
How to take a Good Photo? & How not to get scared in a Modern Art Museum?

CS194: Intro to Computer Vision and Comp. Photo
Alexei Efros, UC Berkeley, Fall 2022

What Makes a Great Picture?



© Robert Doisneau, 1955

*With many slides from Yan Ke and Fredo Durand,
as annotated by Tamara Berg*

CS194: Intro to Computer Vision and Comp. Photo
Alexei Efros, UC Berkeley, Fall 2022

Photography 101: the where and when

- Composition
 - Framing
 - Rule of Thirds
 - Leading Lines
 - Textures and Patterns
 - Simplicity
- Lighting
 - Light Direction
 - Color coordination / balance
 - Sunny vs. cloudy
 - “Golden Hour”
 - B&W to focus attention
 - (sur) realism

Framing

“Photography is all about framing. We see a subject -- and we put a frame around it. Essentially, that is photography when all is said and done.”

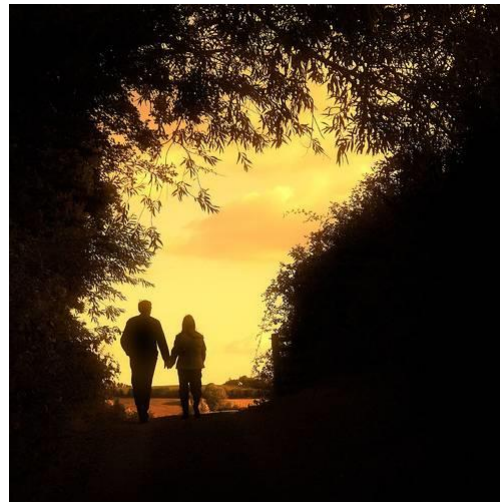
-- from photo.blorge.com



Frame serves several purposes:

1. It gives the image depth
2. If used correctly, framing can draw the eye of the viewer of an interest to a particular part of the scene.
3. Framing can bring a sense of organization or containment to an image.
4. Framing can add context to a shot.

Examples of nice framing



<http://flickr.com/photos/paulosacramento/226545698/>

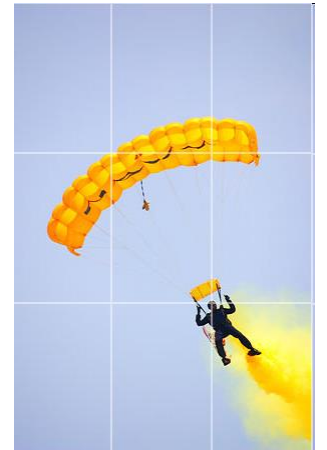
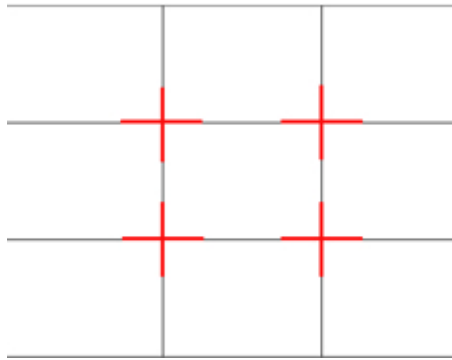
<http://flickr.com/photos/chrisbeach/13868545/>

<http://flickr.com/photos/74531485@N00/929270814/>

<http://flickr.com/photos/freakdog/223117229/>

<http://flickr.com/photos/cdm/253805482/>

Rules of Thirds



Other examples



Don't center, especially for motion



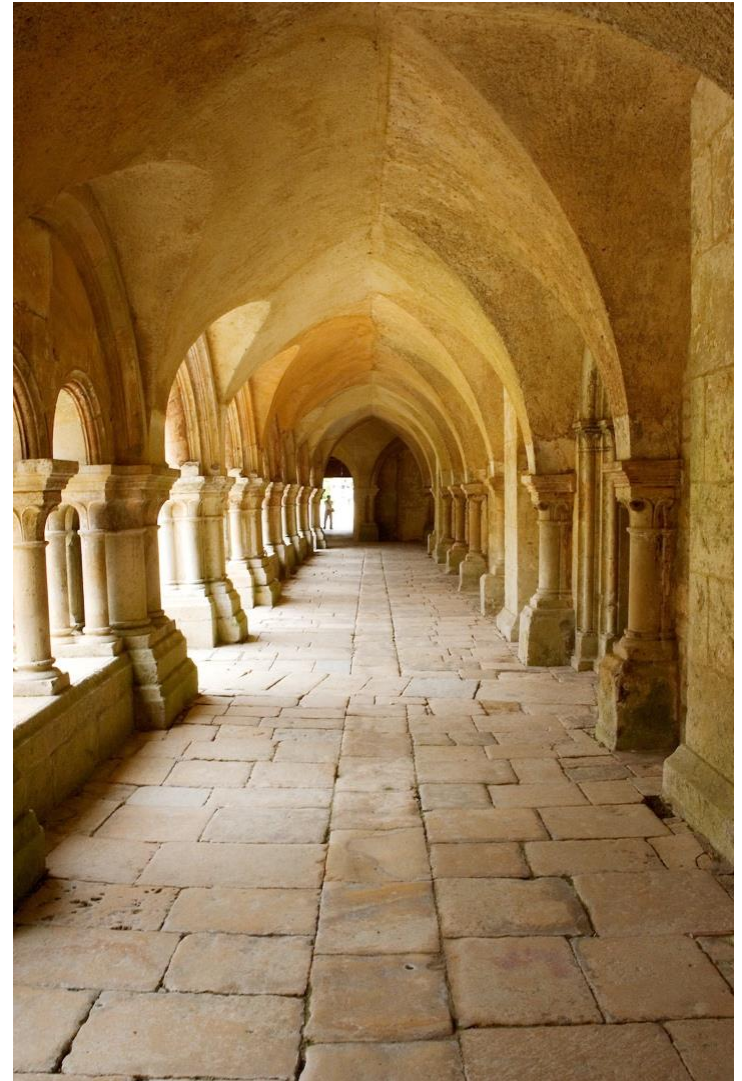
By Fredo Durand

Don't center, especially for motion



By Fredo Durand

... or do center



By Fredo Durand

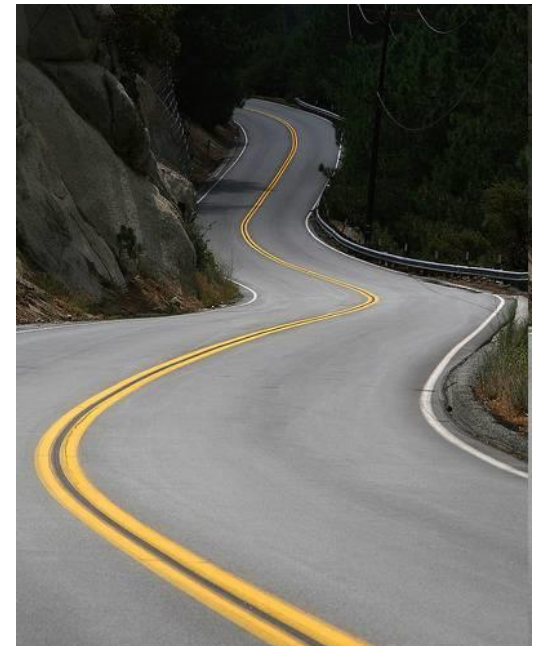
Leading Lines





By Fredo Durand

More examples



Textures and Patterns



Simplicity

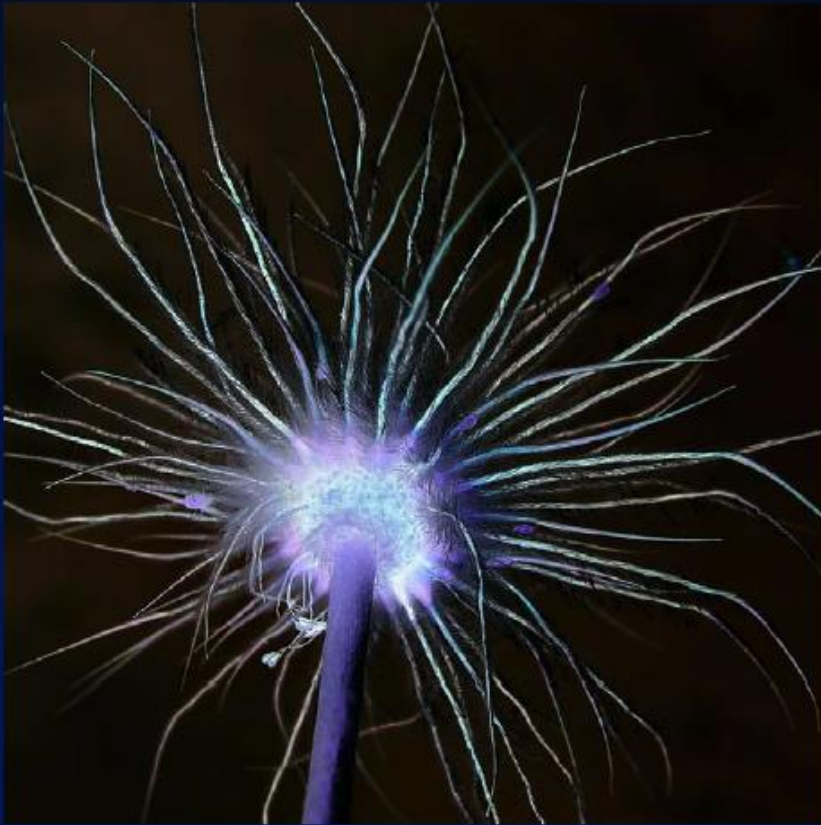


“Look Into” by Josh Brown @ Flickr



Prof - Obvious what one should be looking at
ie easy to separate subject from the
background. Snap – unstructured, busy, filled
with clutter.

