

TWO-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

20357 ART-106 Section A

Fall 2014

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Assignment 1: Part 1: Opposing Adjectives

Make 4 collaged compositions (2 pairs) on 8.5 x 11 inch card stock, with 5" straight black bars cut from Silhouette paper.

Compositions should articulate three very different pairs of contrasting adjectives e.g. empty/full., rhythmic/arrhythmic, light/dark and floating/sinking.

Goal: Each composition must be clearly descriptive, easily read, and as different from the others as possible.

Procedure:

A. Choose 2 very different pairs of descriptive adjectives such as:

calm/agitated	peaceful/violent	Fast/slow
sleepy/awake	orderly/chaotic	spacious/claustrophobic
crisp/fuzzy	flat/tall	rhythmic/arrhythmic
smooth/jagged	fat/skinny	progressive/random
airy/dense	floating/sinking	sweet/acidic
light/dark	rising/falling	repetitive/unique
noisy/quiet	light/heavy	

B. Cut lots of black bars with parallel edges, five inches long, and of various widths. Be sure to make some very thin.

C. Strew black bars across the field. (Think: pickup sticks) Move bars around, add and subtract bars as necessary until you recognize the adjective you are trying to articulate.

D. Work in pairs so you can take advantage of the difference between your two compositions to make your meaning clear.

E. Work with adjectives, not nouns. One pair should use adjectives not on the list above. Use the bars as a uniform, and therefore neutral, form to evoke a descriptive adjective. Do not use bars to make shapes or outlines of shapes that can be described as specific objects although more general shapes such as square(s), rectangle(s), triangle(s), bar(s), etc. are okay.

F. When you have worked out your idea, gluestick the bars in place with a repositionable gluestick. You may need to trace your composition first in order to remember where everything should be placed. If bars run off the page you can cut off the overhanging by flipping over the paper and trimming with your straight edge and X-Acto Knife when you are finished.

G. Make another pair of compositions. Study both pairs in relationship to each other. Make changes to strengthen the expressive potential of each. Pay attention to how your eye moves through the composition and to what sort of Hierarchy you are developing between the formal elements of each composition.

H. Write your name, exercise #1, and the adjective represented on the back of each composition. Erase any stray graphite marks on the front of each composition.

Remember that neatness counts. Pay close attention to your craft; cuts should be straight, there should be no extra marks or glue visible, all measurements should be correct, etc.

Rules:

Black paper on white field
Five inch bars. do not cut bars shorter.
All bars have strait, parallel edges
Work on full 8.5" x 11" sheet
No specific forms, only descriptions (adjectives, not nouns)
Two pairs, 4 compositions total

Assignment 1: Part 2: Opposing Adjectives – Cropped

- A. Cut 2 "L" shaped framing bars (as shown in class)
- B. Use these framing bars to revisit the 4 compositions created for Ex. 1.
- C. Crop each of the 4 compositions down to new compositions that are between 5" and 6.5" square. The field must remain perfectly square.
- D. When cropping, your aim should be to create more dynamic compositions. At this point, we are not concerned with conveying the original adjective pairs; focus more on creating strong compositions. Pay close attention to the hierarchy you establish, how you are directing the viewer's eye through the field, and how you can use the edges of the field more in creating a composition. You may add a few bars to activate "dead" space or remove a few bars to compose "busy" space; but keep this to a minimum. Try to do most of the composing with your framing bars. If you add bars, keep to the original guidelines (5" x chosen width).
- E. Cut out each new square composition (remember, between a 5"-6.5" square) and mount it onto a new sheet of 8.5" x 11" cardstock. The composition should be perfectly centered (top and bottom have even borders, left and right have even borders).

Assignment 1: Part 3 and 4: Opposing Adjectives

Repeat the same procedure from parts 1 and 2 only work with cut white bars on black Silhouette paper. Choose different pairs of adjectives if you can.

The white bars are to be cut from white card stock.