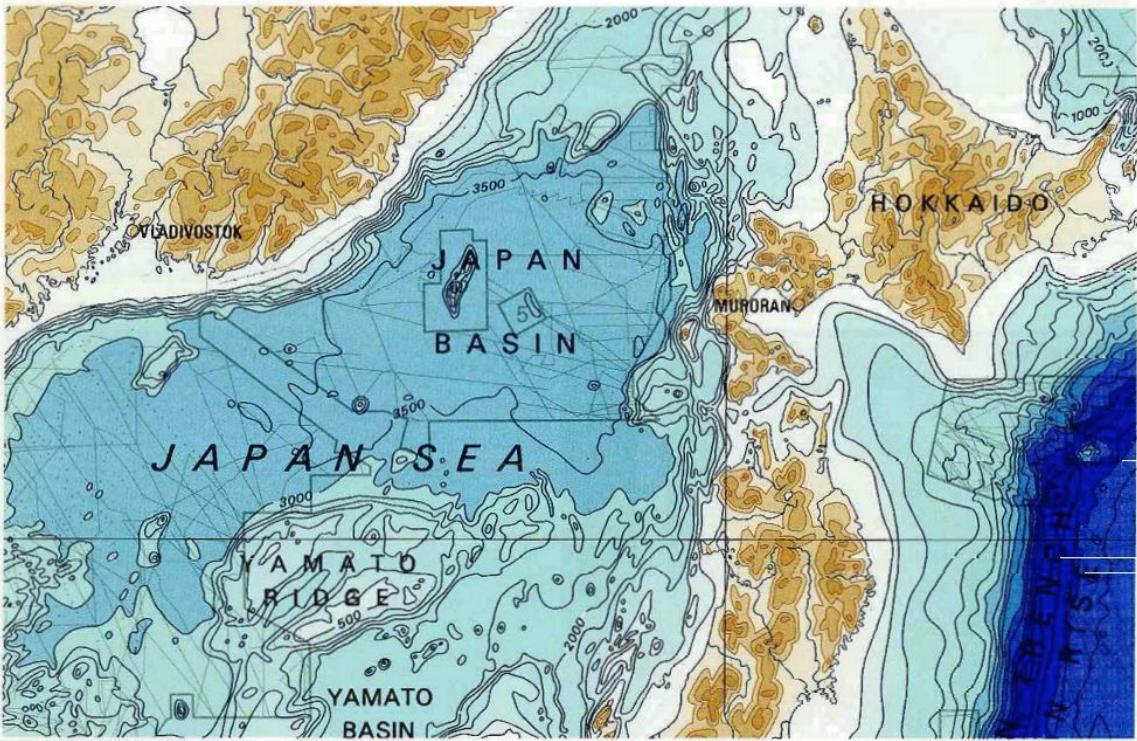
4. **Analyze the details of the presentation; then master those details through practice.** Work on what the audience sees and also hears.
5. **Show up early.** By arriving early, one can prepare themselves mentally and check that technical aspects will go smoothly.
6. **Finish early.** People never complain about a presentation ending early. Get to the point, be brief, keep interesting audience, quit before the audience has had enough.

# The Smallest Effective Difference

- In designing information, the idea is to use *just notable differences*, visual elements that make a clear difference - contrasts that are definite, effective, and minimal.
- Helps in designing the various secondary and structural elements in displays of information- arrows, pointer lines, dimension lines, scales, grids, meshes, rules, underlines, boxes, legends, highlights, accents, shadows, fills defining areas and surfaces, etc. - *muting* these secondary elements will often reduce visual clutter - thus help clarify primary information
- When *everything* (background, structure, content) is emphasized, *nothing* is emphasized - design will be noisy, cluttered, informationally flat

