

SPACE

Space

Space is one of the Elements of Art.

Space is essential in both 2D and 3D art.

For **2D art**, **implied space** is formed using *illusions* suggested in conjunction with the other elements of art.

For **3D art**, there is **actual space** being occupied by objects and its surrounding areas.

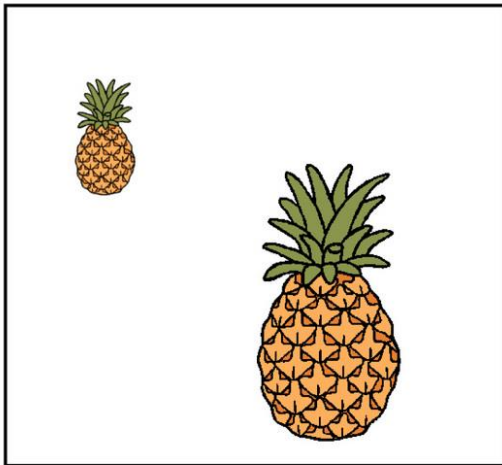
There are two kinds of space: **negative space** and **positive space**.

Space includes three parts: **foreground**, **middleground**, and **background**.

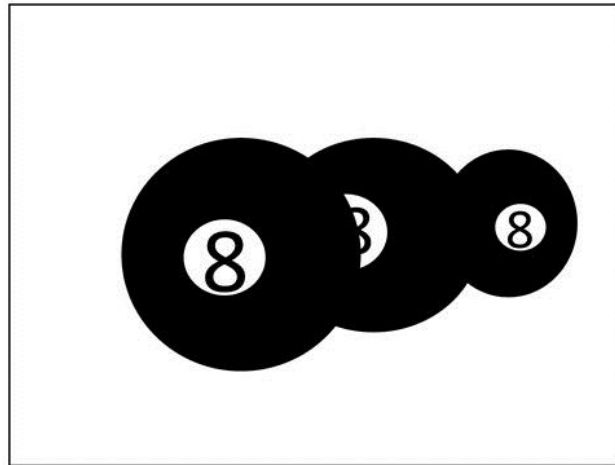
Implied Space in Two Dimensions

Implied Space

There are many ways to create an illusion of space (implied space) in two-dimensional art. This includes overlapping objects, size comparison and position of objects, and color (cool colors tend to recede, while warm colors tend to move toward the viewer).



SIZE DIFFERENCE



OVERLAPPING



COOL COLORS RECEDE, WARM COLORS ADVANCE

Actual Space in Three Dimensions

Space is always present in three-dimensional art. For this reason, it is called **actual space**; it is everywhere.

Three-dimensional art is almost always experienced in relation to the scale of our own bodies.

For example, if a sculpture is seven feet tall, it will appear intimidating to us. But if it is miniature in size, no matter what the subject matter, we dominate over it.

Space in Installation and Environmental Art

For some artists, the space itself and how it is transformed is the artwork.

Installation artists, landscape artists, and environmental artists all fit within that category.

Installation Art



Title: 2x4 Landscape
Exhibition: Three Ways of Looking at the Earth
Artist: Maya Lin
Location: Pace Wildenstein Gallery
Date: September 10 through October 24, 2009
Photo Credits: Lucy Lamp

Installation Art



Title: Inopportune: Stage Two

Artist: Cai Guo-Qiang

Date: 2004

Location:

Materials: MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA

- Tigers:
paper mache, plaster, fiberglass, resin, painted hide
 - Arrows:
brass, bamboo, feathers
 - Stage Prop:
styrofoam, wood, canvas, acrylic paint
- Dimensions: Varies