Simplicity



Simplicity



B&W for Simplicity



B&W for Simplicity







Photo by A. A. Efros

...but not always



...but not always

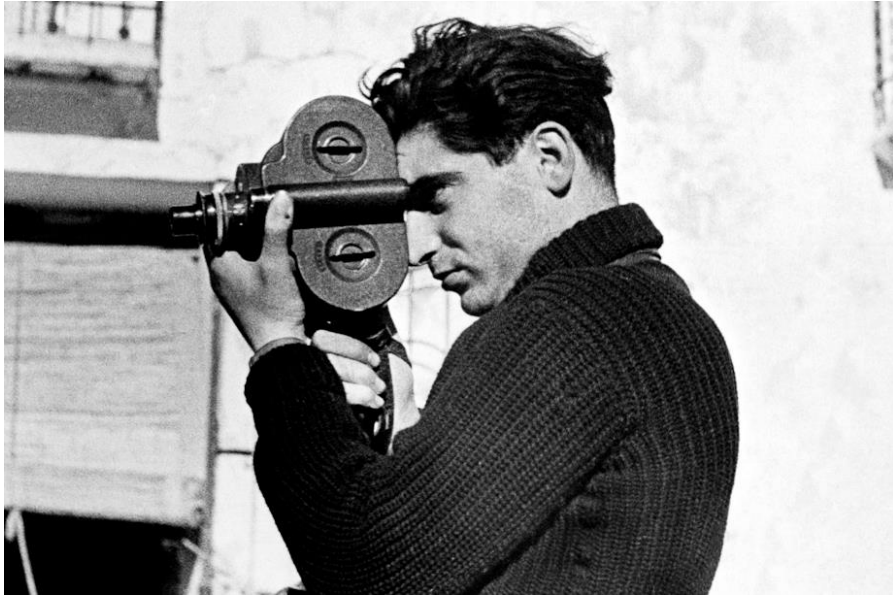


Crop for Simplicity



By Fredo Durand

If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough" — Robert Capa



Clean Backgrounds



By Fredo Durand

Simplicity for Portraits



<https://vimeo.com/29722267>

And now, all together...



Photo by A. A. Efros



Get low

Try to be at eye level



Bad



Better

By Fredo Durand



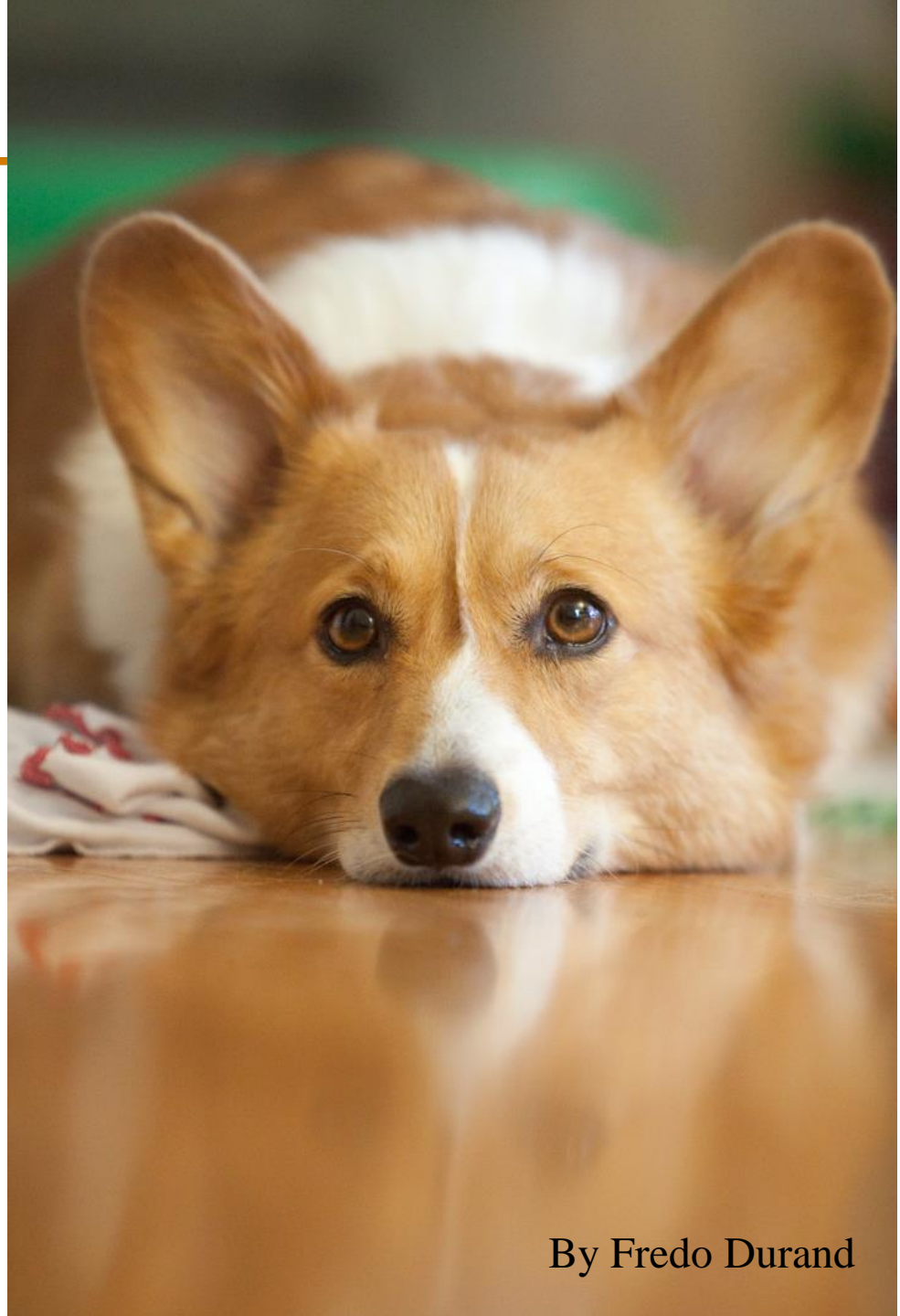
Bad angles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EmRZO9fwvk&feature=youtu.be>