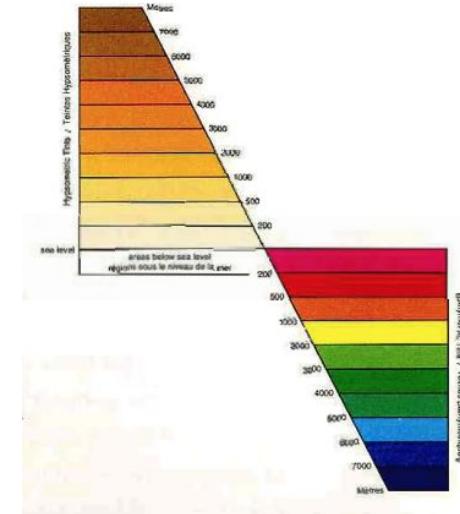
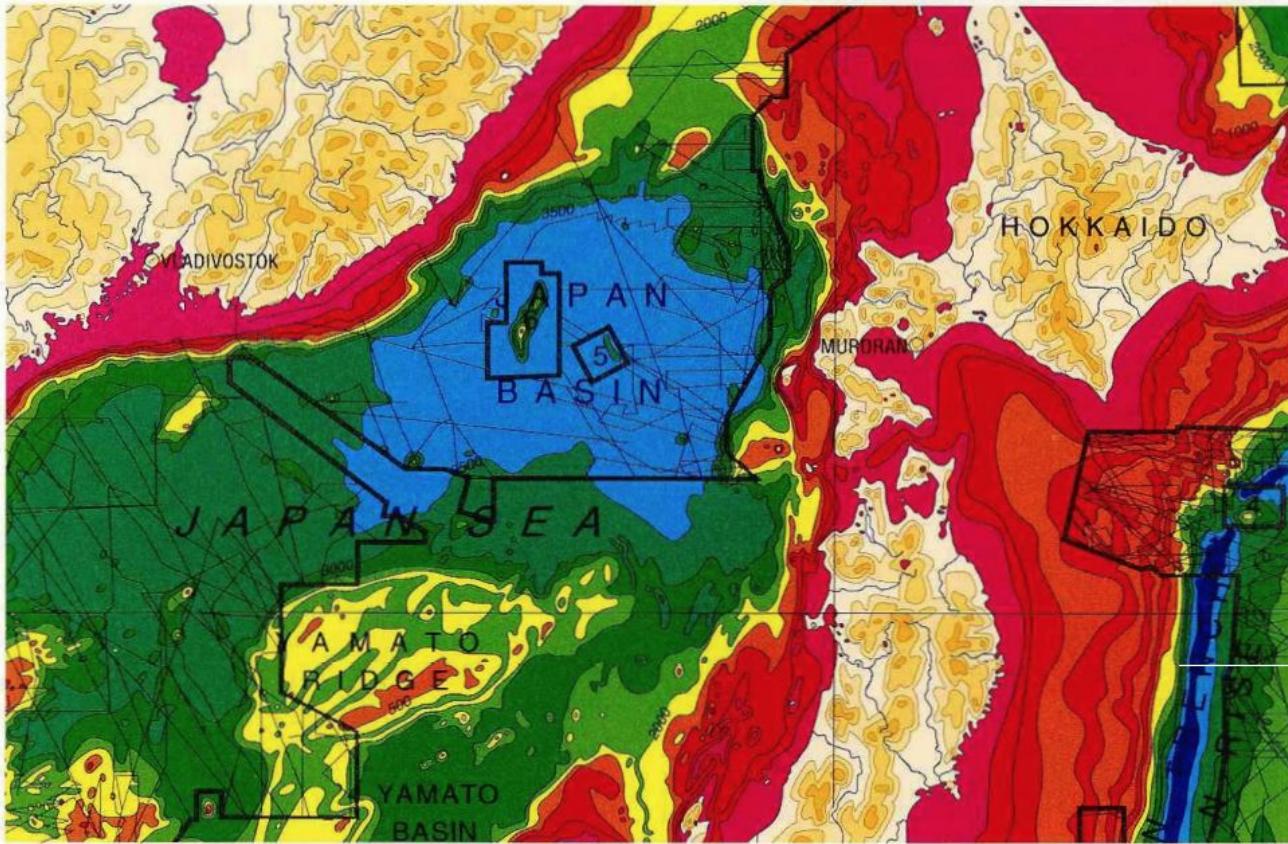


Strong contrasts between secondary elements and background will visually activate the background. In the original ear (left), white striped show up between the dominant pointer- lines. A redrawing (right) minimizes the pointers - there by clarifying the ear itself- and also replaces the coded list of parts with direct labels.



Tufte considers this an example with extraordinary use of small effective differences.

- ocean depth indicated through blues, altitude through tans
- contour lines are labeled by numbers, nearly eliminates any need to refer to the legend
- every color tint signals four variables: latitude, longitude, sea or land, and depth/altitude measured in meters
- gray lines trace out the routes of ships
- all information is readable, minimal differences allow the viewer to observe more differences



Tufte considers this a ghastly contrast to the previous graph.

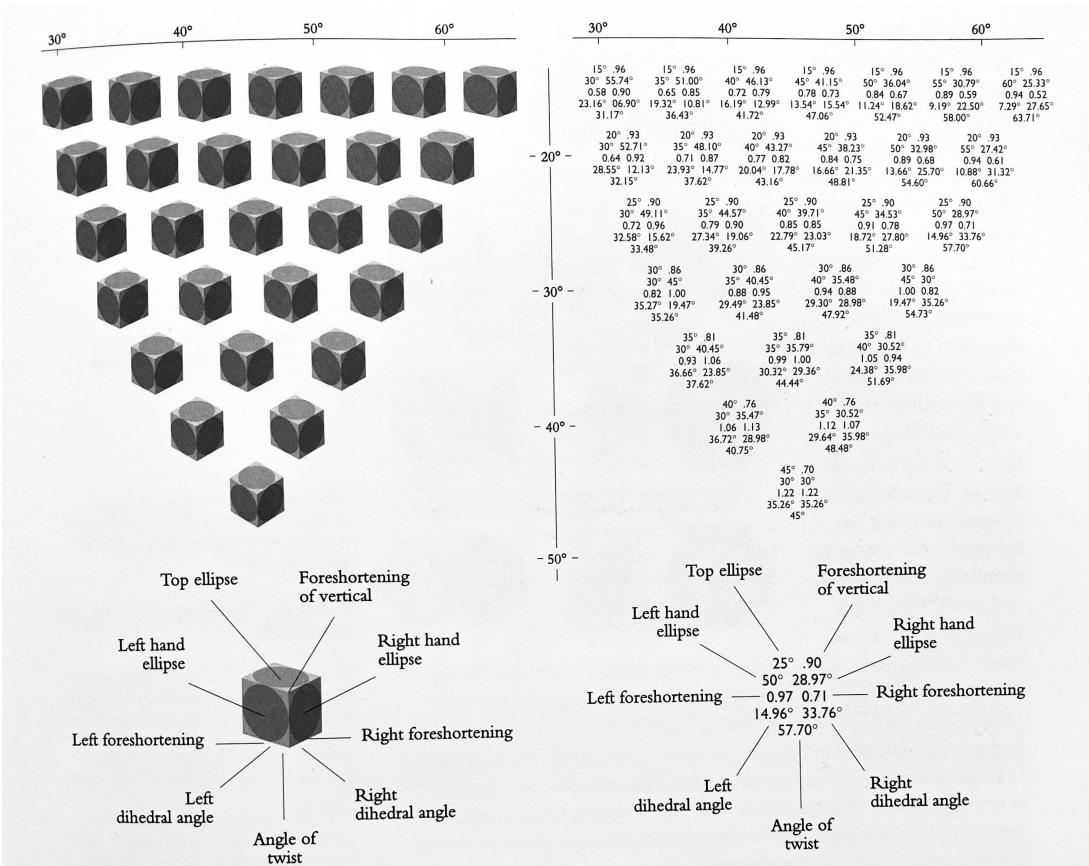
- aggressive colors are unnatural and un-quantitative, render the map incoherent
- “the original data now lost in the soup”