Environmental Art

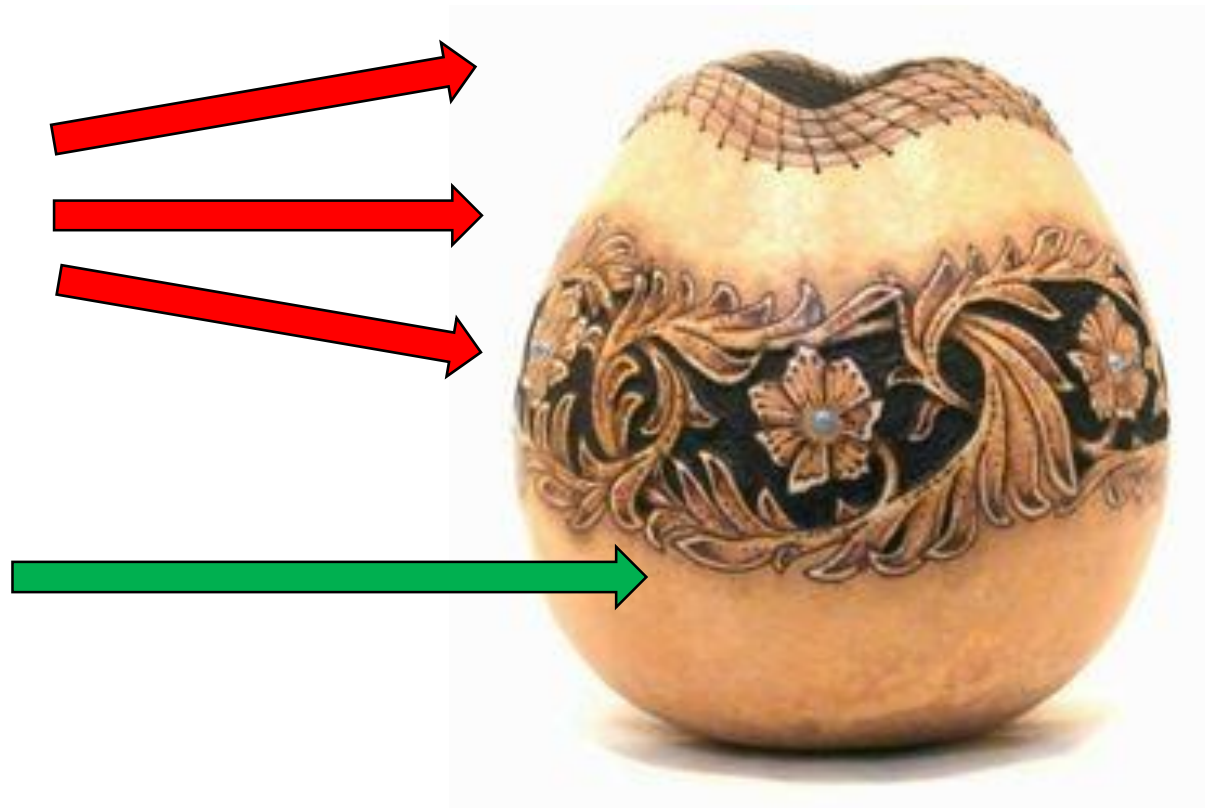


Title: Spiral Jetty
Artist: Robert Smithson
Year: 1970
Location: Rozel Point, Great Salt Lake, UT
Materials: Mud, salt crystals, rocks
Dimensions: 4.572 m × 457.2 m (15 ft × 1500 ft)
Owner: State of Utah

Negative & Positive Space

Negative space is the area in between, around, through, or within an object.

Positive space is the area that is occupied by an object and/or form.



Space

Space includes three parts; they are:

Foreground

- *front; nearest to the viewer*

Middle Ground

- *middle; halfway point*

Background

- *behind; furthest distance from the front or viewer's point of view*

It refers to the distances or area(s) around, between, and within things.



Perspective Systems

There are also two perspective systems that will be discussed:

- *Linear Perspective*
- *Atmospheric Perspective*

Linear Perspective

Linear perspective was developed during the Renaissance and it is what we, in the Western world, are accustomed to seeing in art.

Linear perspective is meant to create an *illusion of space* according to how we see, with a limited and fixed point of view.

Lines appear to come to a point on the *horizon* and then *vanish* into space.

Linear Perspective

Linear perspective uses a **horizon line** and **vanishing points** on the horizon line.

Vanishing points are the points on the horizon where lines appear to converge.

Linear perspective assumes a fixed and limited point of view of the observer.