By Fredo Durand

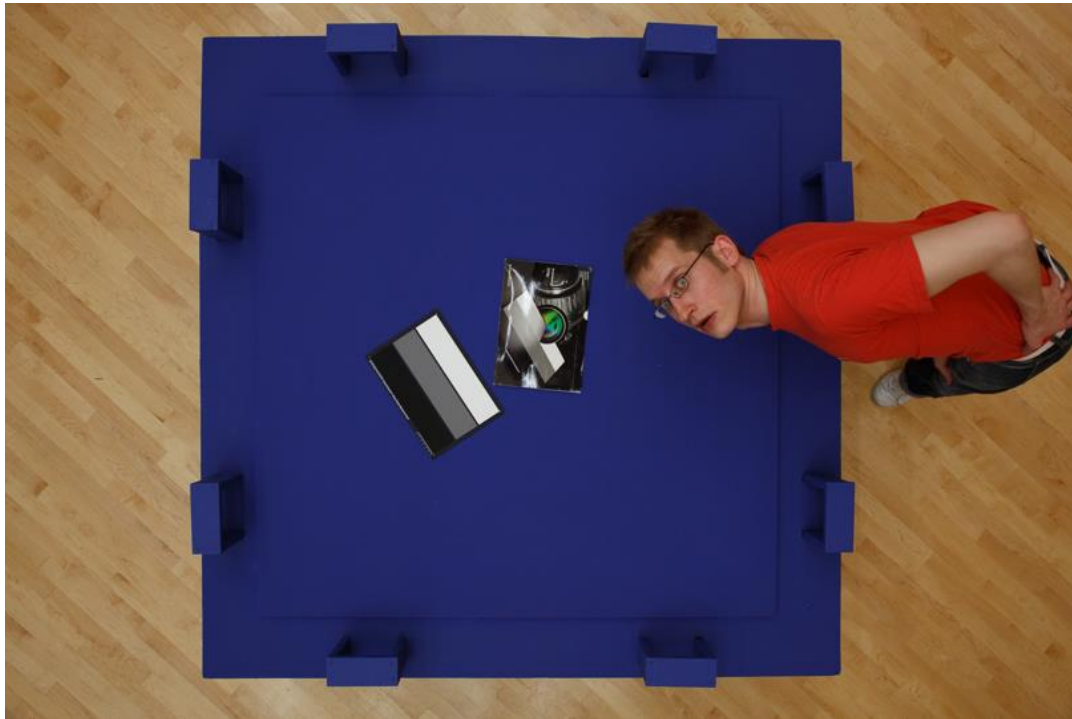
Eye level



By Fredo Durand

Or really get high

**As usual, follow a rule
or really break it.**



By Fredo Durand

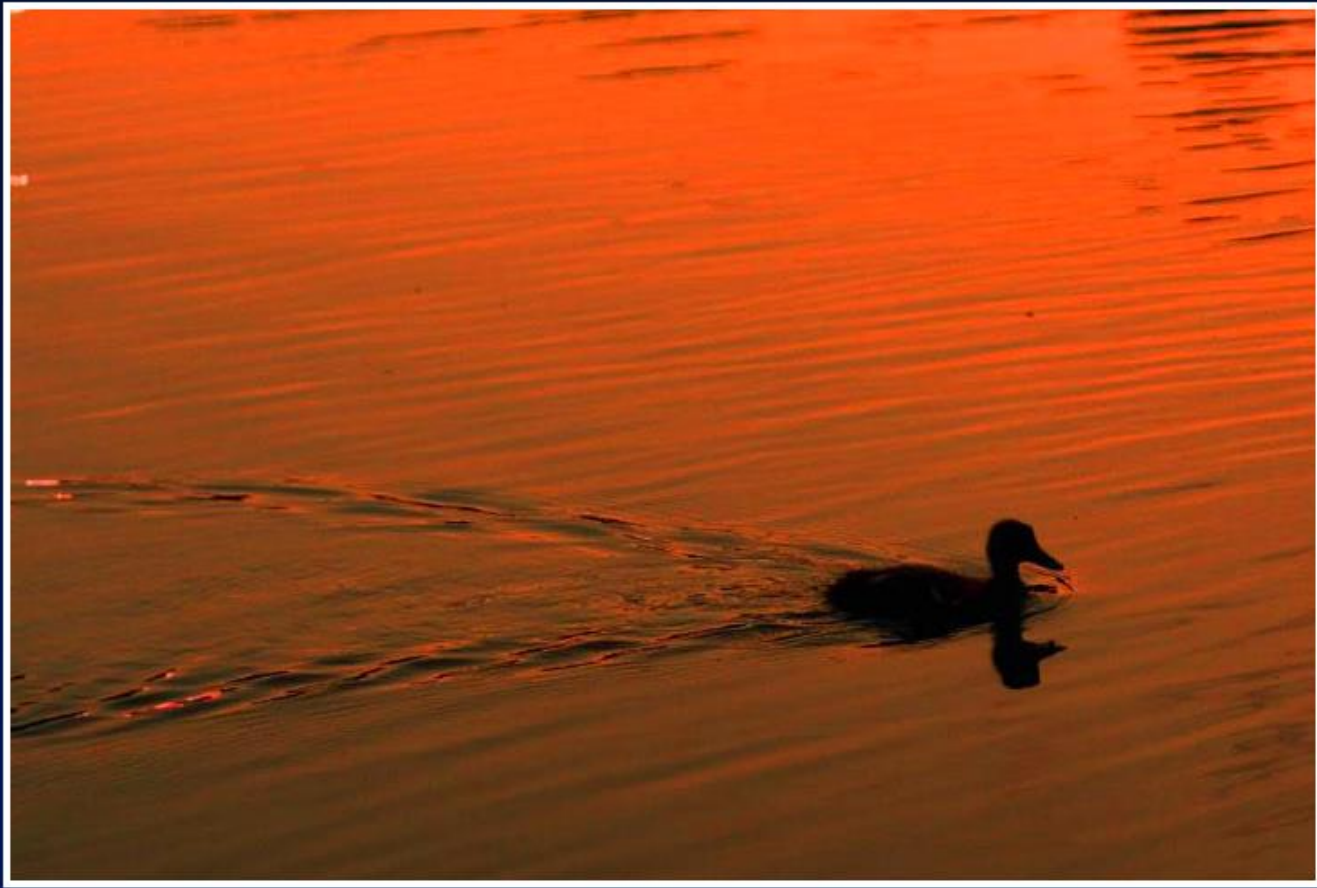
Front Lighting



Side Lighting



Back Lighting



Color Coordination



Complementary colors (of opposite hue on color wheel)



Go in the shade

Light is more diffuse

Bad



Better



Overcast days are the best

Just don't put the sky in the frame

The weather conditions



The pictures



Other overcast-day pictures



By Fredo Durand

Bottom line

**Don't get married
on a sunny day!**



Cloudy day



Best time of day: sunset & sunrise

+/- 1 hour

“Golden hours”

Night photography: always near sunset/sunrise

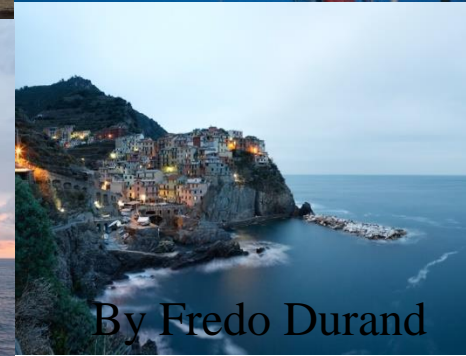
- because of nice diffuse light

Mid day:
often not great

less than 1 hour
after sunrise/
before sunset

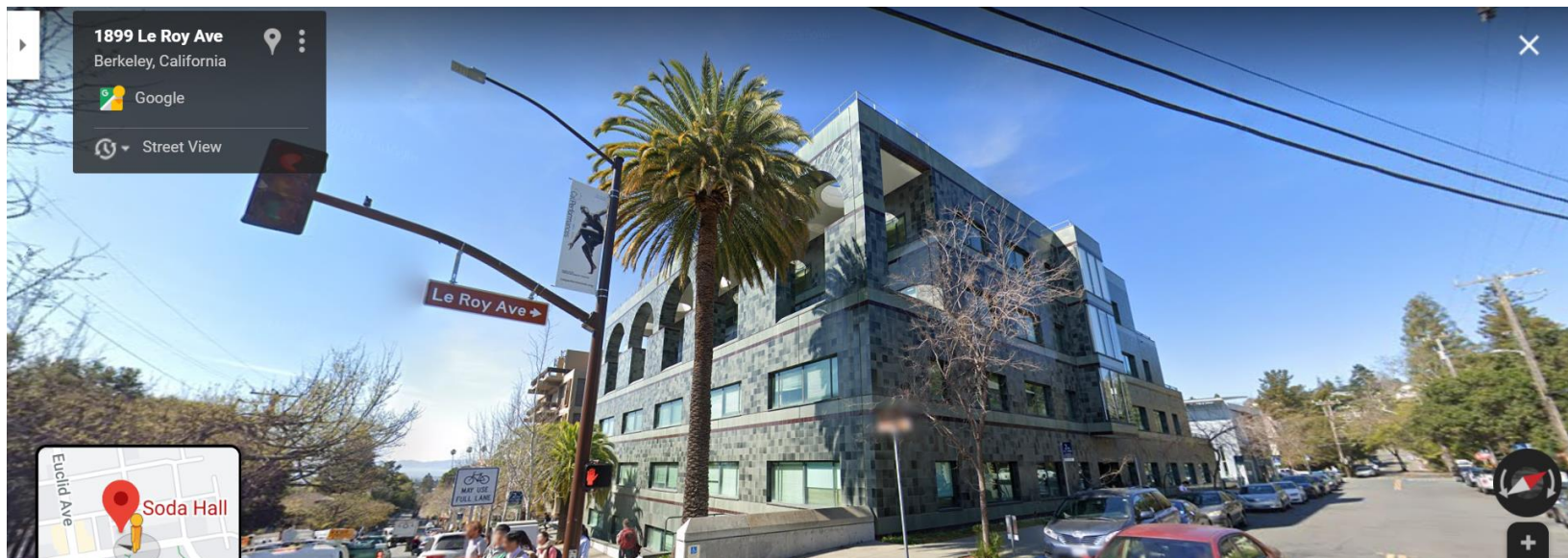
During sunset or
sunrise

After sunset



By Fredo Durand

“Golden Hour”



less than 1 hour
after sunrise



During sunset/sunrise



After sunset



By Fredo Durand

After sunset: blue hour



Blue Hour (Russian River)



Photo by A. A. Efros

(Sur) Realism



“Golden Gate Bridge at Sunset” by Buzz Andersen @ Flickr



“Golden Gate 3” by Justin Burns @ Flickr

(Sur) Realism



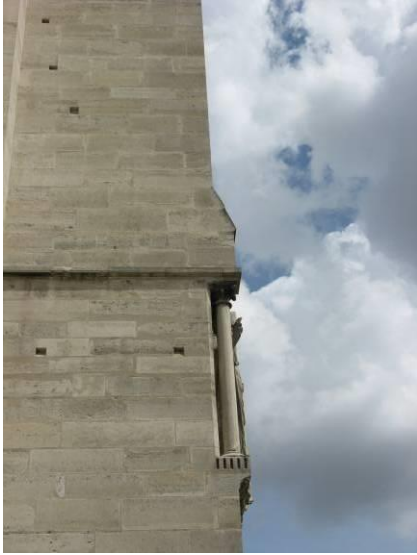
Aki Jinn 2015

“Somewhere Only We Know Prt2 (sic)” by Aki Jinn @ Flickr

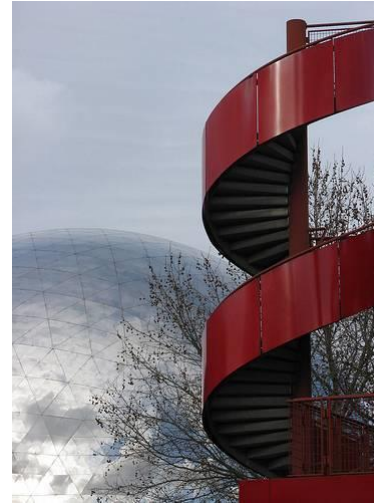
Anyone can take great pictures...



I am a sucky photographer...



...but I am a pretty good photo critic!



<http://flickr.com/photos/aaefros/>

of my Paris photos on Flickr: 32

Total # of my Paris photos: ~1250

~2%

The Postmodern Photographer

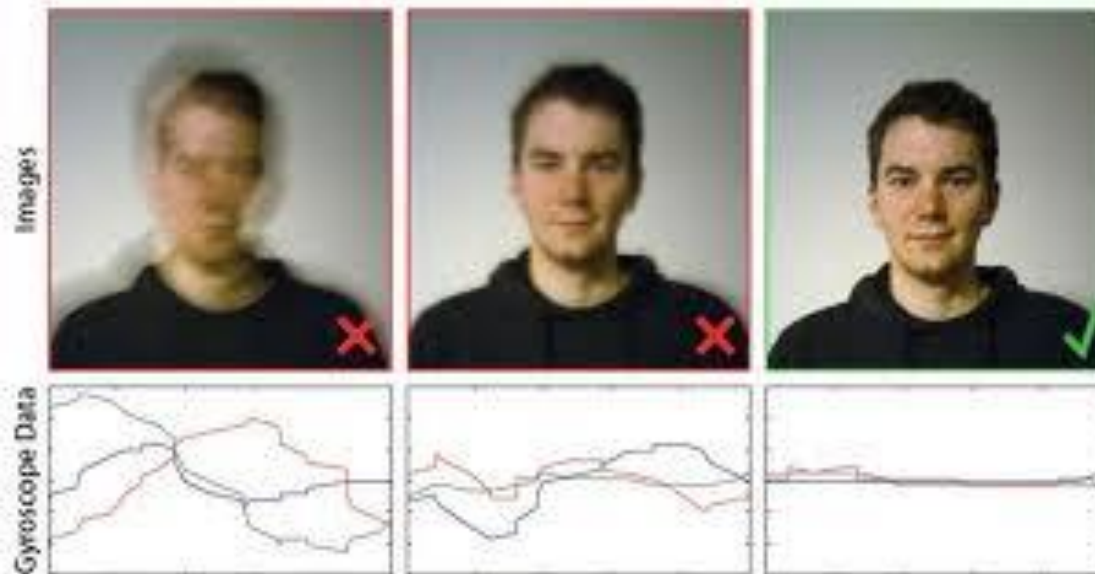
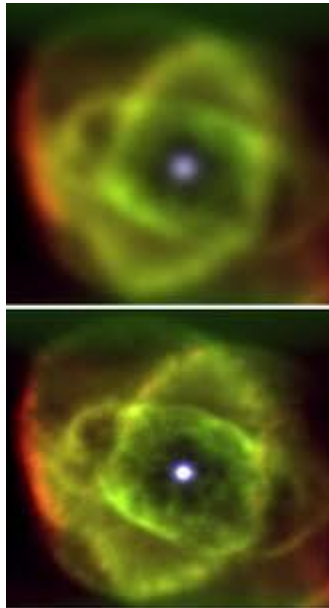
The Old Days: a pre-process

- Load film
- Find subject
- Position camera
- Set all the settings “just right”
- Take a deep breath...
- ...Press button!