# Conclusions: Smallest Effective Difference

- Minimal distinctions reduce visual clutter
- Small contrasts work to enrich the overall visual signal by increasing the number of distinctions that can be made within a single image
- Thus increasing the resolution of an image
- Appropriate size of small contrasts depends on context, priority of particular elements in the overall visual story, number of differentiations made within an image, and characteristics of those viewing the image

# **Parallelism:** Repetition and change, comparison & surprise.

- + Spatial Parallelism relies on our ability to compare and contrast images that share the same space, our ability to understand complex images can be quickened when they are spatially parallel.
- + Parallelism allows us to generate links between variations in data, because we connect things naturally by position, orientation, overlap, synchronization, and similarities in content.
- + **Parallelism creates the foundation for coherent organization of visuals.**



Successful parallelism in this diagram is apparent in many ways.

The similarities in shape, layout, scale, and position, allow a viewer to easily digest the connection between the cubes and the numbers on the right.

**Beethoven 9th #2**

**THE ART of LISTENING**

Exposition (Movement 4) [click below to play the CD]  
 The even fiercer and more jarring restatement of the Horror Fanfare announces the Exposition, which—as in any concerto—unfolds in close correspondence with the Opening Ritornello that preceded:

<u>Opening Ritornello</u>	<u>Exposition</u>
HORROR FANFARE (Orchestra)	HORROR FANFARE (Orchestra)
RECITATIVE (Cellos & Basses)	RECITATIVE (Baritone)
JOY THEME: Stanza 1 (Cello/Bass)	JOY THEME: Verse 1 (Baritone)
JOY THEME: Stanza 2 (4-part strings)	JOY THEME: Verse 2 (4-part soloists)
JOY THEME: Stanza 3 (4-part strings)	JOY THEME: Verse 3 (4-part soloists)
JOY THEME: Stanza 4 (heroic march)	JOY THEME: Verse 4 (Turkish march)

Begins at 3:54 into Movement 4 PAUSE

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**THE ART of LISTENING**

Schiller's Text in German and English Translation  
 [click anywhere on text for music; click anywhere off text to stop]

Stanza 1 (German) (English translation)  
**BARITONE SOLOIST**  
 Freude, schöner Götterfunken,  
 Tochter aus Elysium,  
 wir betreten feuertrunken,  
 Himmlische, dein Heiligtum!  
 Deine Zäuber binden wieder,  
 was die Mode streng geteilt;  
 alle Menschen werden Brüder,  
 wo dein sanfter Flügel weilt.  
**CHORUS**  
 Deine Zauber ...  
 Your magic ...

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Clarinet, Horn, 2nd Violin  
 Bassoon, Low Strings

Countersubject      Subject

Subject      sempre ff

Play Countersubject from Mac Play Subject from Mac Play All from CD

HIDE FUGUE SUBJECT

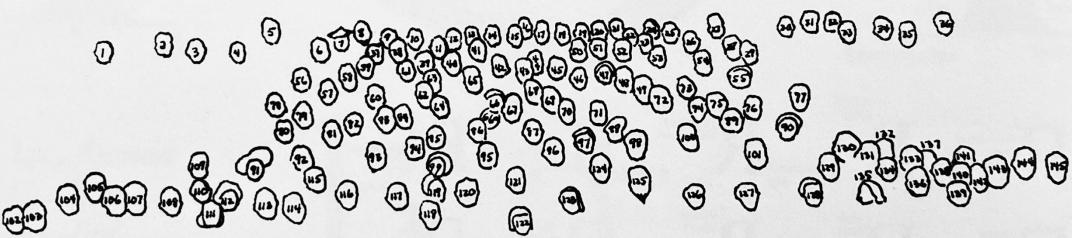
INDEX ↑ MOVEMENT ↑ NOTES PLAY THROUGH FIND AGAIN  
 GLOSSARY ↑ 12:26 - 12:43 PLAY THIS CARD 293

In this example, Tufte talks about **parallelism that combines visuals and sound**. A person listening to this music will interact with this visual in order to hear and understand the many interpretations of the music at their own speed.



Here, the use of **superimposed parallelism enhances the slight variation** of the complex letterforms of the trajan inscription.

