



Design fundamentals

NOTES

on VISUAL
ELEMENTS
& PRINCIPLES of
COMPOSITION

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Design fundamentals

NOTES

on **VISUAL
ELEMENTS**

**& PRINCIPLES
of
COMPOSITION**



after PAUL KLEE (1879 - 1940)





GET IN SHAPE










- WHEN DOES A LINE
BECOME A SHAPE?

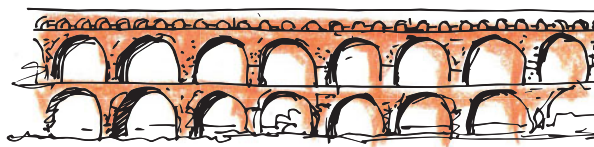
- HOW DOES A SHAPE
BECOME A FORM?

- DOES IT
MATTER? YES & NO.

DOT, LINE, SHAPE, FORM - THERE ARE NO PRECISE BOUNDARIES FOR THESE TERMS.

WHEN ENGAGED IN DESIGN, RELAX BOUNDARIES BECAUSE THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTES.

- A DOT IS ALSO A SHAPE. 
- A FEW DOTS IN A ROW ARE A LINE.
.....
- A DASH IS A TINY LINE. —
- FOUR LINES OF EQUAL LENGTH, INTERSECTING AT RIGHT ANGLES CREATE A SQUARE. 
- A SQUARE IS A SHAPE.
- A SQUARE IS A PIXEL. 
- A CUBE IS A SQUARE THAT'S ALSO A FORM. 
- AN ELONGATED RECTANGULAR SHAPE MAY ALSO BE A LINE. 
- A CIRCLE IS A SHAPE. 
- A CIRCLE IS A CONTINUOUS LINE.
- AN ARC IS THE PATH OF A LINE AS WELL AS A SHAPE.
... UNLESS IT'S MADE OF STONE THEN IT BECOMES A FORM - AN ARCH.




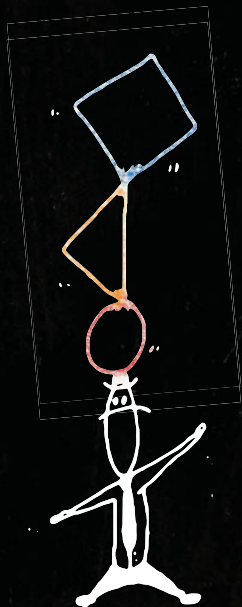


After STUART DAVIS (1892 - 1964)

Stuart Davis

design beyond dot & line

A **SHAPE** IS A DEFINED
AREA OR FIGURE
ON A FLAT, TWO-
DIMENSIONAL SURFACE
(PAPER, CANVAS, SCREEN, ETC.)



NOTE:

TRADITIONALLY, THE TERM FOR A TWO-DIMENSIONAL SURFACE IS **PICTURE PLANE**. IT'S AN IMAGINARY OR ILLUSIONARY DEPTH OF SPACE PERPENDICULAR TO THE VIEWER'S LINE OF VISION. MORE ON THE PICTURE PLANE LATER.