The New Digital Days: a post-process

- Get a 16 GB memory cartridge
- Take pictures like there is no tomorrow!!!
- ...
- Back home, spend hours of agony trying to find 1-2 good ones

Lucky Imaging



Being Comfortable with Modern/Cont. Art



Pablo Picasso
The Guitar Player (1911)

CS194: Intro to Computer Vision and Comp. Photo
Alexei Efros, UC Berkeley, Fall 2022

Simplistic Art PCA

Some “Principal Components” of Art:

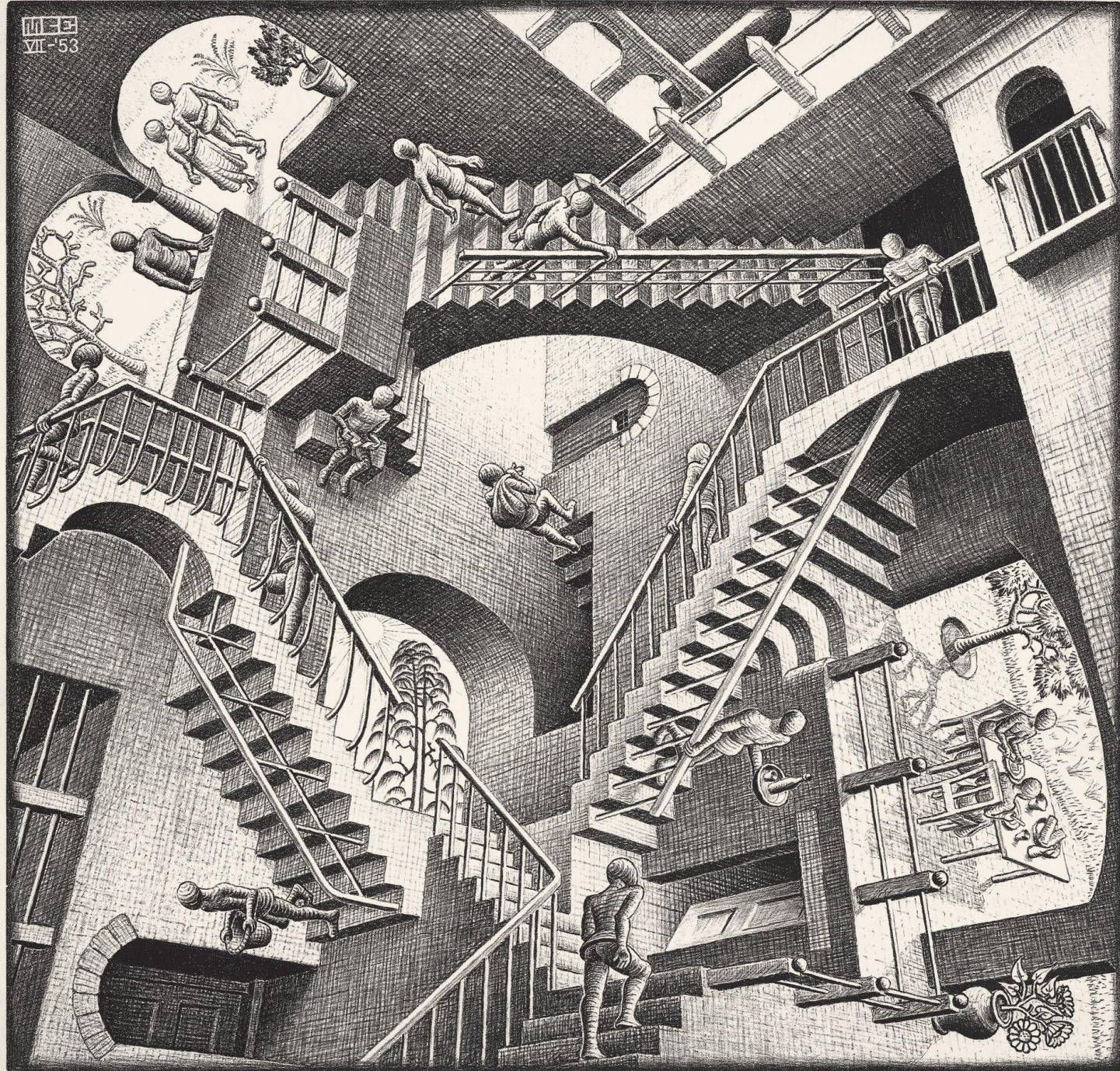
- Cute ideas / illusions / clever tricks
- Direct Visceral Pleasure
- Familiarity / Nostalgia
- Art-Historical “Context”

Cute Ideas / Illusions / Clever Tricks



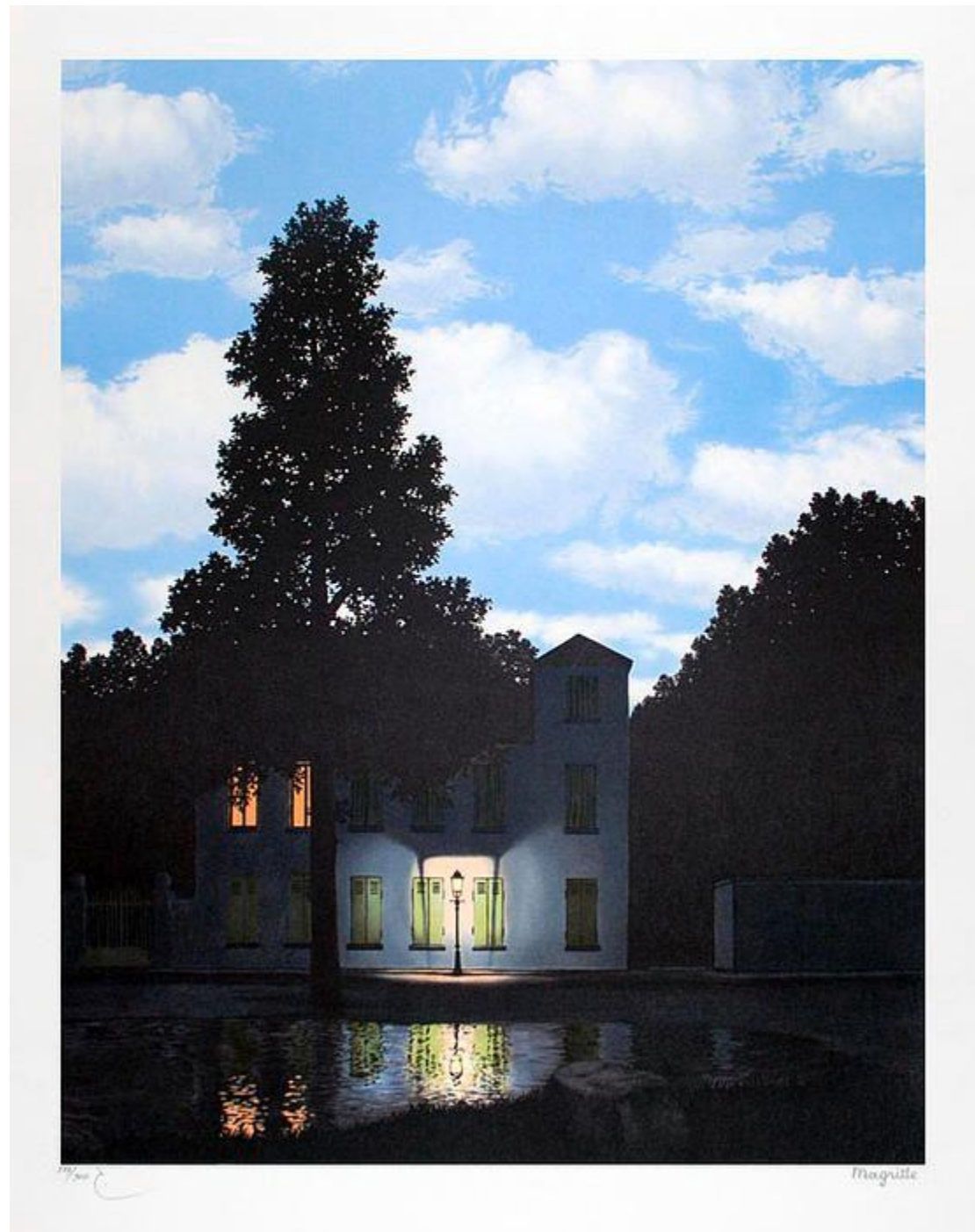
Salvador Dali

*"Gala Contemplating the Mediterranean Sea,
which at 30 meters becomes the portrait
of Abraham Lincoln", 1976*



M.C. Escher

Rene Maritte



People who liked this also liked...