Edward M. Catich



1. Dimitroff	25. Merrill	49. Streeter	73. Miss Williams	98. Mrs. Woodward	122. Barbara Federer
2. Cameron	26. Henry Smith	50. Cuffey	74. Mrs. Mayall	99. Miss Deutsch	123. Mrs. Miller
3. Adams	27. Bestul	51. Mrs. Sitterly	75. Hall	100. Goldberg	124. Millman
4. Layzer	28. Scott	52. Naqvi	76. Miss Jones	101. Mensel	125. Edmondson
5. Irwin	29. Savedoff	53. Gossner	77. Owren	102. Barton	126. Barney
6. Binnendijk	30. Yeagley	54. Mrs. Savedoff	78. Wolf	103. Whitford	127. Schwartzschild
7. Leiber	31. R. L. Wilson	55. Mrs. Lewis	79. McKrosky	104. Duke	128. Mrs. Schwartzschild
8. Sherry	32. Ashbrook	56. Lovitt	80. Hynec	105. Green	129. Gingrich
9. Dyer	33. Sutton	57. Brouwer	81. Eckert	106. Mrs. de Kamp	130. Miss Swope
10. Keller	34. Alden	58. Federer	82. Mrs. Eckert	107. Baker	131. Stuecklen
11. Vysotsky	35. Schopp	59. Miss Morrow	83. Omer	108. Chamberlin	132. Yost
12. Mitchell	36. Heines	60. Miss Hutzler	84. Yoss	109. Spitzer	133. Clemences
13. Protheroe	37. Weston	61. Huffer	85. Miss Weber	110. Chester Cook	134. Miss Hill
14. Matthews	38. Marion Smith	62. McKrosky	86. Miss Underhill	111. Mrs. Chamberlin	135. Miss Wright
15. Matthews	39. Mrs. Marion Smith	63. Wood	87. Allan Cook	112. Mrs. Damkoehler	136. Oliver
16. T. G. Cowling	40. Keenan	64. Seyfert	88. Mrs. Whipple	113. Hertz	137. Bappu
17. Wildt	41. Stearns	65. Blitzstein	89. Ice	114. Kameny	138. Miss Johns
18. Sitterly	42. Sarah Lee Lippincott	66. Miss Reilly	90. Mrs. Menzel	115. Kiess	139. Zinszner
19. Orral	43. Munch	67. Miss Allen	91. Mrs. van de Kamp	116. Warwick	140. York
20. Weller	44. Mrs. Stearns	68. Daddock	92. Mrs. Baker	117. Joy	141. Milford
21. Wyller	45. Mrs. Roman	69. Hagen	93. Allard	118. Mrs. Federer	142. Mrs. Owren
22. Mrs. Merrill	46. King	70. Thomas	94. Mrs. Federer	119. Miss Schwartzman	143. Epstein
23. Mrs. Henry Smith	47. Mrs. Gossner	71. Whipple	95. Schlit	120. Nassau	144. Wrubel
24. McKrosky	48. Davis	72. Harris	96. Miller	121. Robertson	145. de Jonge
		73. Eggen	97. McLaughlin		

A mix of a photograph, drawing, numbers, and words creates a complex relationship of parallels. The detached head drawings are difficult to understand but can help a viewer understand the figures in the photo faster.

# Multiples in space and time.

MULTIPLE images reveal repetition and change, pattern and surprise—the defining elements in the idea of *information*.

Multiples directly depict comparisons, the essence of statistical thinking.

Multiples enhance the dimensionality of the flatlands of paper and computer screen, giving depth to vision by arraying panels and slices of information.

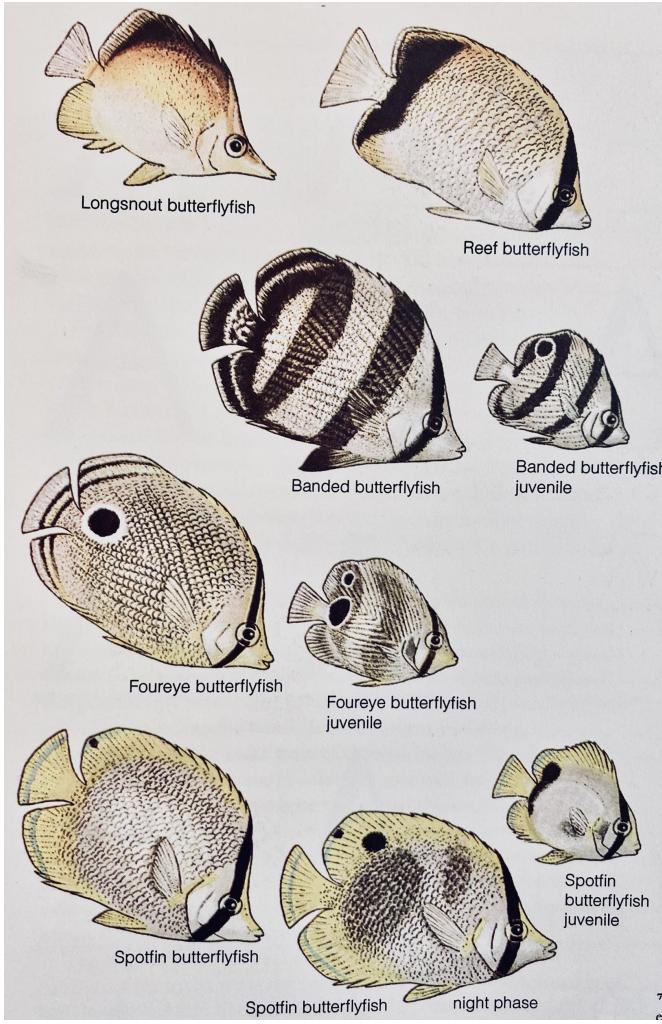
Multiples create visual lists of objects and activities, nouns and verbs, helping viewers to analyze, compare, differentiate, decide—as we see below with 12 hands in 12 positions for making 12 sounds.

