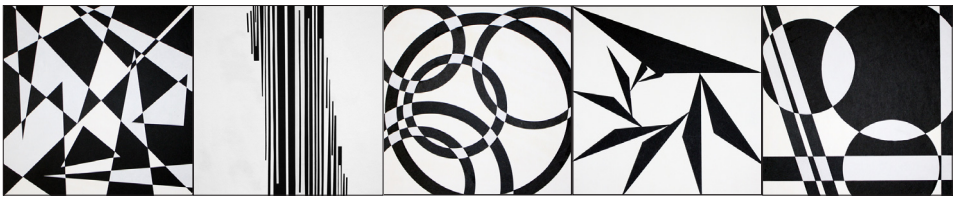
PROJECT 1: BOXED IN

In this project, you will begin learning the basic elements and principles of two-dimensional design utilizing a limited graphic, or visual vocabulary. You will cut sheets of black paper into Geometric Shapes and used within a square composition to demonstrate your understanding of Representational vs. Non-representational Shapes, Geometric vs. Organic Shapes, Positive vs. Negative Space, Figure/Ground Reversal, Balance and Craft.



INSTRUCTIONS

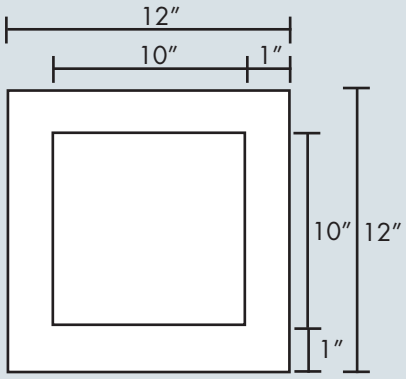
1. Taking your scissors and/or X-Acto knife cut out at least 20 (to begin with) geometric shapes of varying sizes from the black paper I provide in class. Consider edge quality and craft. Also, consider complexity!
2. Consider cutting up your geometric shapes into more complex geometric shapes. That means shapes with straight edges or regular curves. A shape derived from or, suggestive of geometry. Geometric shapes are characterized by crisp, precise edges and mathematically consistent curves. If you are considering a radial or symmetric balance for one of your designs perhaps you can try creating similar shapes or folding your paper in half and producing shapes?
3. Once you have a large pile of interesting geometric shapes I want you to sketch out a number of perfect squares in your sketch paper pad and experiment with compositions. Keeping the shapes you just made in mind I want you to sketch a design using your pencil that visually reflects your chosen balance. Repeat these sketches for each of your four compositions.
4. Using a ruler and a light H pencil mark out 2 - 10”x10” squares in your sketchpad. Then cut these out leaving just a little paper left around the outside of them, say 1/4” (so then you would have 2 - 101/4 squares)”. Once you have completed this create the actual design on the sketchpad paper squares with your cut paper pieces and rubber cement. Try to stay as precisely within your 10”x10” drawn frame as possible! Remember that CRAFT and presentation are large portions of your grade! Once you have created your design take your rubber cement pickup and get rid of any excess rubber cement. Then take it and cut off the excess paper and any black paper that may be outside of the frame as precisely as possible.
5. Cut out a 12”x12” piece of white illustration board. Using your H pencil mark where your square design should go on the illustration board so that it’s directly in the center, leaving a 1” border all the way around your design. Then using the rubber cement and “card” technique I show you in class mount your design. Make sure to label the back of the illustration board per the syllabus and remove any excess rubber cement! Repeat this process for the remaining design. There will be a one on one critique for this project.

MATERIALS

Rubber Cement, Rubber Cement Pickup, X-Acto Knife & Blades, H Pencils, Kneaded Eraser, and Sketch Pad Paper, 12” Steel Ruler

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Project will be presented in final form mounted on illustration board. Please make sure your project is 10” x 10” on a 12” x 12” piece of illustation board with a 1” border all around. Be sure to put a label on the back with all info as specified in the syllabus along with a cover.



DUE DATES

Project should be submitted on January 21 by 4:30 pm. We will critique the projects in class. Please be prepared to participate in the critique and explain your work.

QUESTIONS

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Office Hours:
Varies, but I will be available on campus Mon, Tues, Wed, and Thurs.