



Art of Photography 1

Mrs. Bible Digital Photography 2020

Lunchtime atop a Skyscraper - Charles C. Ebbets – 1932, depicts eleven men eating lunch, seated on a girder with their feet dangling 840 feet (260m) above the New York City streets. The photograph was taken on September 20, 1932, on the 69th floor of the RCA Building during the last months of construction.

The Art of Photography

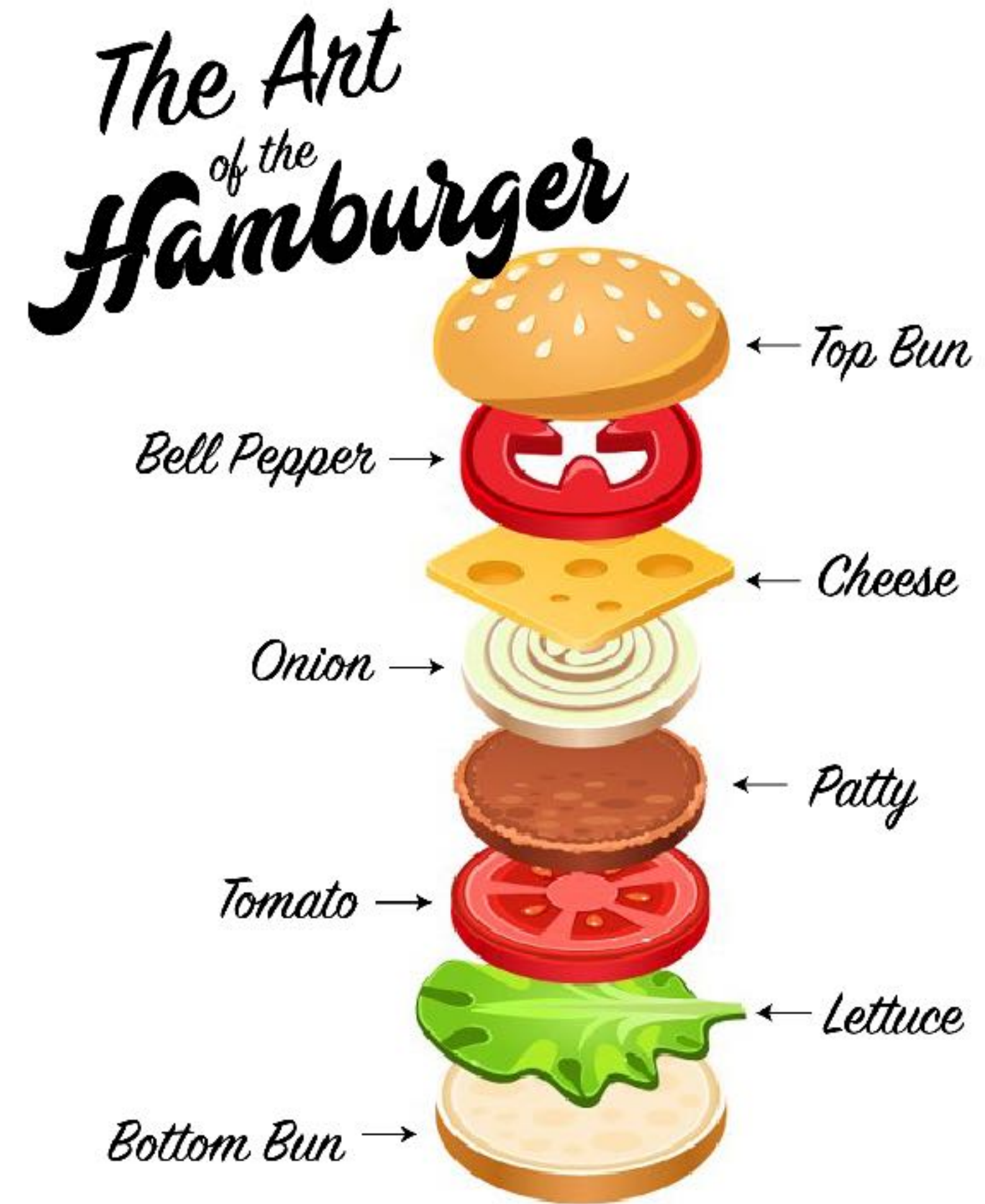
- Photographers learn how to create visual art with cameras, similar to the way musicians learn to create music with instruments. But even though photographs need cameras and other technology to make art, the same visual art elements and principles that apply to painting and sculpture apply to the art of Photography.
- **Elements of Art:** Line, Shape, Form, Value, Color, Space, Texture.
- **Principles of Design:** Balance, Unity, Variety, Movement & Rhythm, Emphasis, Proportion, Pattern.