Multiples represent and narrate sequences of motion.

Multiples amplify, intensify, and reinforce the meaning of images.



This image uses stills figures that change to when read horizontally to **describe and depict motion**. Using multiples to show motion can be problematic because it can have difficulties showing the actual passage of time, and rhythms of the motion.



Multiples here are used to help a viewer make **fine distinctions and close comparisons between similar nouns**. The **generic** fish images are in relation with each other to enhance scale difference and color difference. The underwater book is designed to make the diver find fish as simply as possible.

**Row 1:**

- Left:** A clear glass martini glass on a stand.
- Right:** Text: "clear outline, deep perspective, smooth shading, dark 'gray' colors".

**Row 2:**

- Left:** A clear glass martini glass on a stand.
- Right:** Text: "simple, bright shapes, no shadows, sketchy brushwork".

**Row 3:**

- Left:** A clear glass martini glass on a stand.
- Right:** Text: "The principal person in a picture is light", Manet said. We flatten our glass to a rough, temporary "impression".

**Row 4:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass from a Cubist perspective.
- Right:** Text: "multiplicative counter-space relativity, simultaneity, etc."

**Row 5:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using pointillism.
- Right:** Text: "Pure yellow dots next to pure blue dots look all green".

**Row 6:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Pointillism.
- Right:** Text: "Monet is an eye, but what an eye". (Cézanne) Our glass dissolves into atmosphere, like light on a haystack or mist.

**Row 7:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Impressionist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "fast painting to catch changing light, no solid form, broken color".

**Row 8:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Post-Impressionist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "The subject-matter of Cézanne is not an apple or a person or a glass but a color-space structure and rhythm".

**Row 9:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Fauvist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "advancing and receding color planes, spatial lines".

**Row 10:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Expressionist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "sheared colors, heavy, rough, black lines".

**Row 11:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Abstract Expressionist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "One doesn't think to drink out of a glass that "expresses" a Van-Gogh-like inner emotional tension".

**Row 12:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Surrealist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "Piles of paint tell us more about Rouault's feelings than about outside things like glasses".

**Row 13:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Futurist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "A futurist attempt to represent a glass in motion will always look like a walking dog or a wagging tail".

**Row 14:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Constructivist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "the essential structural elements of all glasses and all things. (A finale and a fresh "constructivist" start.)".

**Row 15:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Dadaist techniques.
- Right:** Text: "A wine glass becomes at some point a pretty universe of non-objective bubbles".

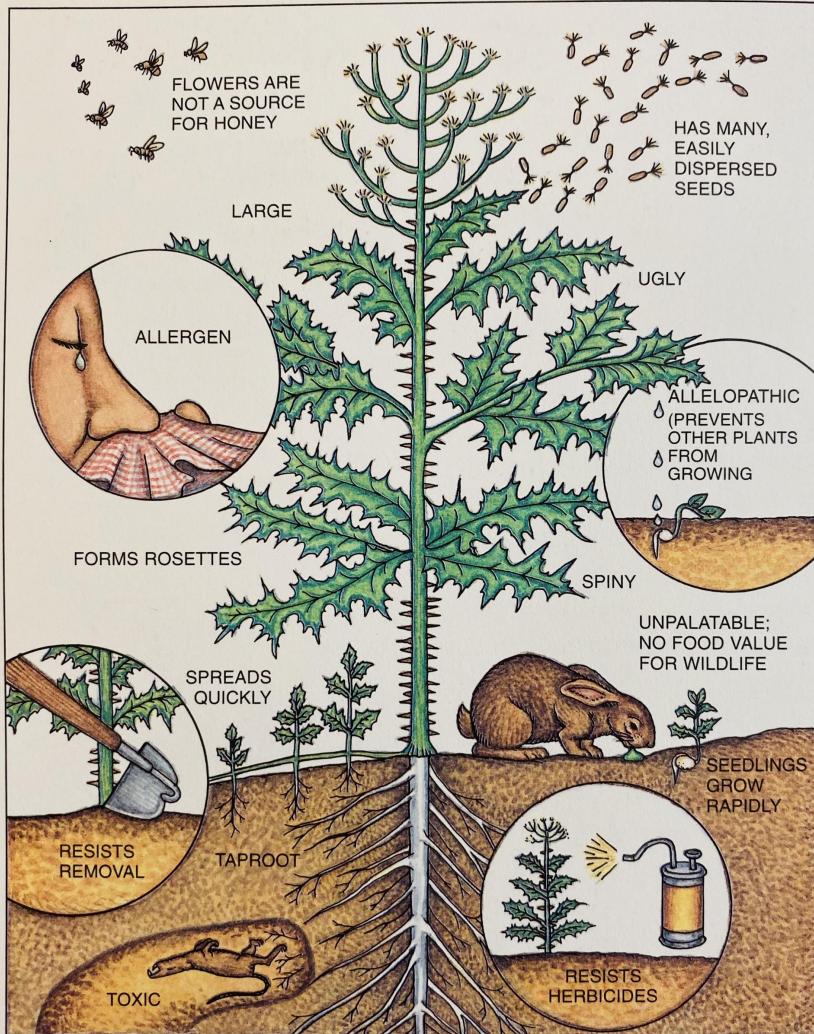
**Row 16:**

- Left:** A painting of a martini glass using Pop Art techniques.
- Right:** Text: "Play" is the only thing that can still tackle a subject-matter and get away with it.

