

# Discernment of Depth: Understanding Value Scales and the Picture Plane (flat surface)

Spatial Relational Concept and the  
Determination of Distance

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## PERSPECTIVE DRAWING

In observing what is around us, there is a difference between depth and distance.

Depth is an alignment. One object in front of the other.

This is similar to working with software such as PowerPoint, Photoshop, etc. We can click on any object and look at a menu option for alignment.

The choices in software are similar to: Bring to Front, Send to Back, Background, Foreground. Viewing a still life, an arrangement of objects, we can see what is in front and what is in back of it.

Perspective is distance, faraway, similar to being in a car on the road and watching up ahead. The two sides of the road in the distance create left and right angles that seem to meet somewhere in the distance.

The meeting point is called the **Vanishing Point**. The further an object is in the distance, closer to the vanishing point, the smaller its size.

There are images with one and two point perspectives. This means there are objects in the image that are aligned in two different directions, diminishing in size the closer they are to each vanishing point.

Prehistoric Cave Paintings from 20,000 years ago contained depth but did not contain distance. For example the Cave artist would draw one or few animals crazing on grass, but no distance. In the Greco-Roman times, two thousand years ago, for example people were displayed sitting and chatting with a plant near them, but no faraway distance.

Below is a link with examples of the use of perspective in drawings:

[http://www.google.com/search?output=search&sclient=psy-ab&q=perspective+drawing&oq=perspective+drawing&gs\\_l=hp.3..0l10.1793.5699.1.6057.19.11.0.8.8.0.149.1248.3j8.11.0...0.0...1c.1.17.hp.veNpHdzR9Ms](http://www.google.com/search?output=search&sclient=psy-ab&q=perspective+drawing&oq=perspective+drawing&gs_l=hp.3..0l10.1793.5699.1.6057.19.11.0.8.8.0.149.1248.3j8.11.0...0.0...1c.1.17.hp.veNpHdzR9Ms)

The use of Perspective in two-dimensional theory--Paintings/Drawings, comes into art in the Western World in 1305 in a painting by Giotto, in Padua, Italy.

**Below is an example of Giotto's Painting, The Lamentation, a Masterpiece as visual stepping stone in composition:**

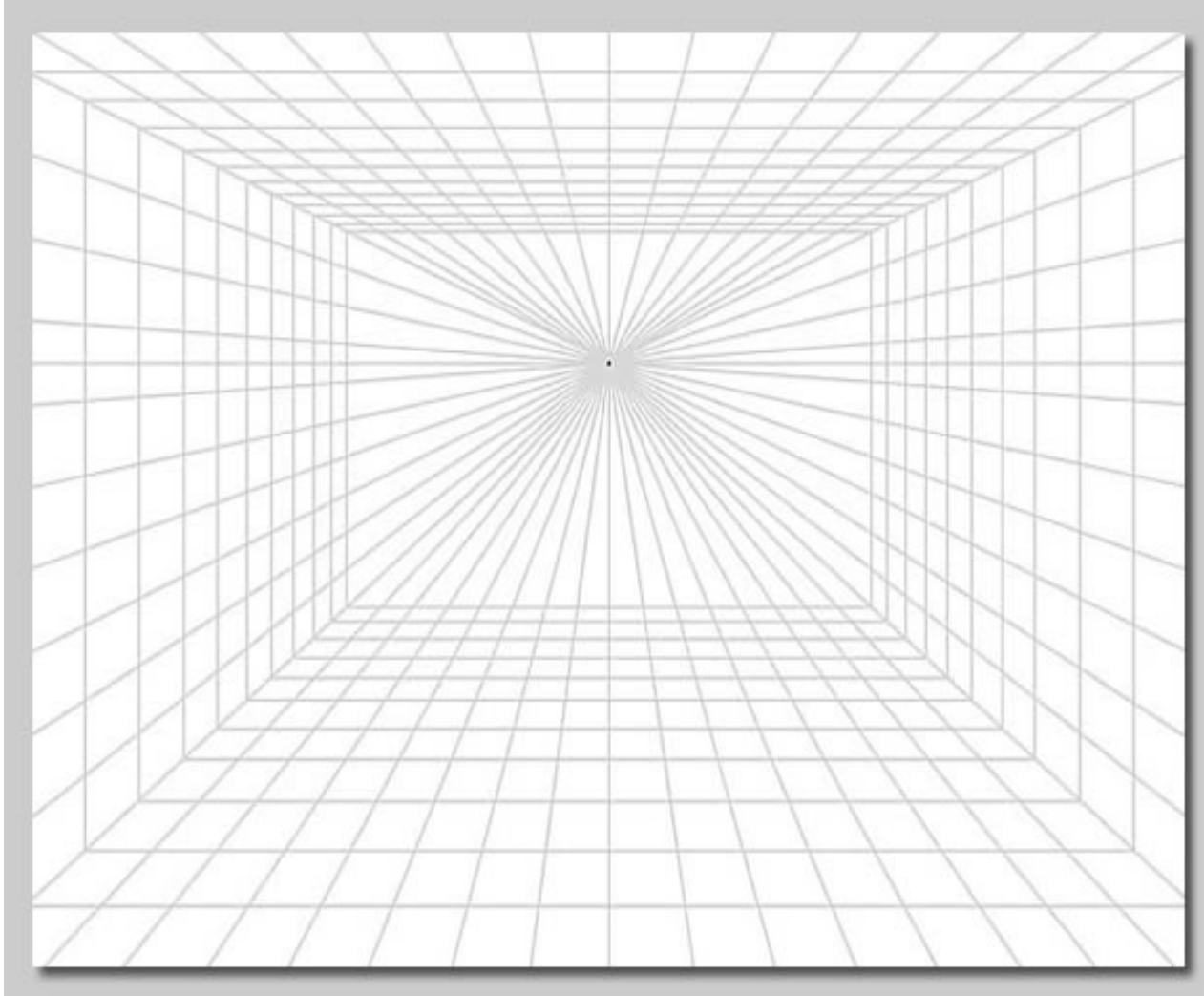


Note all the lines are directed towards the focal point on the lower left. The lines continue past the frame of the painting as if it is a window frame.

The scene, spatial depth, continues on.

Below is a link to an article on this painting and the artist Giotto:

<https://32minutes.wordpress.com/2012/04/06/looking-at-giottos-the-lamentation/>



On the left is an example and the link on how one point perspective is used, in room that is much like a box.

- Note all the lines meet towards a Vanishing Point. The closer they get to the Vanishing Point the narrower the space between them becomes until they **VANISH**.
- The further away they are from the Vanishing Point, the wider the space creating a **FOREGROUND**.
- If objects were aligned in this GRID, the closer they would be to the vanishing point, the smaller they would become until they disappeared. The further an Object would be from the Vanishing Point, the larger it would become in scale

<http://www.studentartguide.com/articles/one-point-perspective-drawing>