Annie Leibovitz, 2014, Jessica Chastain as Merida from Brave

Composition

- **Composition** refers to the arrangement and relationship of the different parts that make up the whole image. In visual art terms, composition is divided between the **elements of art** (the composition's individual visual parts) and the **principles of design** (the composition's organizing ideas).
- To understand this further, let's look at sandwiches. Like a photograph, a sandwich is also composed of "elements" and "principles." The elements are all the possible ingredients like bread, meat, cheese, peanut butter, mustard, lettuce, and the like. We don't use all of these at once, but we have many to choose from. Before we make a sandwich, we decide what kind it will be. This helps us select the ingredients, and allow us to shape the final look and taste of the sandwich.



The ingredients = the elements
The idea of the hamburger = the principle

Line, Shape & Form

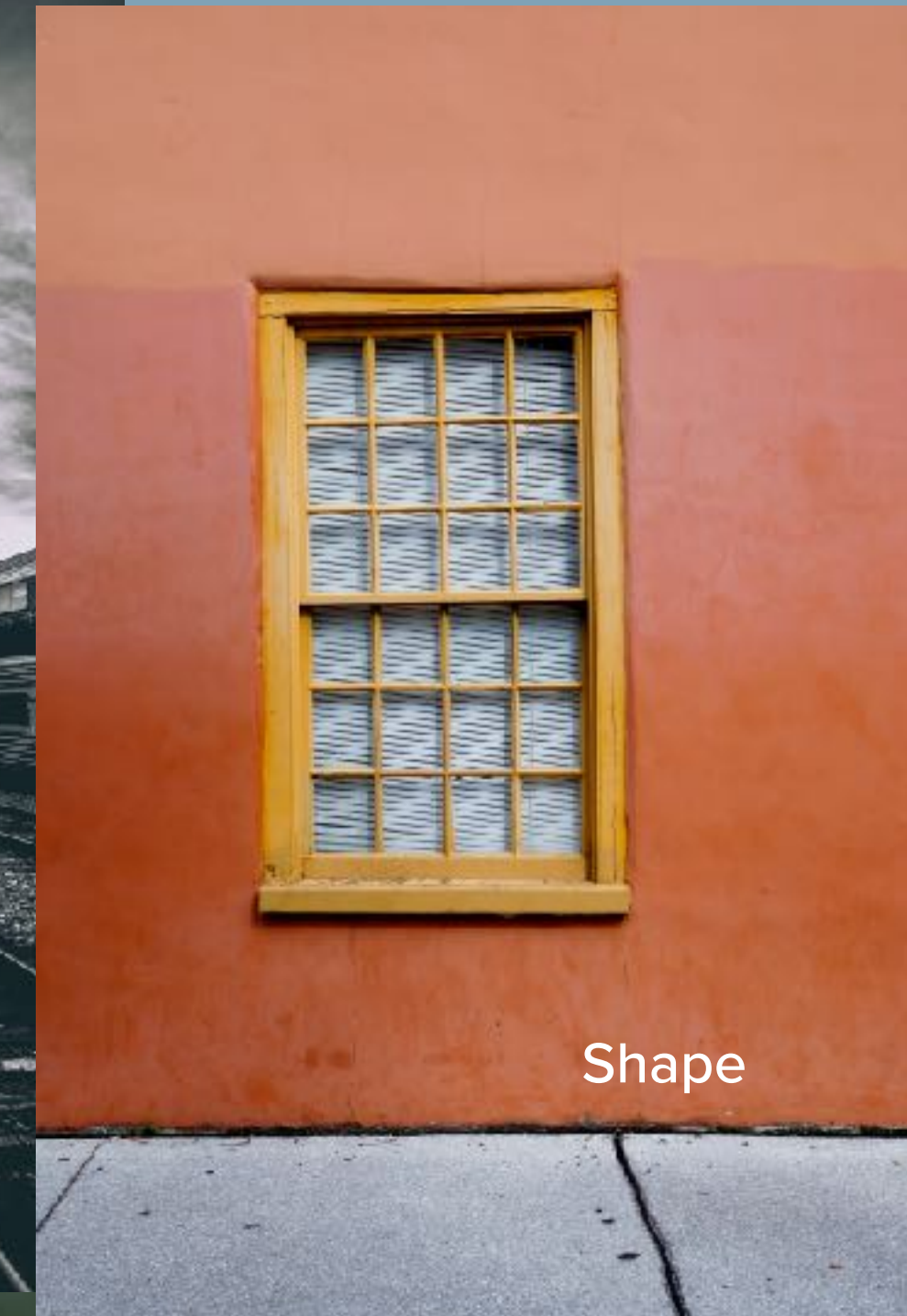
Line is one of the most fundamental art elements. A line is **a point moving in space**. The line starts somewhere and ends somewhere else. It can be real - a yellow line on a road, or implied - geese flying in a “V.” It can be a walkway or a fence running through your picture. For our purposes, there are 5 kinds of line: straight, curved, horizontal, vertical, and combination.