This diagram depicts multiples used to show the different styles of art **when applied to one object**. Use of **multiples enhances the approaches of each style**.

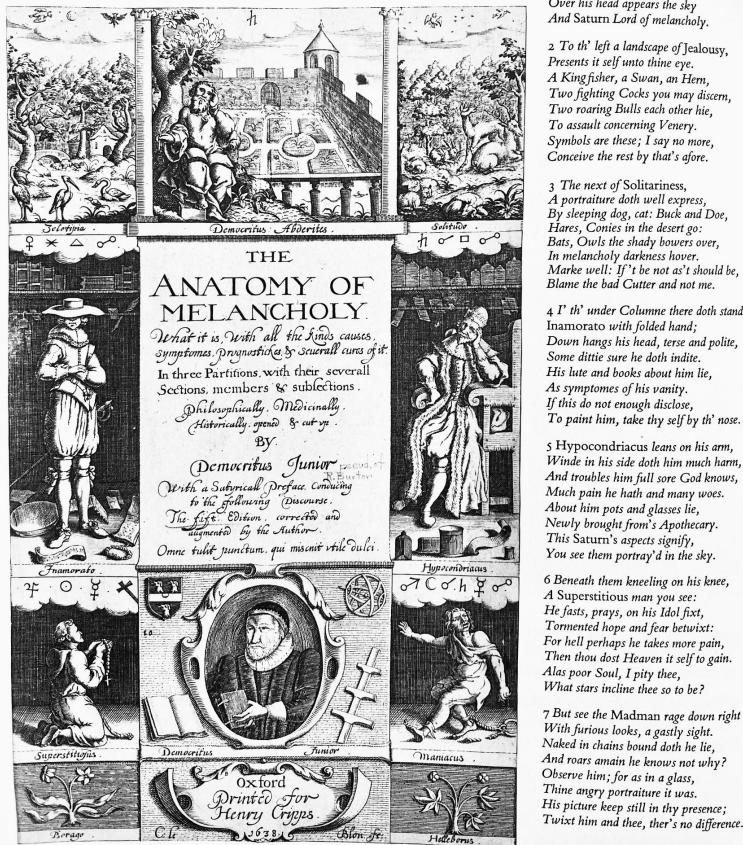
# **Visual Confections:** Juxtapositions from the ocean of the streams of story.

- + Confections are non direct representations of scenes. They are a collection of gathered images displayed in compartments and existing in imagined scenes.
- + Confections describe a story, and can combine many different images to get the story and meaning across.
- + **Confections illustrate an argument, present and enforce visual comparisons, combine the real and imagined, and tell us yet another story.**



This confection uses illustration to reinterpret what could be a list or inventory. The diagram blends words and images into a memorable piece. **The drawing is about acts, verbs, and consequences.**

ROBERT BURTON'S *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (1638) begins with a magnificent confection, a title page of ten compartments each corresponding to a numbered stanza in the prefatory poem "The Argument of the Front-piece." The diagram shows how image and stanza are linked. The poem, which repays study, is at right.



TEN distinct Squares here seen apart,  
Are joyn'd in one by Cutters art.

1 Old Democritus under a tree,  
Sits on a stone with book on knee;  
About him hang there many features,  
Of Cats, Dogs and such like creatures,  
Of which he makes Anatomy,  
The seat of black choler to see.  
Over his head appears the sky  
And Saturn Lord of melancholy.

2 To th' left a landscape of jealousy,  
Presents it self unto thine eye.  
A Kingfisher, a Swan, an Heron,  
Two fighting Cocks you may discern,  
Two roaring Bulls each other hie,  
To assault concerning Venerie.  
Symbols are these; I say no more,  
Conceive the rest by that's afores.

3 The next of Solitariness,  
A portraiture doth well express,  
By sleeping dog, cat, Buck and Doe,  
Hares, Conies in the desert go;  
Bats, Owls the shady hovers over,  
In melancholy darkness hover.  
Marke well! If't be not as i should be,  
Blame the bad Cutter and not me.

