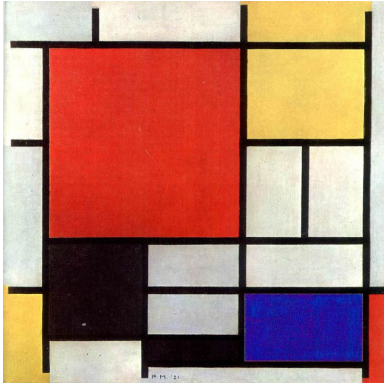

Terminology

Abstraction	A visual representation that may have little resemblance to the real world. Abstraction can occur through a process of simplification or distortion in an attempt to communicate an essential aspect of a form or concept.
Anamorphic	Term used to describe an image that has been optically distorted.
Art nouveau	A late nineteenth-century style that emphasized organic shapes.
Biomorphic	Describes shapes derived from organic or natural forms.
Caryatid	An architectural column in the form of a human figure.
Cubist (Cubism)	A form of abstraction that emphasizes planes and multiple perspectives
Curvilinear	Rounded and curving forms that tend to imply flowing shapes and compositions
Distortion	A departure from an accepted perception of a form or object. Distortion often manipulates established proportional standards.
Figure	Any positive shape or form noticeably separated from the background, or the negative space
Ground	The surface of a two dimensional design that acts as the background or surrounding space for the "figures" in the composition.
Idealism	An artistic theory in which the world is not reproduced as it is but as it should be. All flaws, accidents and incongruities of the visual world are corrected.
Installation	A mixed-media artwork that generally takes into account the environment in which it is arranged.
Kitsch	Low or common art forms that appeal to sentimentality.
Naturalism	The skillful representation of the visual image, forms, and proportions as seen in nature with an illusion of volume and three-dimensional space
Positive shape	Any shape or object distinguished from the background
Rectilinear	Composed of straight lines
Shape	A visually perceived area created either by an enclosing line or by color and value changes defining the outer edges
Volume	The appearance of height, width, and depth in a form



This painting by Mondrian is **abstract** because it does not refer directly to something in the visible world.



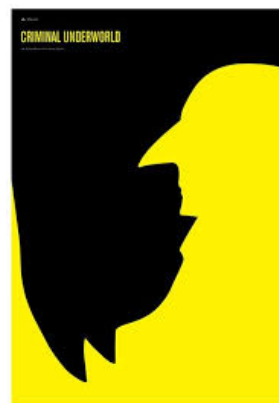
Alphonse Mucha was an artist who helped popularize the **Art Nouveau** style.



These images illustrate **anamorphic** text that is manipulated to appear as if it were flat.



Cubism was an important art movement that encouraged artists to experiment with abstraction.



This image illustrates a **figure/ground reversal**.