Shape is created when a line meets itself or is known as the **area enclosed by an outline**. It can be geometric (circle, triangle, rectangle, etc.) like wheels, road signs and windows, or organic (flowing curves and random outlines) like leaves, trees, and waves.

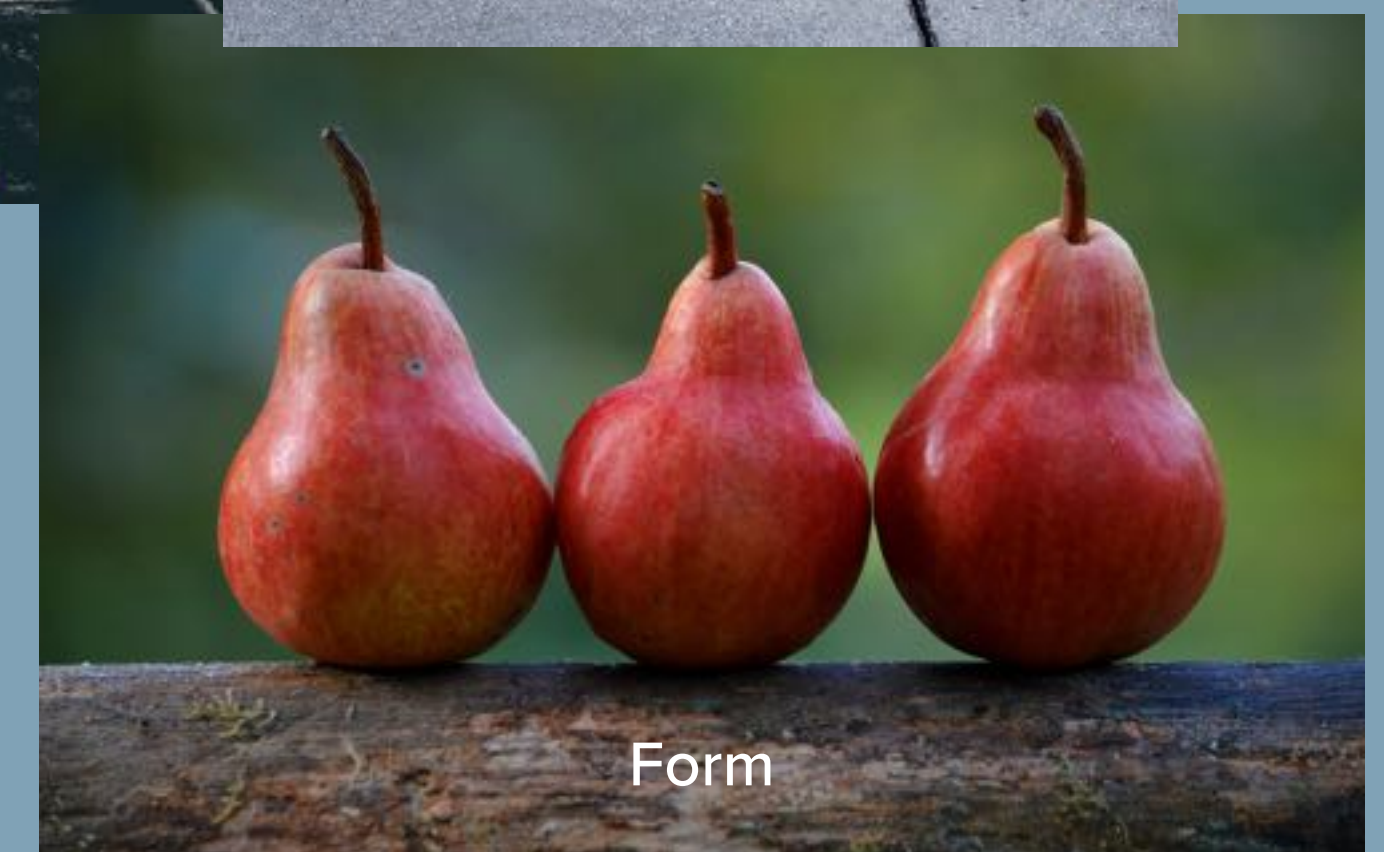
Form is similar to shape but while shape is flat and two dimensional, form **has volume and is three-dimensional**.