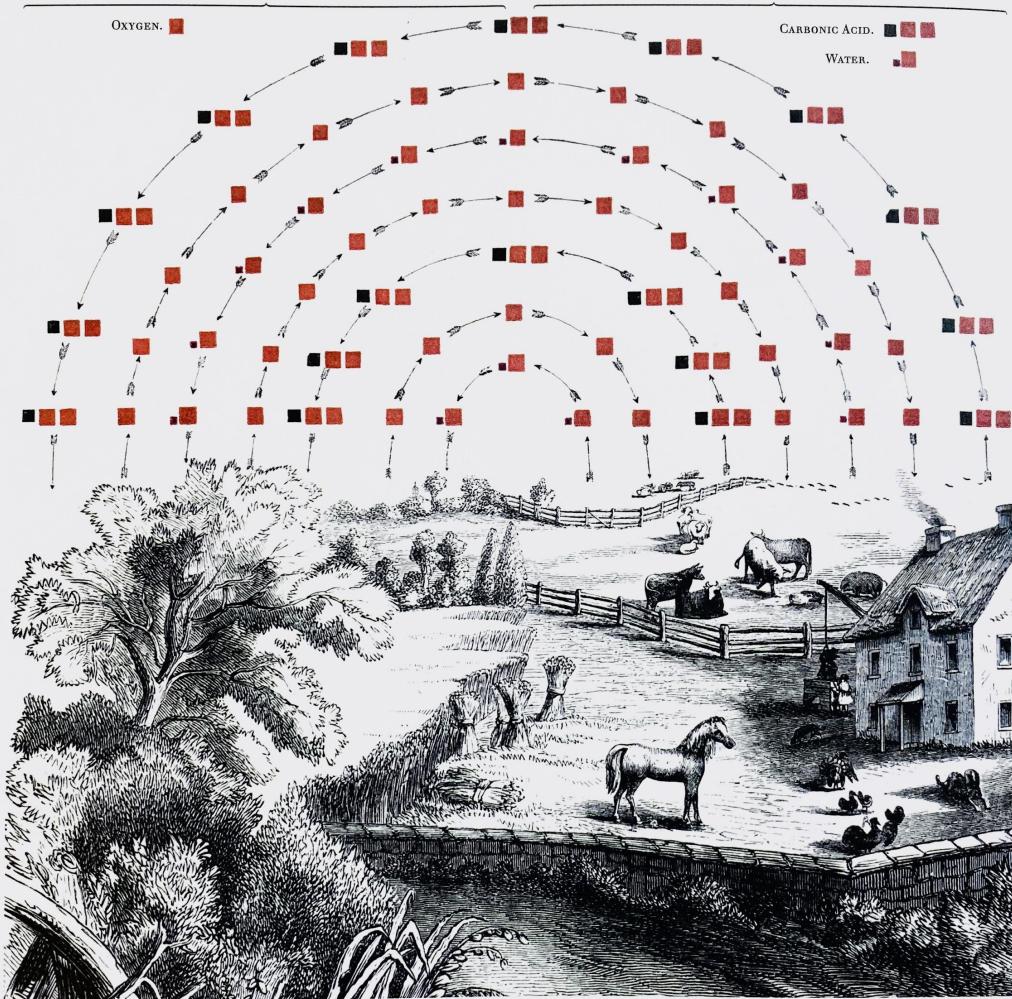
4 I th' under Columnne there doth stand  
Inamorato with folded hand;  
Down hangs his head, terse and polite,  
Some dittie sure doth indite.  
His lute and books about him lie,  
As symptomes of his vanity.  
If this do not enough disclose,  
To paint him, take thy self by th' nose.

5 Hypochondriacus leans on his arm,  
Winde in his side doth him much harm,  
And troubles him full sore God knows,  
Much pain he hath and many woes.  
About him pots and glasses lie,  
Newly brought from's Apothecary.  
This Saturn's aspects signify,  
You see them portay'd in the sky.

6 Beneath them kneeling on his knee,  
A Superstitious man you see:  
He fasts, prays, on his Idol fixt,  
Tormented hope and fear betwixt:  
For hell perhaps he takes more pain,  
Then thou dost Heaven it self to gain.  
Alas poor Soul, I pity thee,  
What stars incline thee so to be?

7 But see the Madman rage down right  
With furious looks, a gasty sight.  
Naked in chains bound doth he lie,  
And roars amain he knows not why?  
Observe him; for as in a glass,  
Thine angry portraiture it was.  
His picture keep still in thy presence;  
Twixt him and thee, ther's no difference.

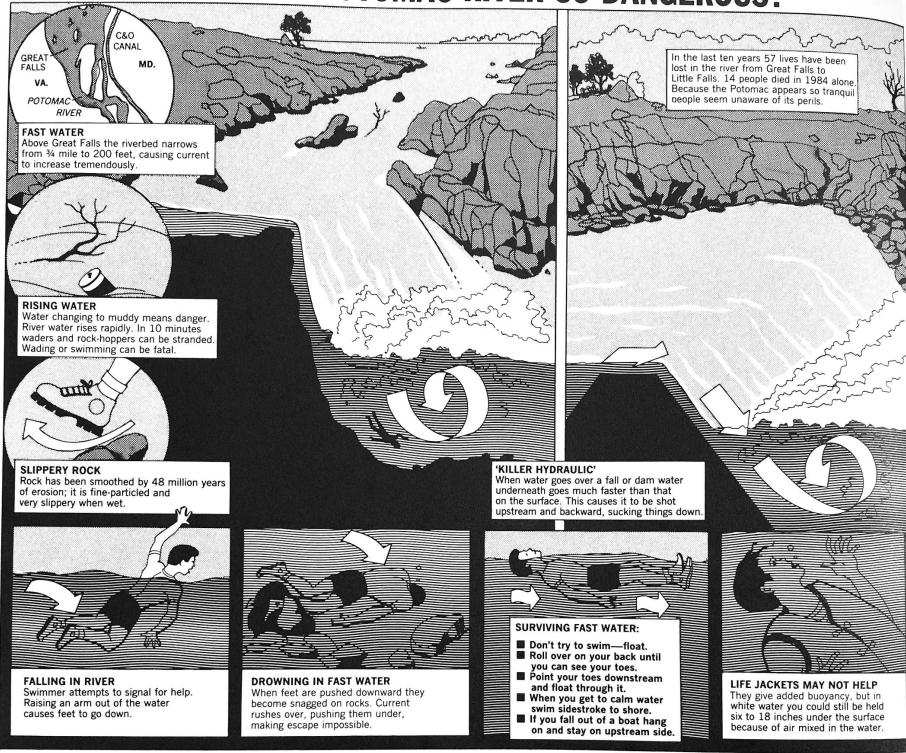
Robert Burton's piece uses a diagram to link images to each stanza, this reduces space and is a linear way to digest images.



