Space had to be cut out from which we could then make sense. If vision is a construction, alternative visions can be constructed. Movement of anamorphosis (paintings which were created with a slight distortion) started from that realisation. Eg. The Ambassadors by Holbein. Realism and construction.

Truth is something that has to be tested and experimented. And we construct the experiment. Said by Francis Bacon.

Descartes’ question: How do I know what I know. How can I know when something is true. Distinction between practical knowledge (categorised by probability) and theoretical knowledge was made by Descartes. Practical knowledge uses the probable, as if it were true, but not a certainty. Theoretical knowledge cannot be doubted under any circumstances (indubitable). -> Descartes was looking for this type of truth and consider practical knowledge as false. Create grand categories as truth based on the origin of his beliefs. Whatever belief I have from the senses cannot be immediately true, I could only have a second degree of certainty after confirming with others. Truth does not depend on the physical world. The abstract ideas are the ones that can hold truth the best. However, what if there was this dumb being that wanted to plant wrong ideas and messed up the abstract ideas. At the end of the Meditations, II, nothing is true. Conclusion: The existence of a mind is true but it may be wrong. “I think, therefore I am” “cogito ergo sum”, beginning of modernity (i.e. god is no longer all powerful). I certified the truth and I am the first truth.

Descartes wants “to distinguish the true from the false in order to see clearly in [his] actions, and to walk with assurance in this life” Discourse on Method.

Definition of truth: Conformity between the thing and the intellect (idea) “Adequatio Rei et Intellectus” The problem in truth is to verify conformity. As independent of object is never independent and we only have the perception of it, truth often fails. However, the cogito does not succumb to this.

Consequences of the Cogito:

1. Distinction of mind and body and domination of the mind over the body. There are only two types of thing in this world: mind and body (res cogitam and res extension). The mere fact that it takes up space, it takes up space. Bodies are only mechanisms and extensions that take up space.
2. Ontological proof of the existence of God.

Nature became an object of worth and observation instead of the rule, resulting in the birth of technology and modernity.

3 Main features of modernity with Descartes– 1. Humanism [Separation between man and the world and hence now we focus on the human] 2. Individualism [I know myself first, metaphysical individualism, unlike the usual selfish individualism that was commonly interpreted. People came first before the space] 3. Rationalism [reason vs revelation] [Revelation is a top-down knowledge i.e. you believe in god] [revelation commits only one person, but reason commits everyone]

With modernity, we lose roots. With modernity, we become a loose brick and hence have freedom to set our own goals. “The silence of these infinite spaces terrifies me” – Blaise Pascal

When something is infinite, there is no centre.

Indefinite knows no end, a definition of modern space. There needs to be new ways to locate things because of this quality-less and quantitative. A continuum, homogeneous, infinitely divisible, impenetrable, unitotality of space, isotropic.