Line



Shape



Form

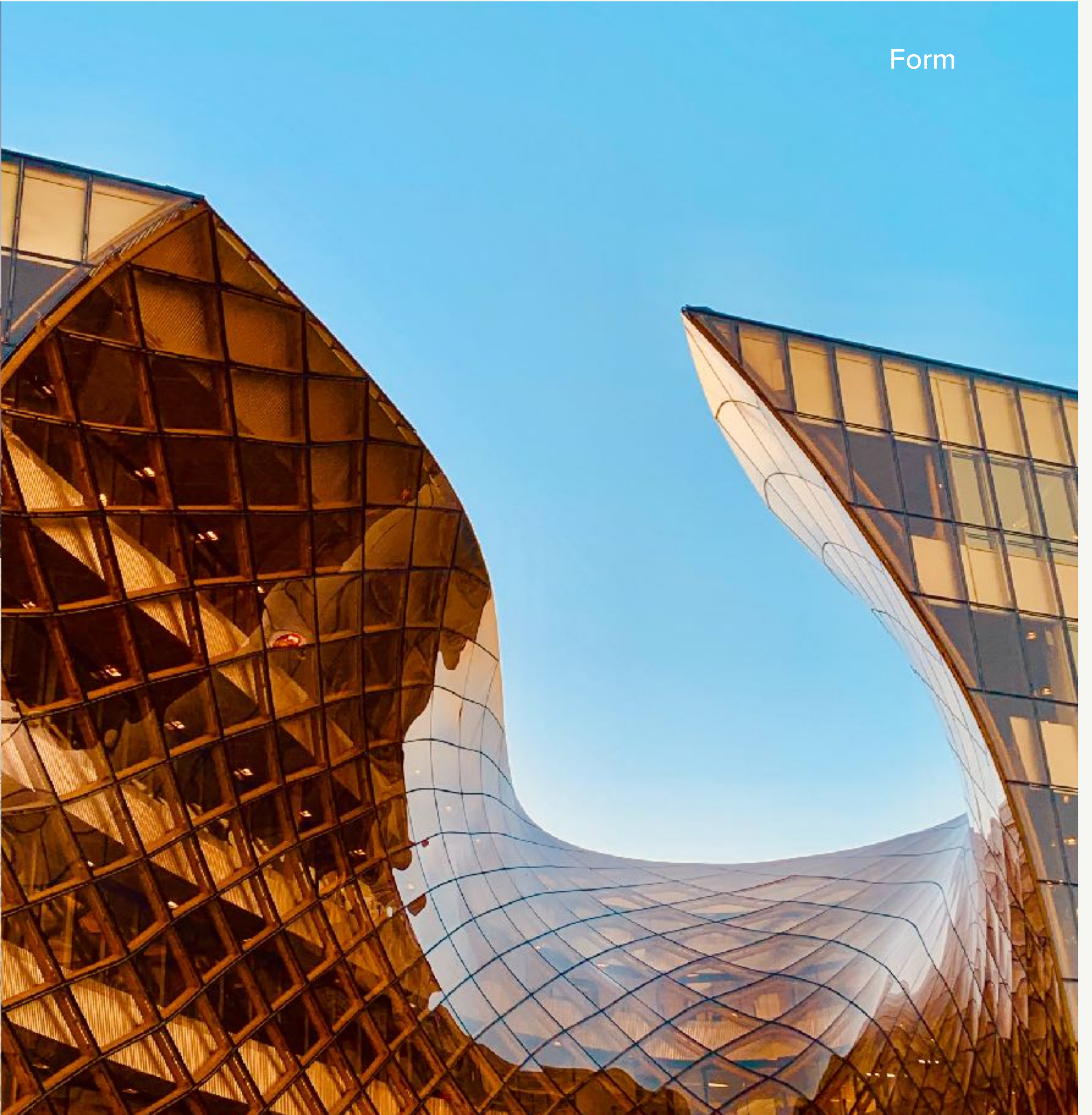
Line



Shape



Form

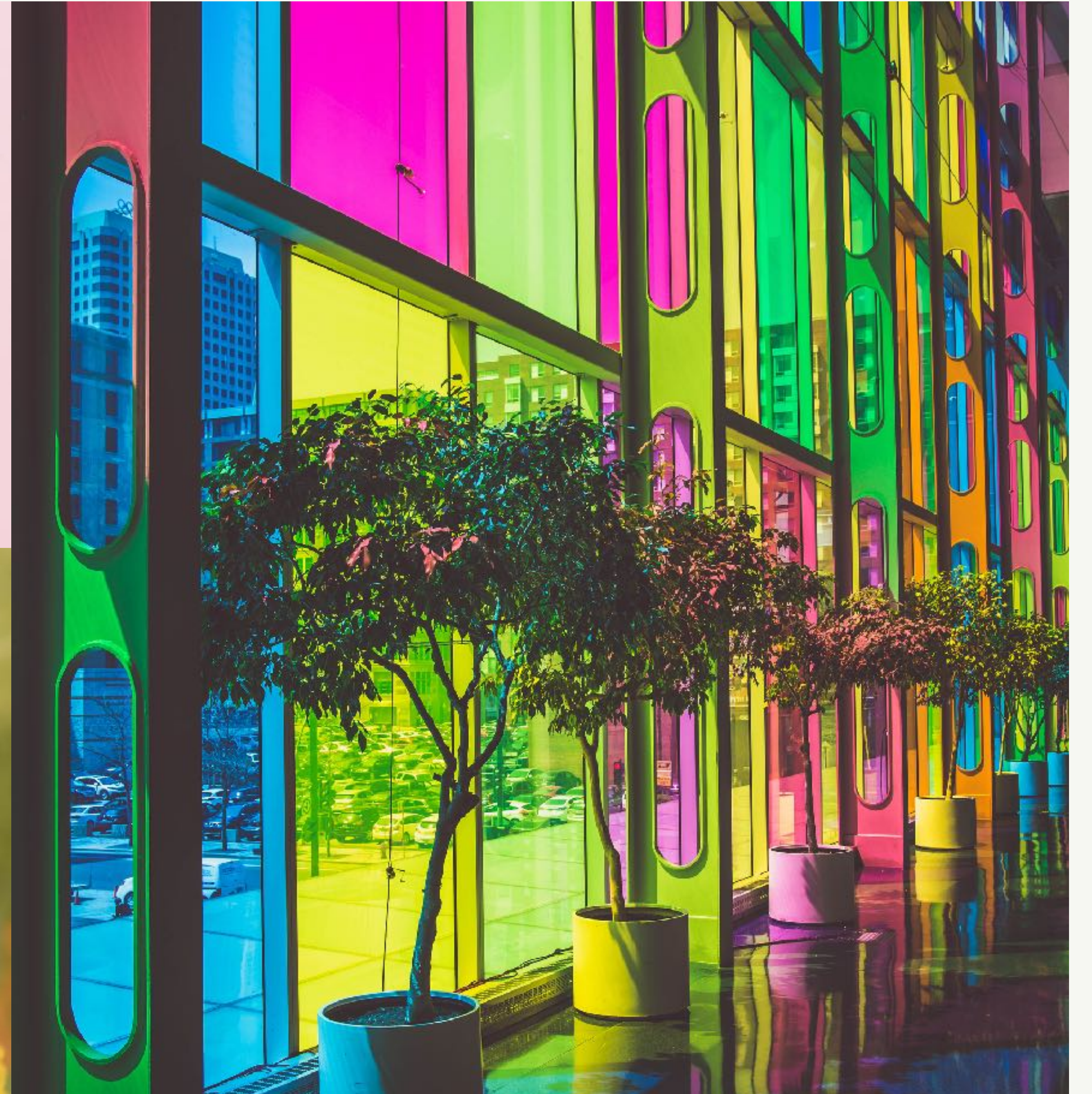


Color

Just as pigment is a painter's medium, light is a photographer's medium, and ***when you talk about color in photography, you are talking about light.*** There are three characteristics that apply to all colors. **Hue** is the name of a color like green, blue, or yellow. **Saturation** is the intensity of a color. **Value** refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. In painting, color values are created by adding white to lighten a color or black to darken a color.

Primary and **secondary** colors of light are different than those of paint. Light's primary colors are red, green and blue. Mix any two primary colors to create the secondary colors. Red & Blue = Magenta, Green & Blue = Cyan, and only with light, red & green = yellow. When you mix all the colors together you get white.