Whangapoua Bay
114 km East



Manamotuwa Islands
2430 km North



Eraser Falls
3514 km North West

Scott Kelly and Ben Polkinghorne

Direct Visceral Pleasure



Jan van Eyck, *The Arnolfini Marriage* (c.1434)



Olafur Eliasson, The Weather Project

Mark Rothko





Mark Rothko

Familiarity / Nostalgia



© Michael Galinsky, 1989
(from "Malls Across America")



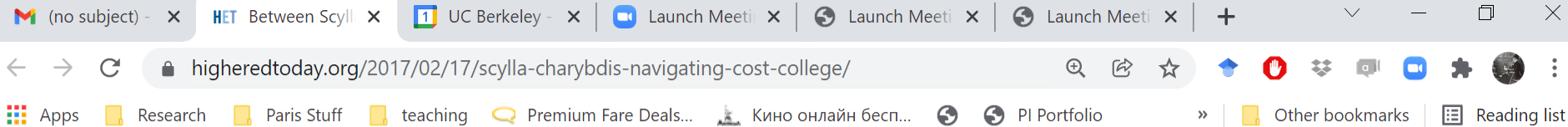
Edward Hopper



Alberto Giacometti

Art-Historical “Context”

Cultural Context



POLICY & RESEARCH ▾

LEADERSHIP ▾

INTERNATIONAL

ATTAINMENT & INNOVATION

Between Scylla and Charybdis: Navigating the Cost of College

February 17, 2017

By Geoffrey L. Brackett

One of my favorite episodes in Homer's *Odyssey* is one of the most fearsome. It involves the sailing between the mysterious cave-dwelling monster Scylla and the terrifying, ship-destroying whirlpool known as Charybdis. There is something about having to manage two supernatural threats at once that makes Odysseus' journey

SHARE THIS
POST

SHARE THIS...



Type here to search



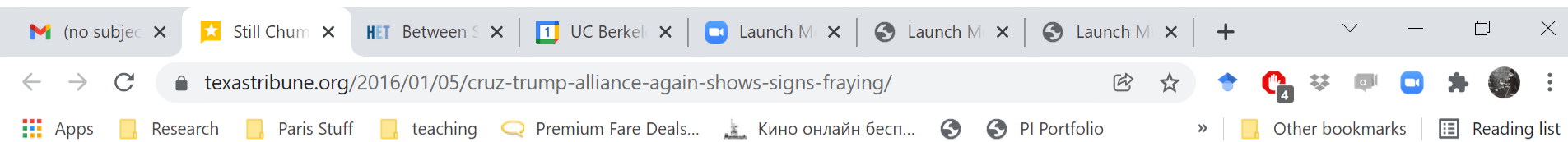
69°F



4:41 PM
12/1/2021



Cultural Context



EXTENDED: Help us unlock \$30,000 in matching funds. Donate now to double your impact.

DONATE

 THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

DONATE

NEWSLETTERS

EVENTS

AUDIO

DATA

LOG IN

SIGN UP



Learning Loss

Abortion Access

Evictions Rising

Find Your Political Districts

COVID-19 Tracker

Still Chums? Cruz Says Trump Jumped the Shark

The political bromance between GOP presidential hopefuls Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz appeared to be unraveling Tuesday after Trump raised the issue of Cruz's Canadian birth, and Cruz suggested his rival has jumped the shark.

BY **PATRICK SVITEK** JAN. 5, 2016 8 PM CENTRAL



Cultural Context

Browser tabs: (no sub x), Red we x, Still Ch x, HET Betwee x, UC Ber x, Launch x, Launch x, Launch x, +

Address bar: thesouthafrican.com/news/red-wedding-five-killed-in-shootout-eastern-cape-manhunt-laun...

Browser icons: Apps, Research, Paris Stuff, teaching, Premium Fare Deals..., Кино онлайн бесп..., PI Portfolio, Other bookmarks, Reading list

**THE
SOUTH
AFRICAN**

ADVERTISE

ABOUT US

TERMS, CONDITIONS, PRIVACY & GDPR

CONTACT US



NEWS ▾

SPORT ▾

CULTURE ▾

LIFESTYLE ▾

BUSINESS ▾
& FINANCE

#STUDENTLIFE ▾

WIN ▾

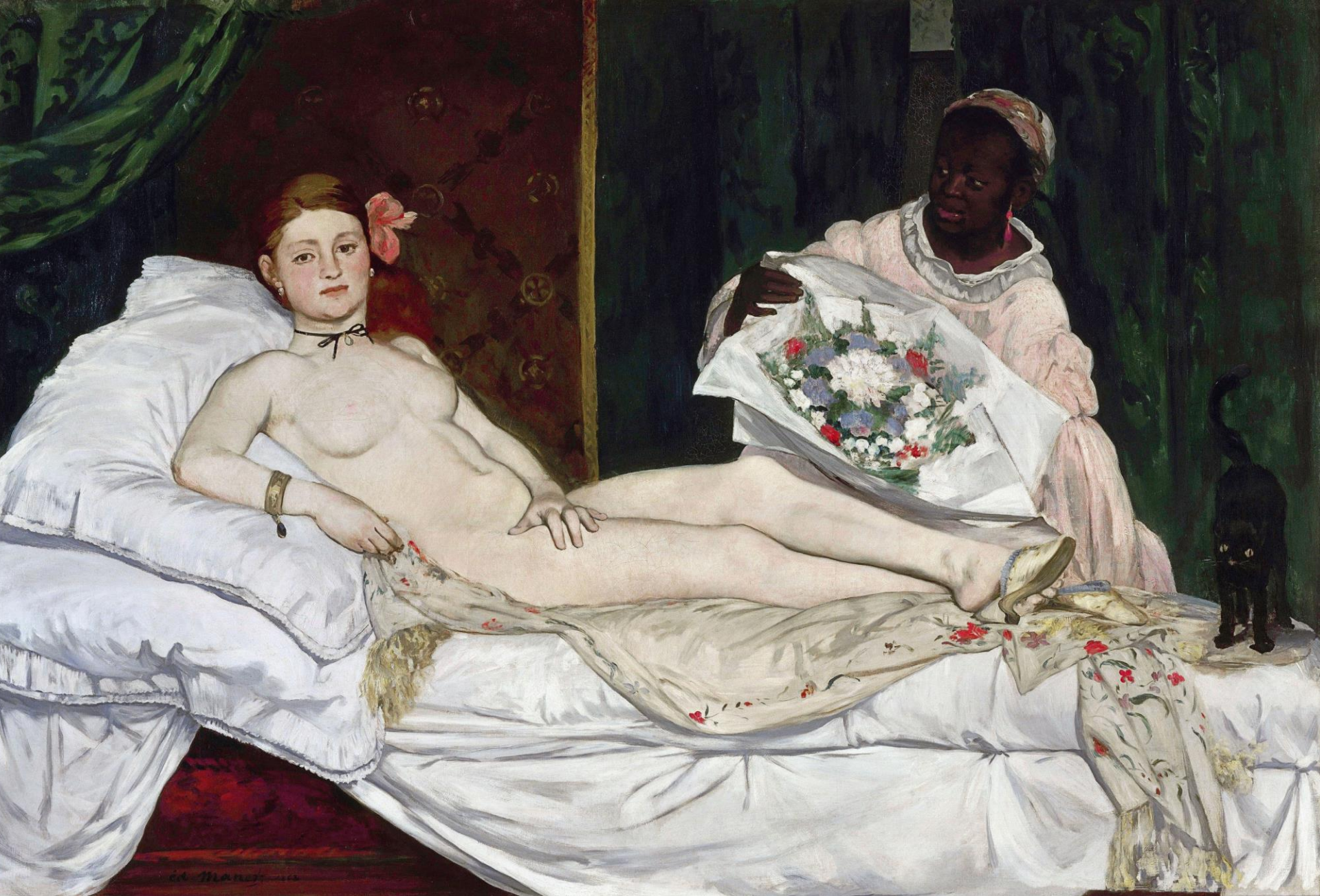


Home > News

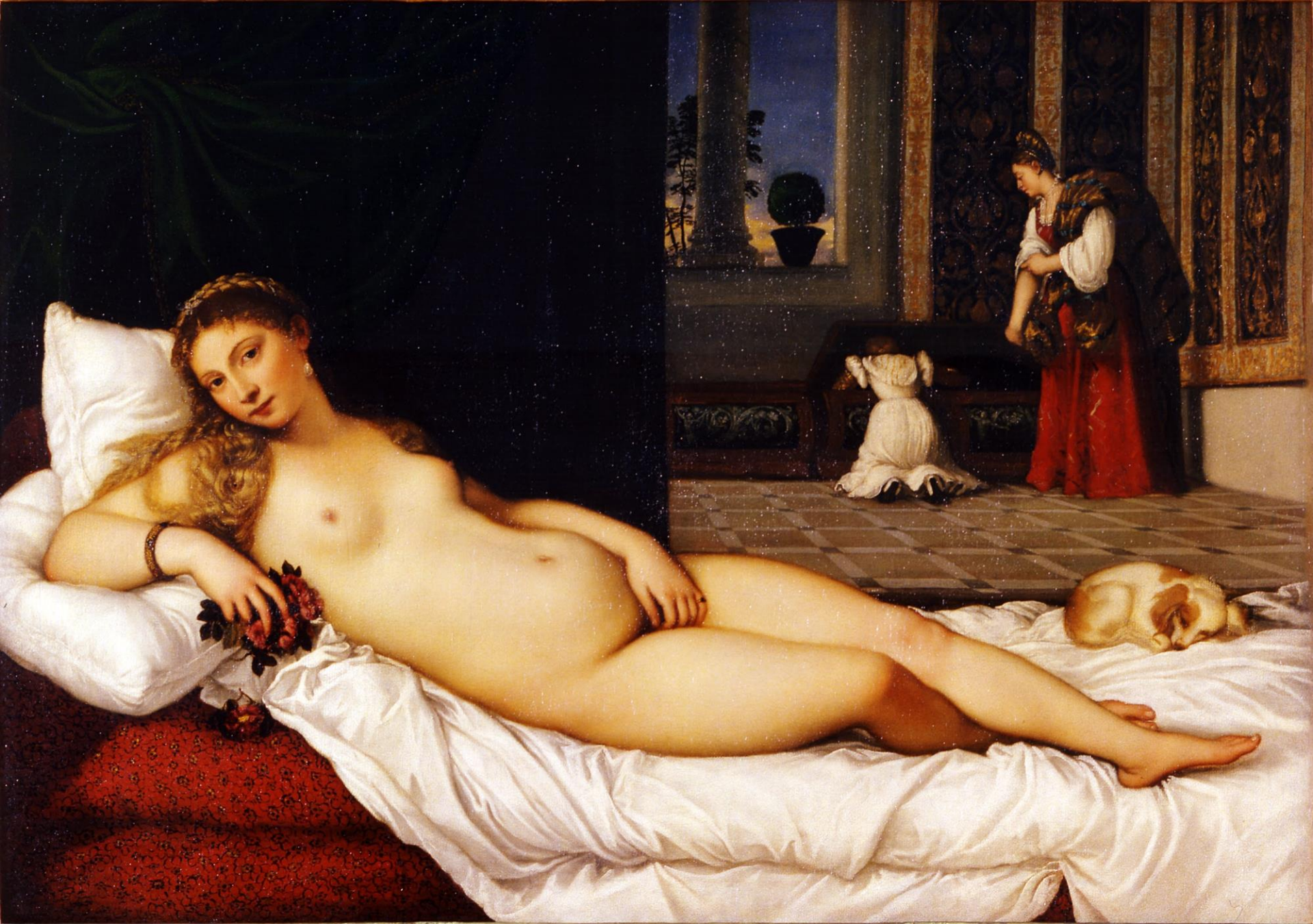
Red wedding: Five killed in shootout during Eastern Cape nuptials

