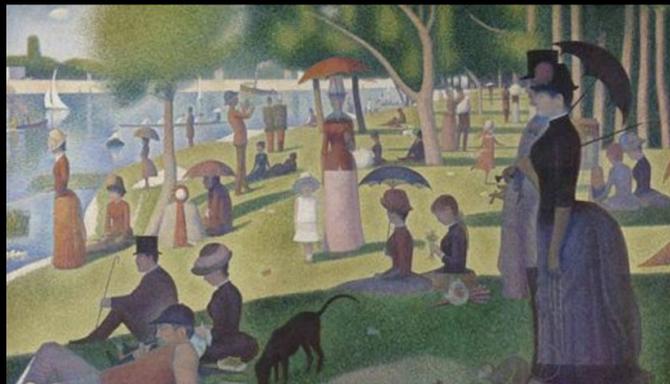


# Composition

- Composition refers to how the elements of an image are arranged.
- What makes an image effective and pleasing to the eye?
- Obviously, composition long predates filmmaking.
- What other art forms make use of composition?
- Discuss the composition of these two images.



# Composition

- Question: What is the focus of your image?
- Do other elements, or the background, distract from that focus?



# Composition

- What are the elements that effect the overall composition of a frame of film?
- Discuss the composition of these two images.



# Composition

- Some arrangements are made by placing figures or objects in certain positions. Others are made by choosing a point of view.
- You can shift your camera very slightly and make a dramatic change in composition.
- Discuss the composition of these two images.



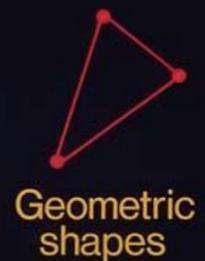
# The Frame

- Cinema is an art of selection.
- The edges of the image create a "frame" that includes or excludes aspects of what occurs in front of the camera.



# Shapes

- Geometric shapes can create balance and unity in the frame, as well as create symbolic meanings.
- **Horizontal** lines seem visually at rest and suggest placidity or peacefulness.
- **Vertical** lines seem visually at rest and suggest strength.
- **Diagonal** lines seem dynamic and suggest tension or anxiety.
- **Binary** structures (of two elements) emphasize parallelism.
- **Triangle** compositions stress the dynamic interplay among three main elements.
- **Circle** compositions suggest security and enclosure.



# Static vs. Dynamic Composition



## Lines

- **Lines** also play an important role in composition.
- Horizontal and vertical lines are considered tranquil. Diagonal lines are particularly dynamic.
- The eye follows a path to the subject.



Diagonal  
lines  
are  
**DYNAMIC!**



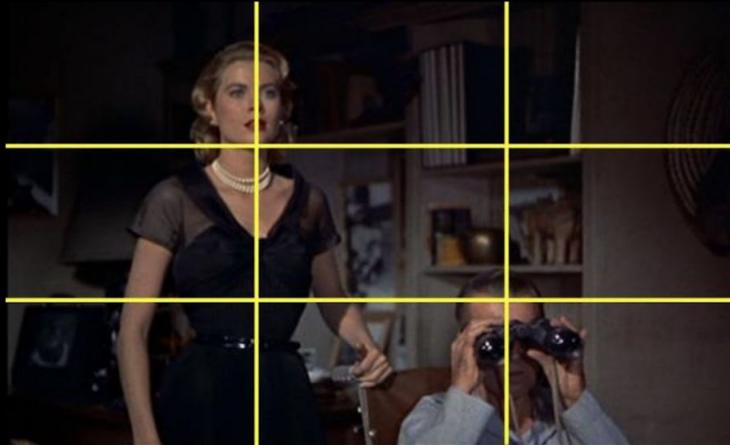
# Rule of Thirds

- Where should my horizon line go?
- What is the effect of this choice?



# Rule of Thirds

- The intersections of the lines are points of interest, where important objects are placed in the screen.
- These points of interest are comfortable to the eye, thus the middle portion of the frame is sometimes kept “empty” or clear.



# Rule of Thirds

- Imagine your picture area divided into thirds both horizontally and vertically. The intersections of these imaginary lines suggest four options for placing the center of interest for good composition.
- The option you select depends upon the subject and how you would like that subject to be presented.
- If you want to make your center of interest more dynamic, place it slightly off center in your frame.