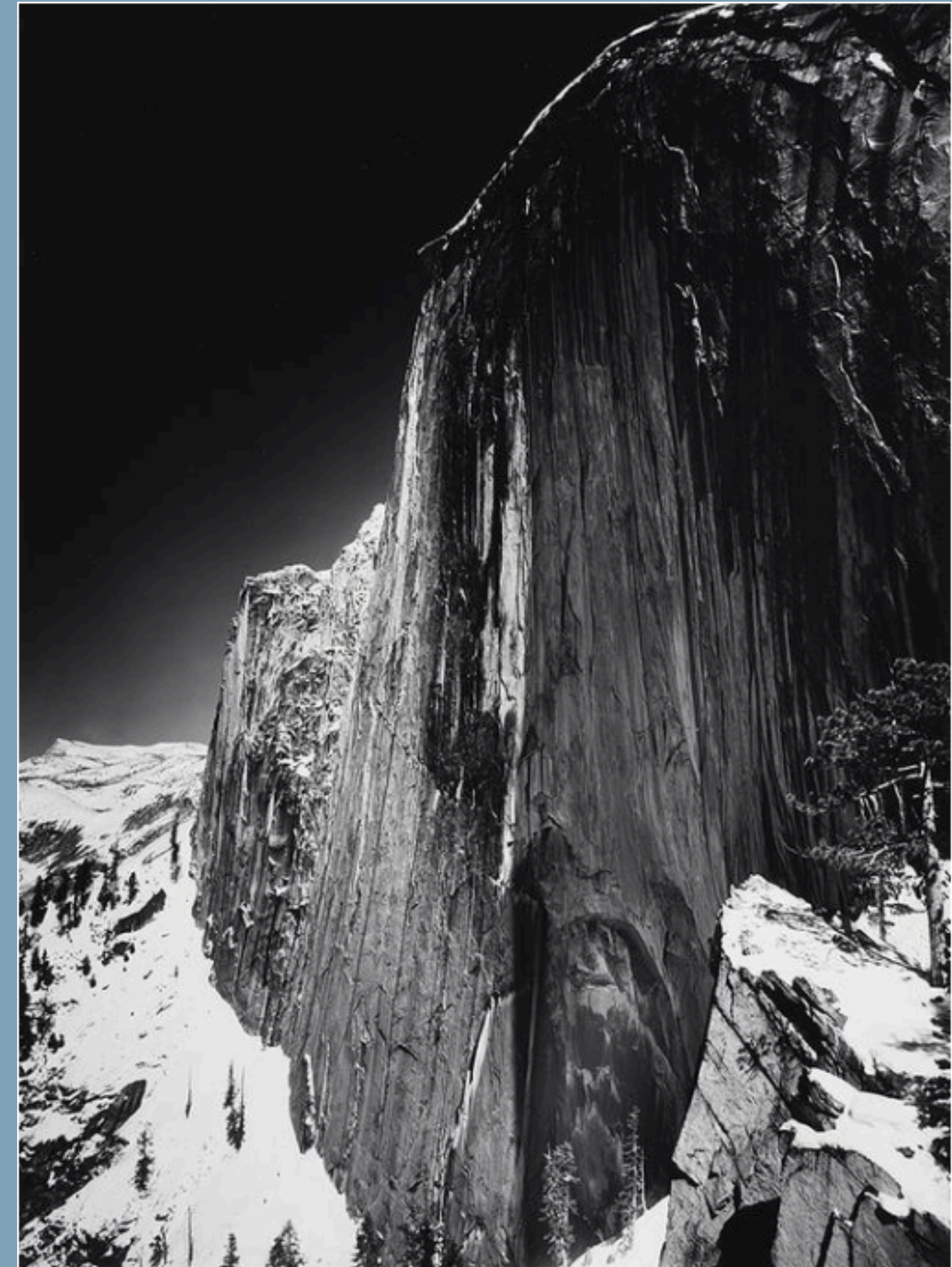


Value

Value refers to the quality of light and dark, both in terms of color and shades of gray, in a composition. This is an especially important part of photography because photography is the medium of light. When you capture an image, you are recording the light and dark tones in a scene. Light and dark values give you visual clues about the shapes and forms of objects.

The values in a scene carry emotional content as well. **Low-key** (mostly dark tones) can create a mood of sadness, suspense or dread. **High-key** (mostly light tones) usually carry positive, upbeat feelings.

Value is also one of the primary indicators of a high-quality print. Ansel Adams and the followers of his photographic style believe that every print should contain small areas of the blackest black and the whitest white, which gives the print the maximum visual impact and creates a sense of drama.



Monolith, The Face of Half Dome, Ansel Adams, 1927



Low Key Image



High Key Image



Space & Texture

Space is the two-dimensional arrangement of objects in a photograph. Space also refers to the three-dimensional illusion of depth in the image. This is the near/far relationship of objects in the photograph. The relative size of different objects in the photo, the result of a shallow or deep depth of field, and the effects of perspective combine to create the sense of space and dimension. Space can also be positive or negative.

Positive space is the subject and **negative space** is the background. Contrast of light and dark is one way to use positive/negative space.