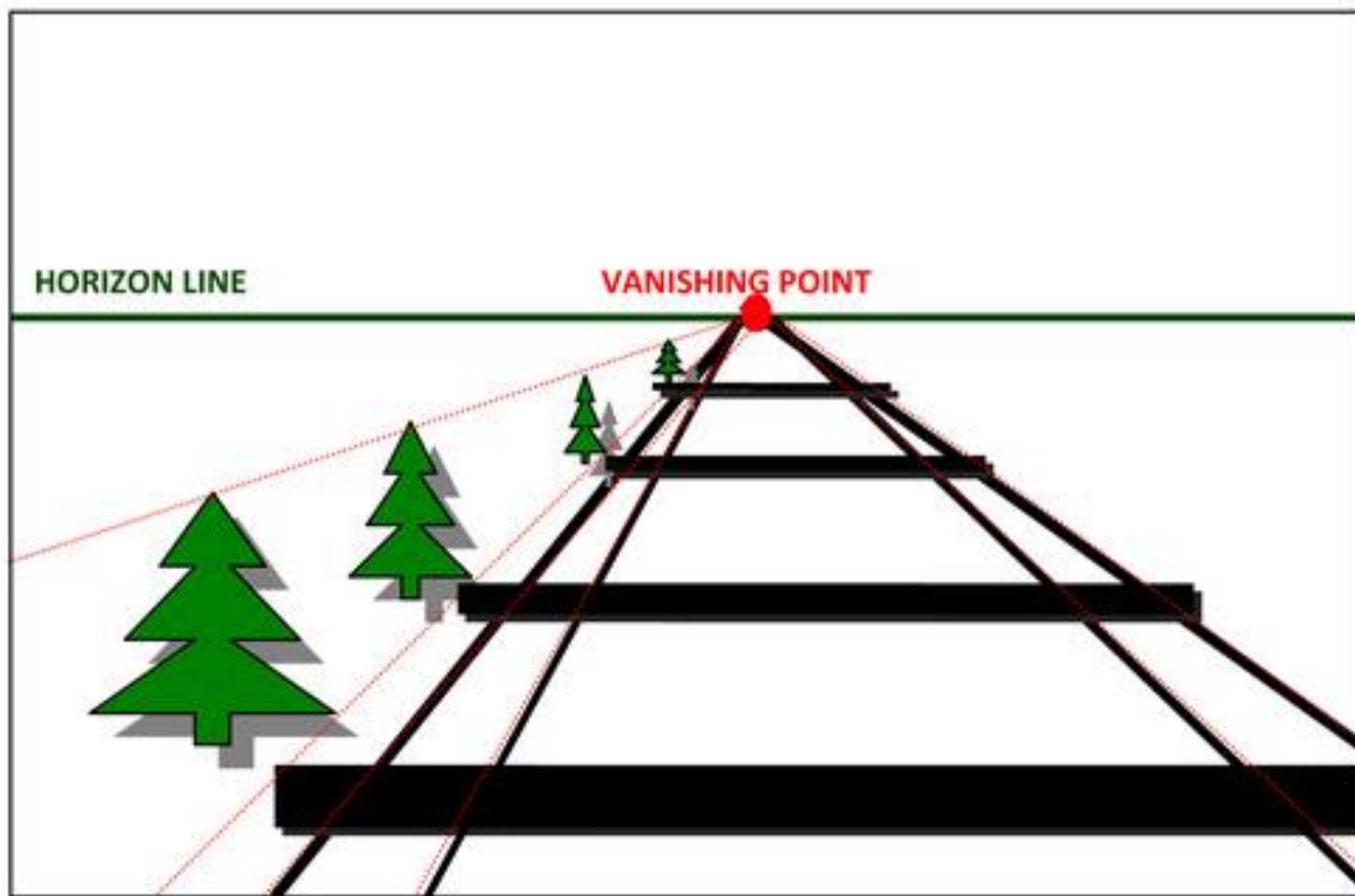
Any shift in position of the observer would result in an entirely new arrangement of elements, which would require a new composition altogether.