In this confection, the artist merges abstract color squares and a detailed drawing of a farm.

# WHY IS THE POTOMAC RIVER SO DANGEROUS?

VISUAL EXPLANATIONS - EDWARD TUFTE



## Great Falls Park Rangers Pray for Rain, to Save Lives

By Mary Jordan  
*Washington Post Staff Writer*

Great Falls National Park rangers said they prayed it would rain today, not so much to keep people away but to keep them alive.

On each of the past two cloudless Sundays, a person who swam or slipped into the Potomac River near the park died.

If the sun shone as brilliantly as predicted today—drawing as many as 5,000 people to the park—authorities said, the chances that another person would drown would be as chilling as the cascading waterfalls themselves.

"There's a 1-in-11 chance that someone

drowns [today]," said Howard E. McCurdy, an American University professor who has analyzed the 57 drownings that have occurred between Great Falls and Little Falls on the Potomac since 1975 for the National Park Service.

"A sunny, June Sunday when the water level is at a medium height makes the park service very nervous," McCurdy said Friday. "These tragedies aren't as random as we tend to think."

The study explains four factors contributing to a higher probability of drownings: weather, season, day of week and water level. "Danger days" are what Joan Anzelmo, the park service site manager at Great Falls, calls

warm, spring Sundays when the water level is between three and five feet. On these days, where visitors sunbathe, climb rocks and picnic along the park's shoreline, Anzelmo said, the risk of drowning peaks, particularly because the water level is not high enough to alert people to the river's deadly undercurrents.

There are only five park rangers and two park police officers on each side of the 11-mile stretch of river between Great Falls and Little Falls in Virginia and Maryland.

For Earl V. Kittleman, the chief National Park spokesman, that means "I'm praying for clouds, drizzle or rain . . . anything until we get past June weekends."

Anzelmo said that by July and August, news of the annual spring drownings scares more people away from the slippery rocks edging Potomac, and fewer people visit Great Falls because many come on weekends at the beach or vacation elsewhere.

Yesterday, despite posted warnings and widespread news reports of the six drownings that had occurred this year, dozens of Great Falls patrons climbed perilously close to the river's edge.

Paul Galison, a 16-year-old Langley High School sophomore, stood a few yards from a sheer 50-foot drop into the Potomac yesterday. "I know it's dangerous," he said. "But the

See FALLS, C5, Col. 1

This informative confection effectively shows the dynamics between verbs and causes.

The printed page allows the reader to absorb the information at their own rate, to fully understand the risks involved with the river.

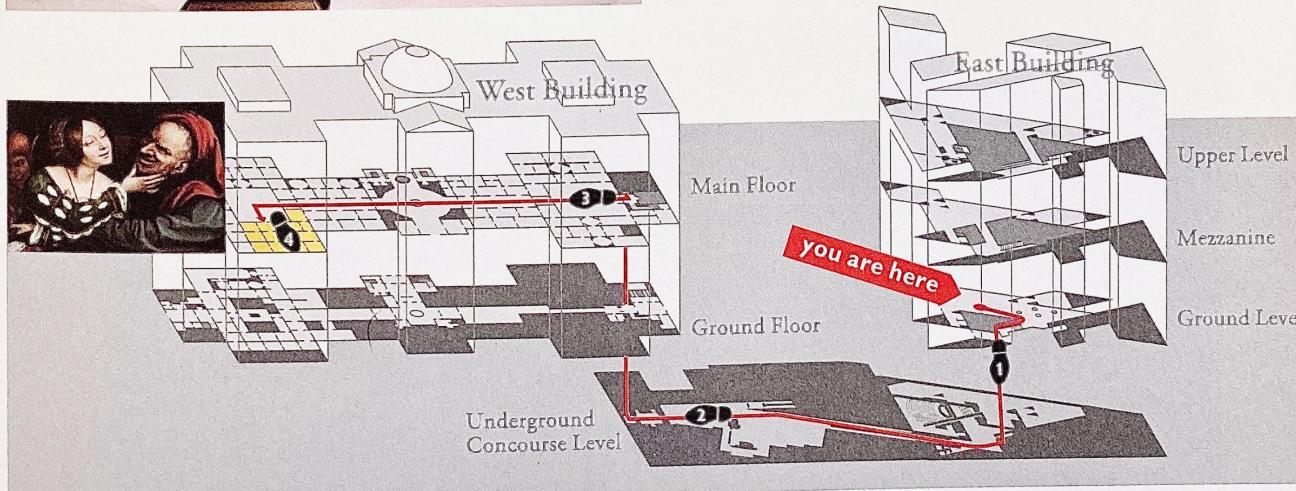
## Flemish Paintings

touch here, then turn around for your  
picture and printout

touch here to return to  
table of contents



- 1 Locate yourself within the gallery picture on the left. Cross the lobby and descend one flight of stairs to the concourse level.
- 2 Travel to the farthest opposite end of the concourse past the concourse buffet and the bookstore.
- 3 Ascend two floors on the elevator or escalator to the main floor of the West Building. Turn right.
- 4 Continue to the opposite end of the West Building. Turn left to begin the Netherlandish/Flemish exhibit.



Computers are capable of assembling and displaying one time confections designed to serve immediate, local, unique purposes.