A manhunt has been launched after gunmen stormed a wedding in the Eastern Cape and opened fire on unsuspecting guests.

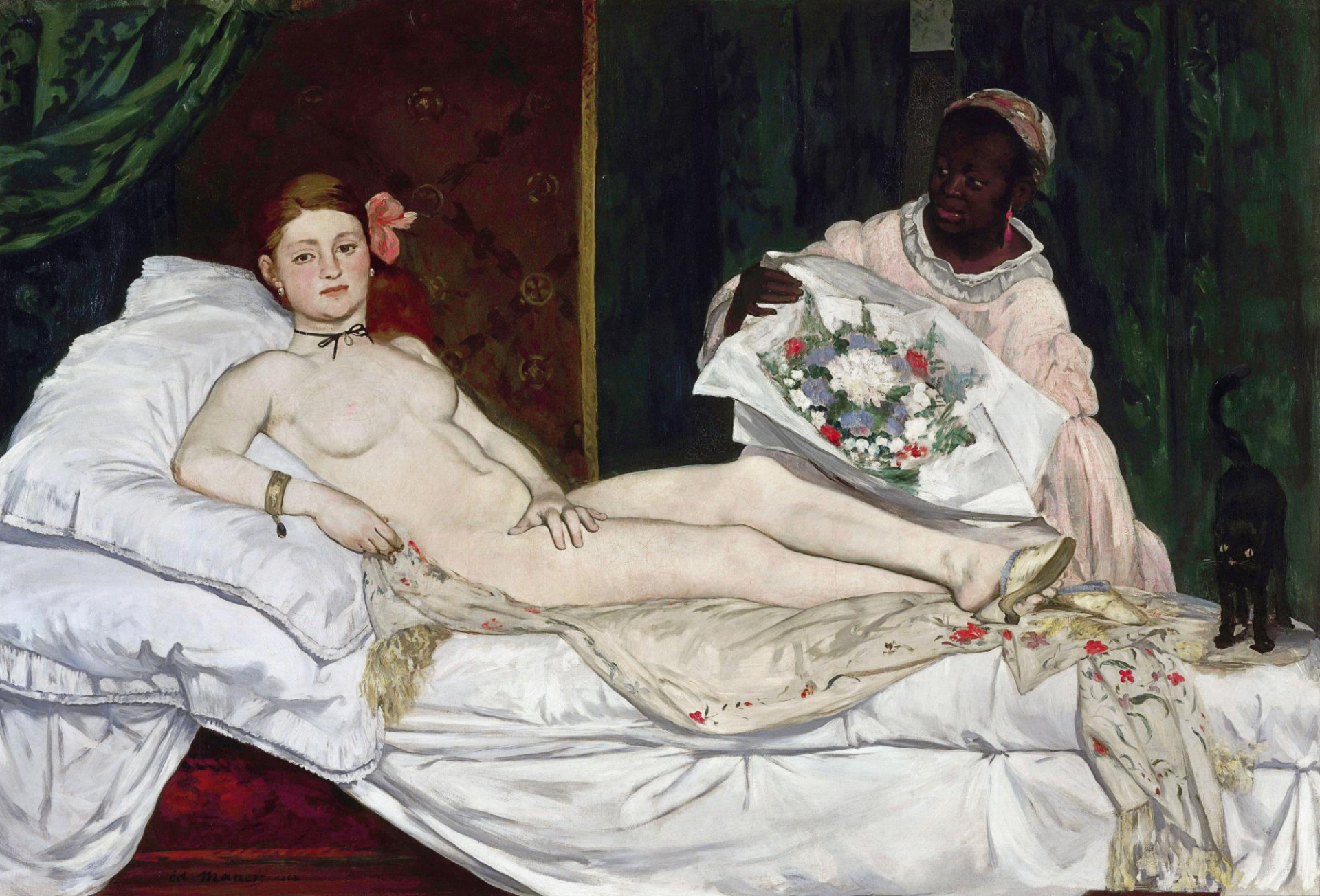
Windows taskbar: Search bar (Type here to search), Taskbar icons (Windows, File Explorer, Chrome, PowerPoint, etc.), System tray (69°F, 4:43 PM, 12/1/2021, ENG, 5 notifications)



Édouard Manet, "Olympia" (1865)



Titian, "Reclining Venus" (1532)



Édouard Manet, "Olympia" (1865)