Texture appeals to the sense of touch and is a physical sensation and memory. In art, **texture** is the real or implied feel, appearance, or consistency of a surface or a substance, the tactile quality of the surface of a work of art.



Positive/Negative
Space



Positive/Negative
Space & Texture



Texture



Key Terms

- **Composition** refers to the arrangement and relationship of the different parts that make up the whole image.
- **Line** is *a point moving in space*.
- **Shape** is known as the *area enclosed by an outline*.
- **Form** *has volume and is three-dimensional*.
- **Color** is an element of art with three characteristics.
 - **Hue** is the name of a color like green, blue, or yellow.
 - **Saturation** is the intensity of a hue/color.
 - **Value** refers to the lightness or darkness of a hue/color.
- **Value** refers to the lightness or darkness of a hue/color (grey tones in a photograph).
- **Low-key** (mostly dark tones) can create a mood of sadness, suspense or dread.

- **High-key** (mostly light tones) usually carry positive, upbeat feelings.
- **Space** is *the two-dimensional arrangement of objects in a photographed the three-dimensional illusion of depth* in the image.
- **Texture** is *the real or implied feel, appearance, or consistency of a surface or a substance, the tactile quality of the surface of a work of art*.

To Do:

- **Assignment:** Photograph an image for each of the elements of art. Post the images, along with the definition, in one New Blog Post on your Spark Page **titled:** *Elements of Art*.