One-Point Linear Perspective



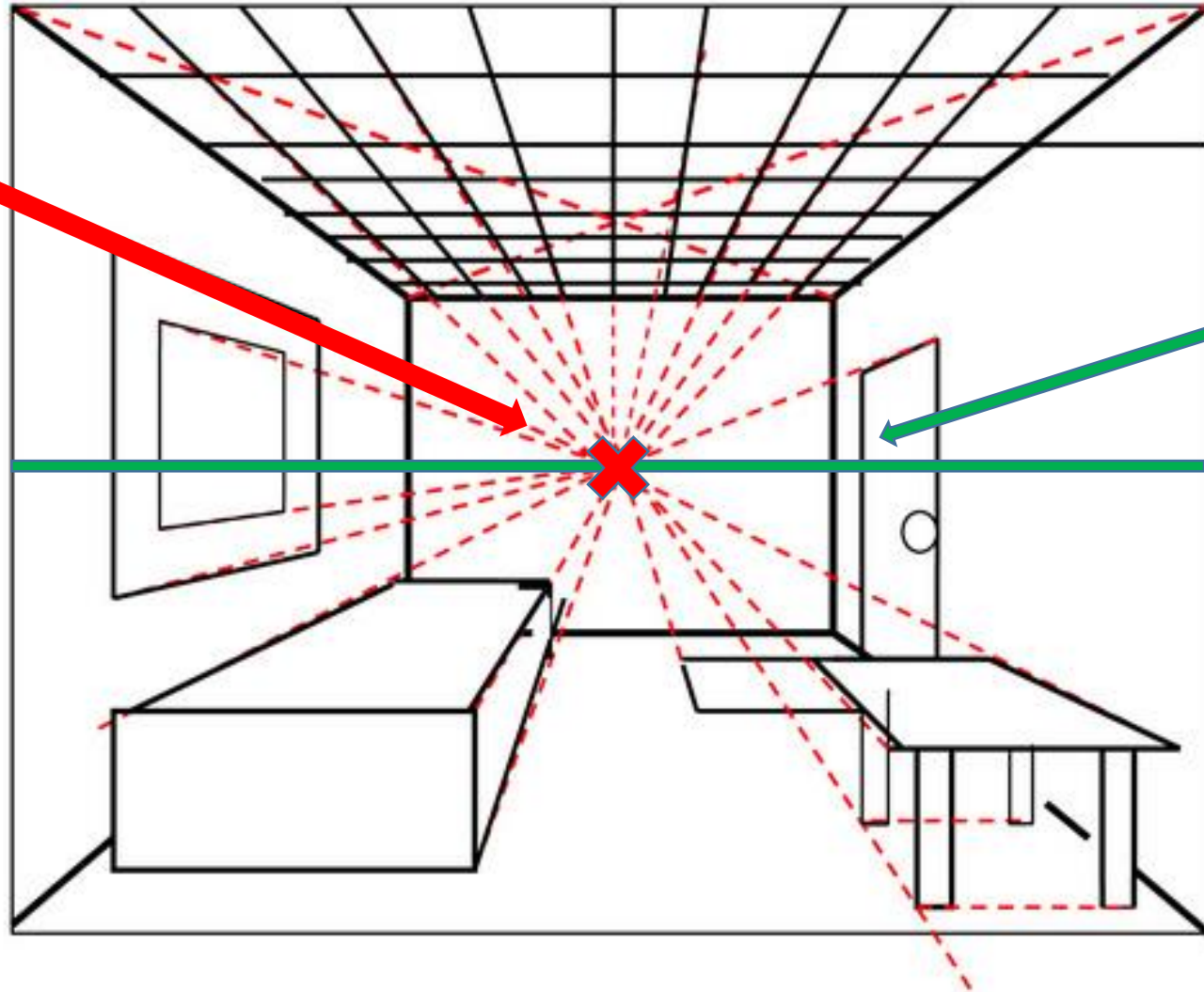
In *one-point perspective*, there is one vanishing point (see above) on the horizon line.

All lines converge at the same point on the horizon.