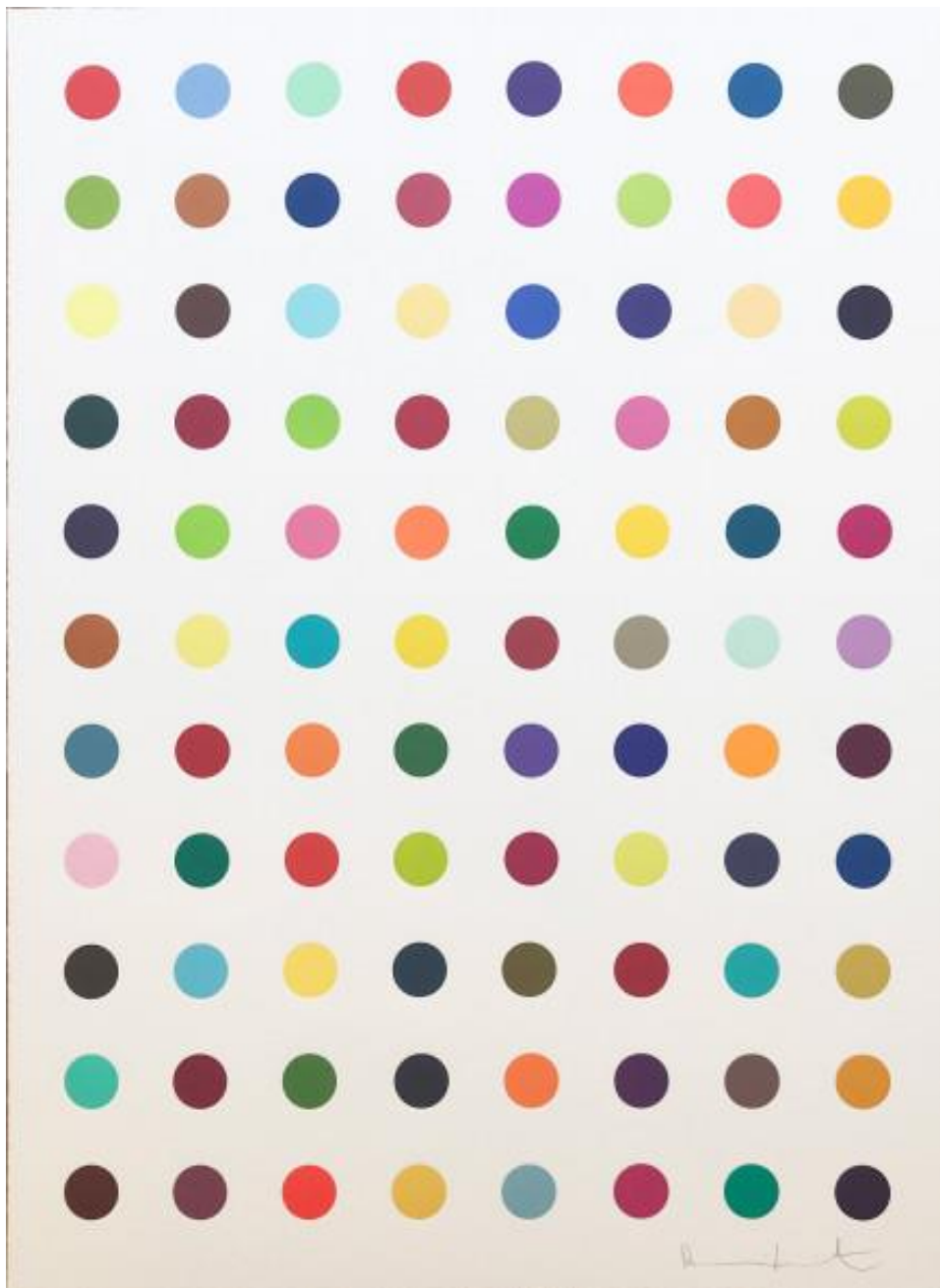
Shepherd Fairey



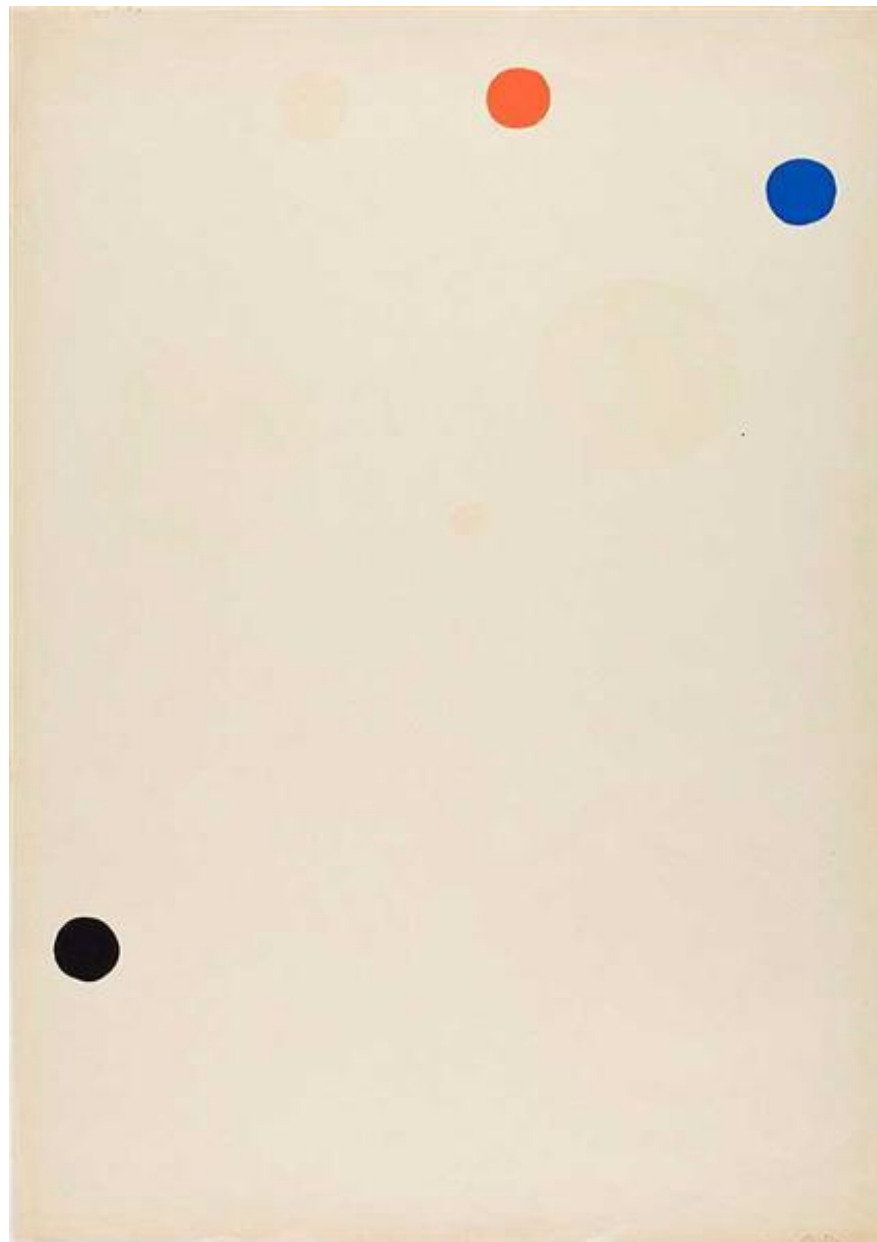
Shepherd Fairey



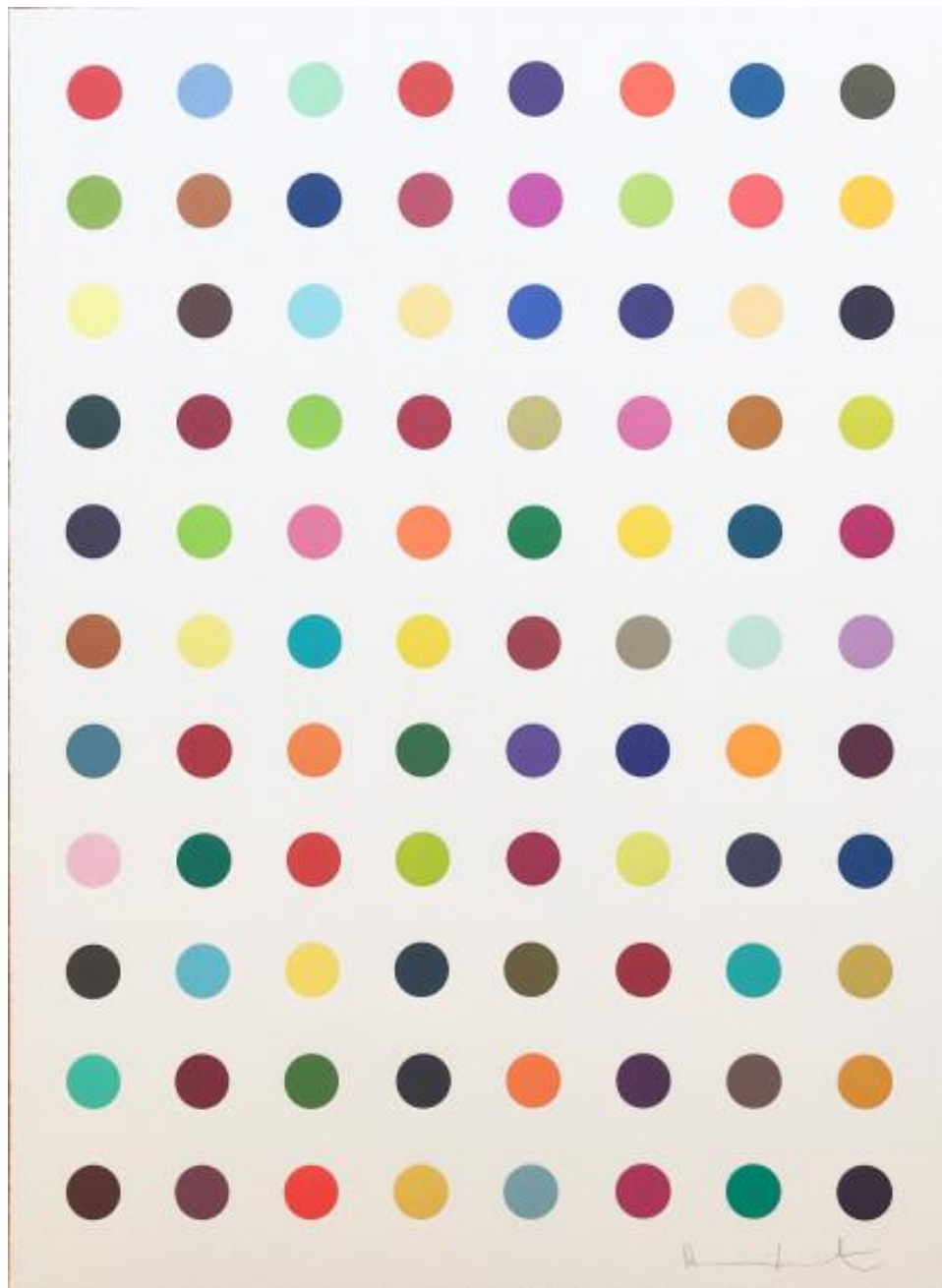
Banksy



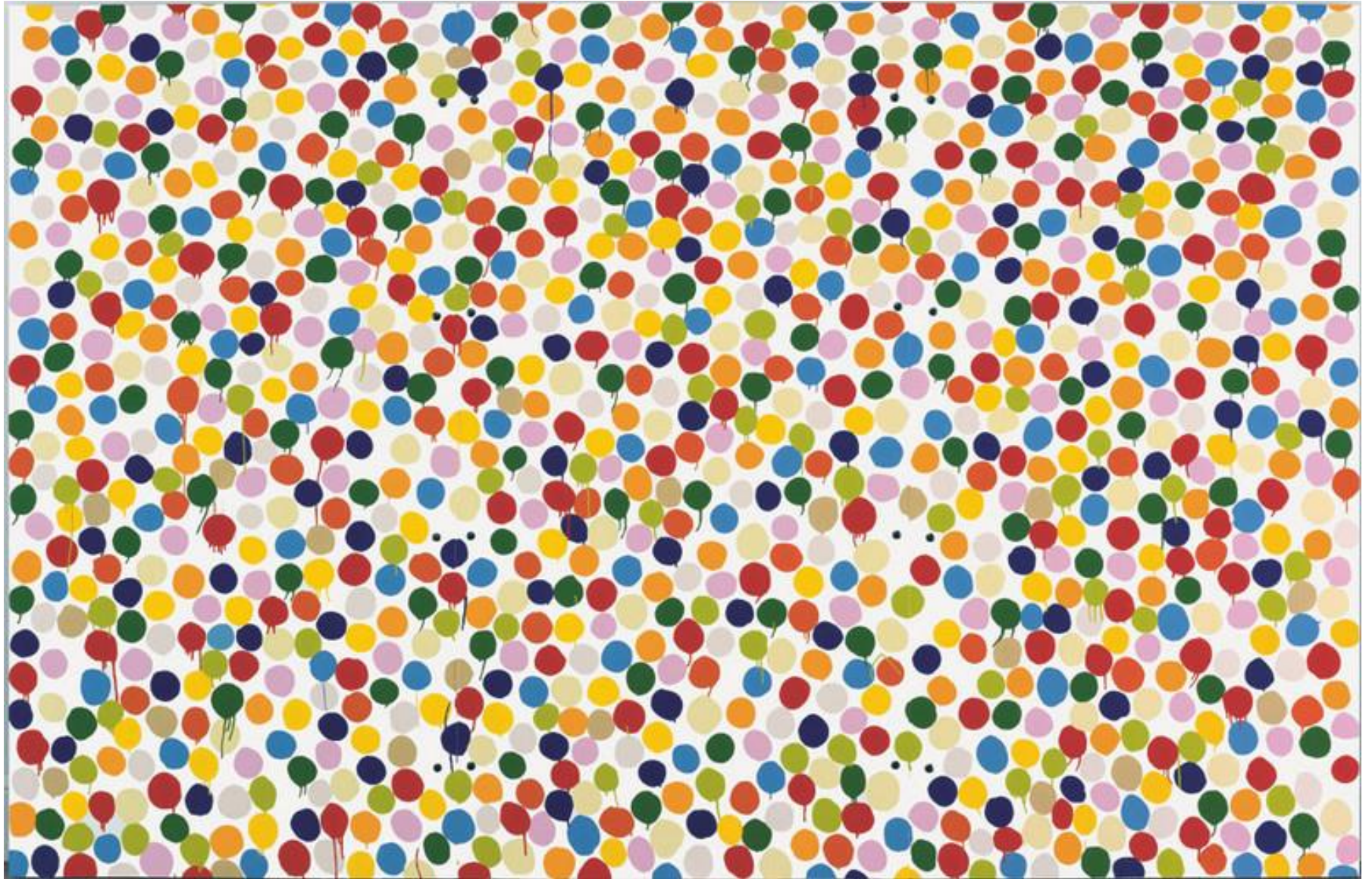
Damien Hirst, Spot Paintings (1968--)



