

Seeing Properly

In terms of Art

Truly seeing is a perceptual act of noticing what is without distortion
When you see properly, things reveal themselves.
You stop trying to impose meaning and instead receive it.

What is the true way to see in Art?

When it comes to creating representational art most beginners see incorrectly. They focus in on the singular point they are trying to define and this separates it from the whole, reducing harmony.

- Value shifts for us. Our eyes expand and contract depending on what they see. Light contracts the eye, dark opens the eye.
- Colors are mixed in infinite variety. The true color of an object is dependent on the light of its environment. Direct light and reflections shift the hue in parts.
- Edge varies greatly in our natural experience. However, if you focus in you can find hard edges on every form.

One must widen their perspective to take in the piece in its entirety. Then, once you make your first marks the relationship of its parts commences.

- Each mark informs the next. The full work of art is a harmonized relationship of every stroke.
- To see value properly you must view it as a spectrum of light and shadow. Everything starts in the dark and the light brings it out of the shadow and reveals its form. It is a comparison of how much lighter one point is versus how much darker another point is.
- To see color properly is to find the generalized color of a shape and then to add more red, yellow, or blue. These primary colors make up all others in terms blending.
- To see edge properly is the relationship of values in contrast side by side. The hardest edge has the most extreme contrast, and lost edges have a gradual shift that cannot be so discerned.

In order to see the true hierarchy of all parts to a work of art, you must see the relationship of these main elements (value, color, edge). These are the spectrums that create the light illusion, and so you must ask yourself how one point on the spectrum relates to the other.