ONE POINT LINEAR PERSPECTIVE, LINES RECEDE TO VANISHING POINT

VANISHING POINT



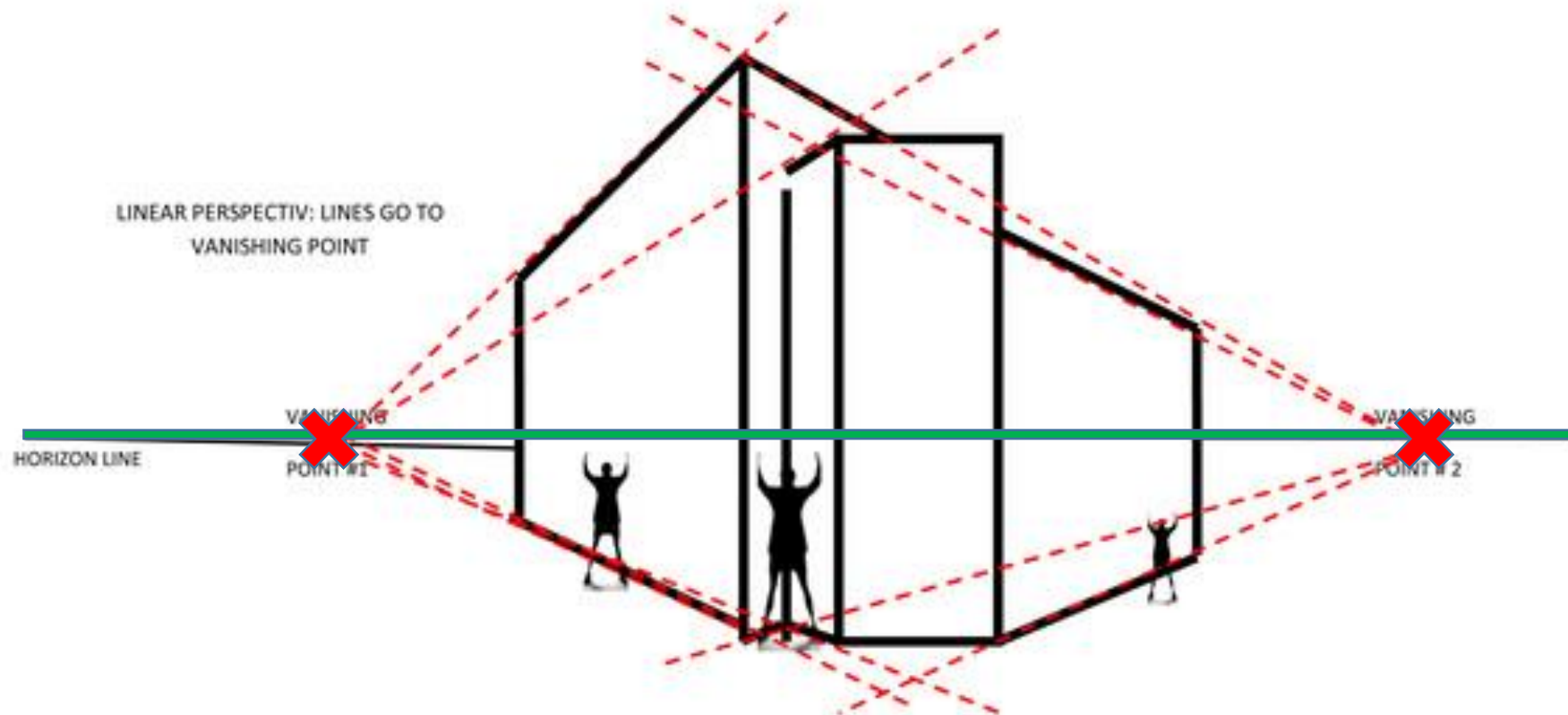
HORIZON LINE

ONE POINT PERSPECTIVE: INTERIOR

Two-Point Linear Perspective

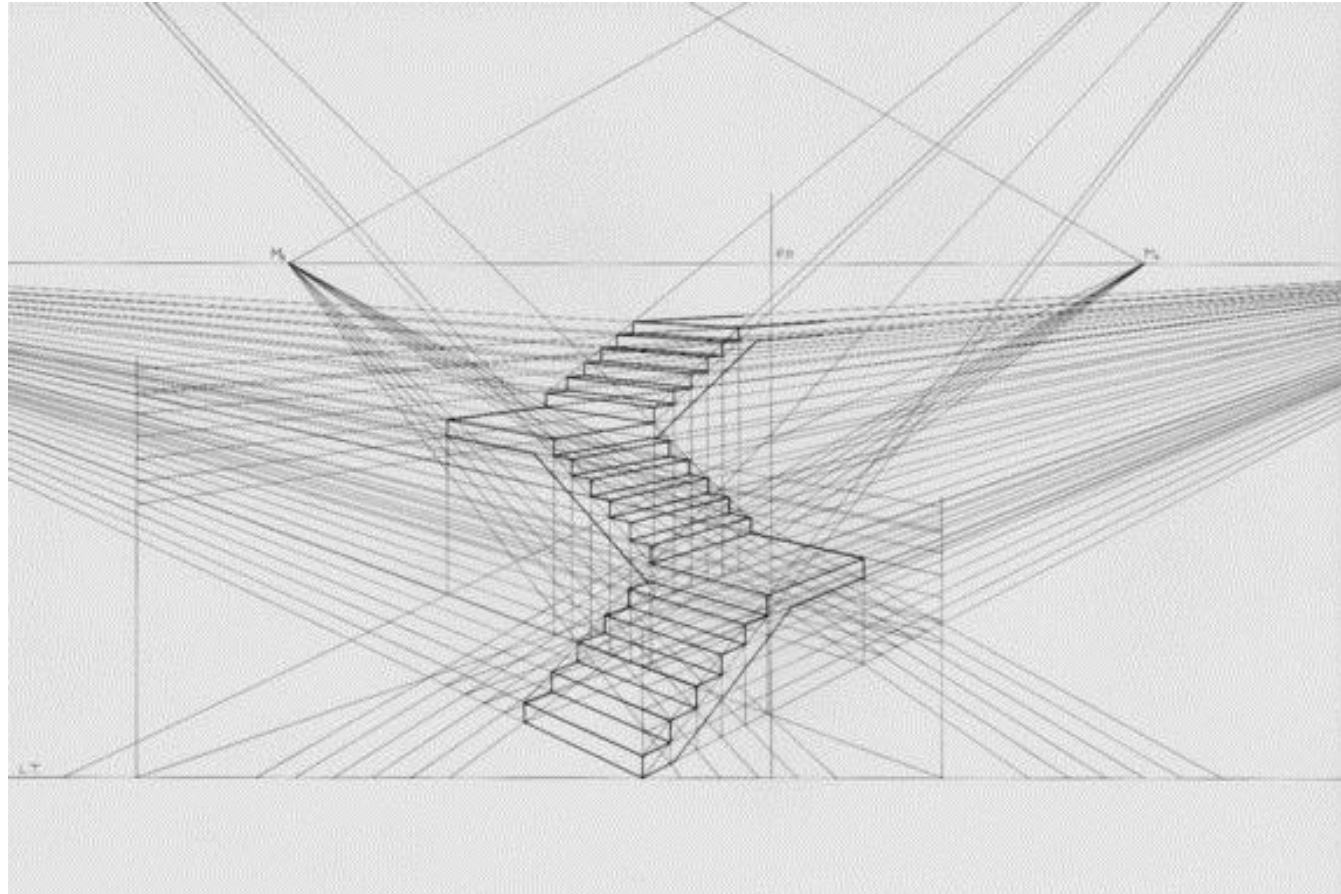
In *two-point perspective*, there are two vanishing points on the horizon line.

Lines converge at either of the two vanishing points.



Complexity of Linear Perspective

There are more complex linear perspective systems which use *three or four vanishing points*.



Title: Staircase in two-point perspective
Artist: Luciano Testoni
Date: March 15, 1995

Atmospheric Perspective

Atmospheric perspective (also known as *aerial perspective*), reflects how we see objects in the distance compared to objects that are close.

Objects that are closer will have *more clarity* and *crisper edges*, while **objects further in the distance** will *blur* and *fade*.

In nature, this is due to the effect of the atmosphere on the appearance of objects in the distance.



Potomac River at Shepherdstown, West Virginia

image courtesy of http://www.oceansart.us/Free_Photos_Potomac_River_Scenes/potomac_river_scenes.html



Image courtesy of <http://www.explore-drawing-and-painting.com/painting-landscapes.html>

Credits:

<https://www.sophia.org/tutorials/elements-of-art-space>