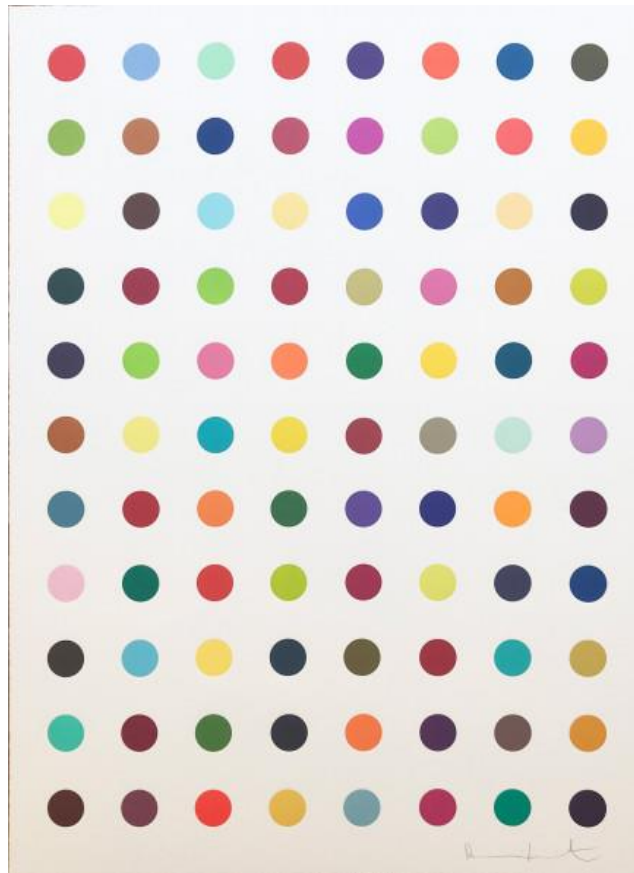
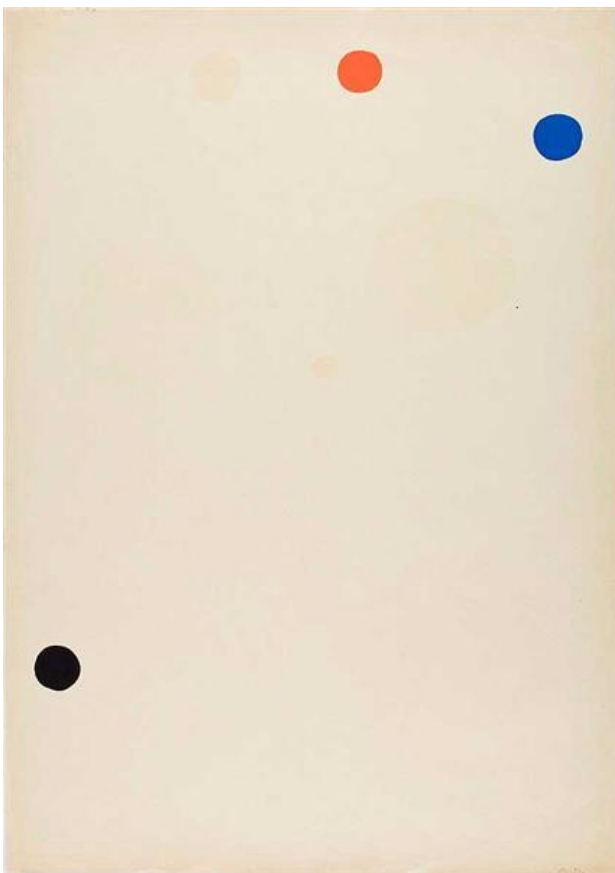
Zlotnikov, "Signals" (1965)



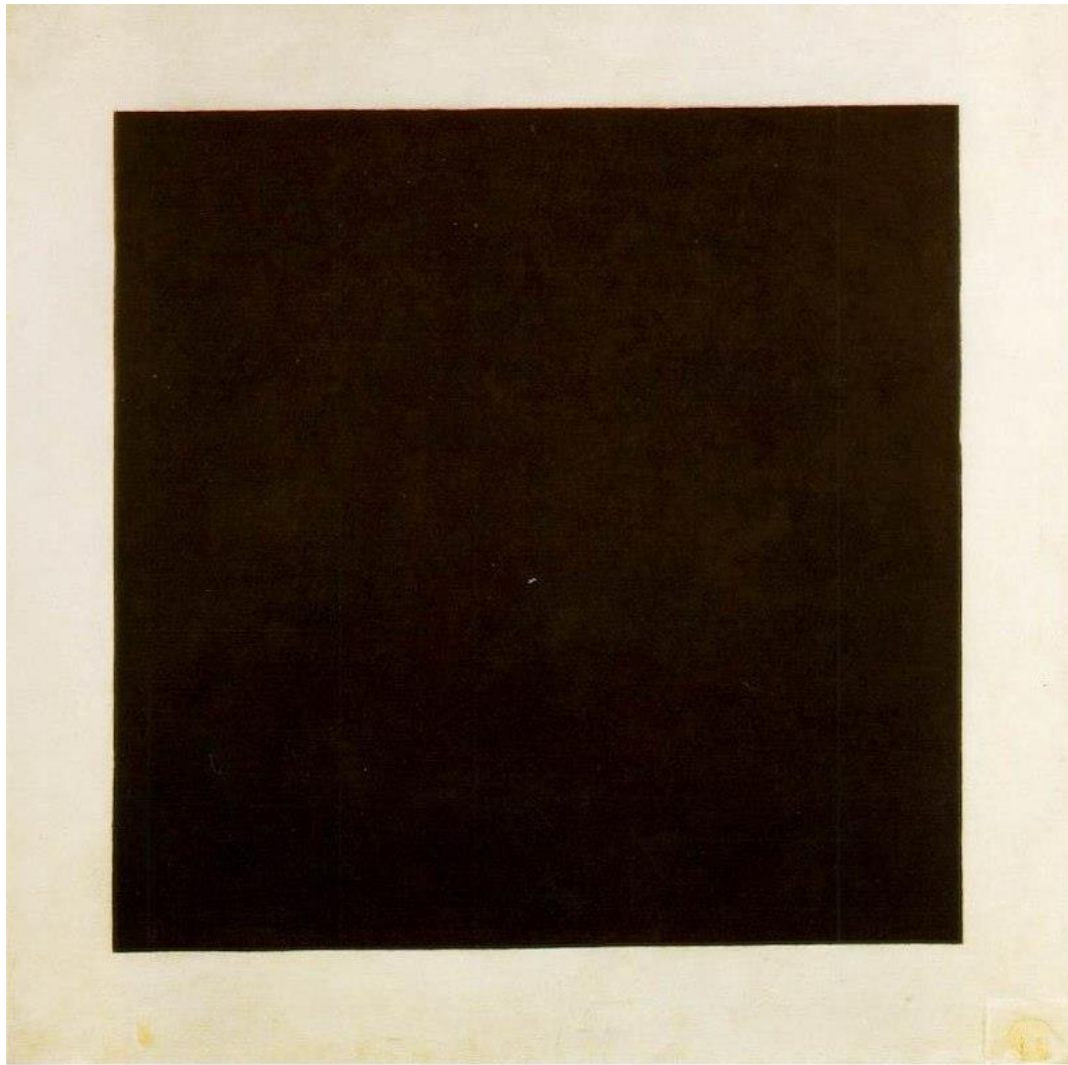
Damien Hirst, Spot Paintings (1968--)



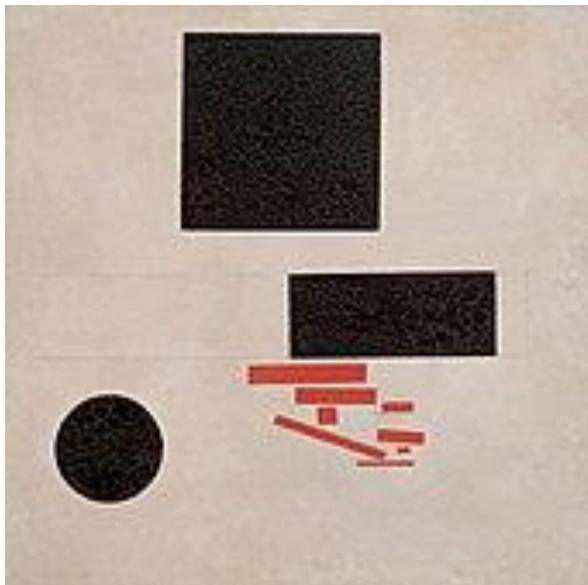
Damien Hirst



Direction of change



Malevich, "Black Square" (1915)



Malevich



“Black Square” as exhibited (1915)

HAPPY Thanksgiving

