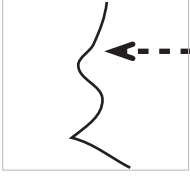


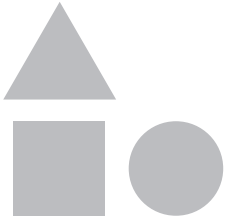
Making your shapes interesting



When you first draw a single line on a piece of paper, you have created a boundary. On one side is something, on the other side is something else. This translates to the eye as two separate shapes.

So, no matter how we go at painting or drawing, we see that we cannot help but make shapes. The question is, what makes an interesting shape - or a dull shape?

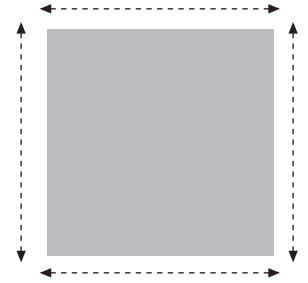
The problem with perfect shapes



Perfect shapes usually translate into painting as poor compositions.

Why? Simply because they are repetitive. Look at a square, for instance, which is equal on all sides. It is a predictable shape, and little visual excitement is created by being predictable.

Predictable ▼



▼ Better



The square is improved considerably when it becomes less than perfect. The tree limbs create a sense of mystery and space by destroying the predictability.

It is further improved by altering all sides.

Much better ►



A complete composition ►

Here the square has been completely lost and the resulting imperfect shape is interesting. Look closely, and you'll find that variety is the key.

Some shape edges are straight and others are curving. Some tree limbs are negative shapes, others are positive. The shape is unpredictable.

Although it is simple, it reads as a landscape.

