

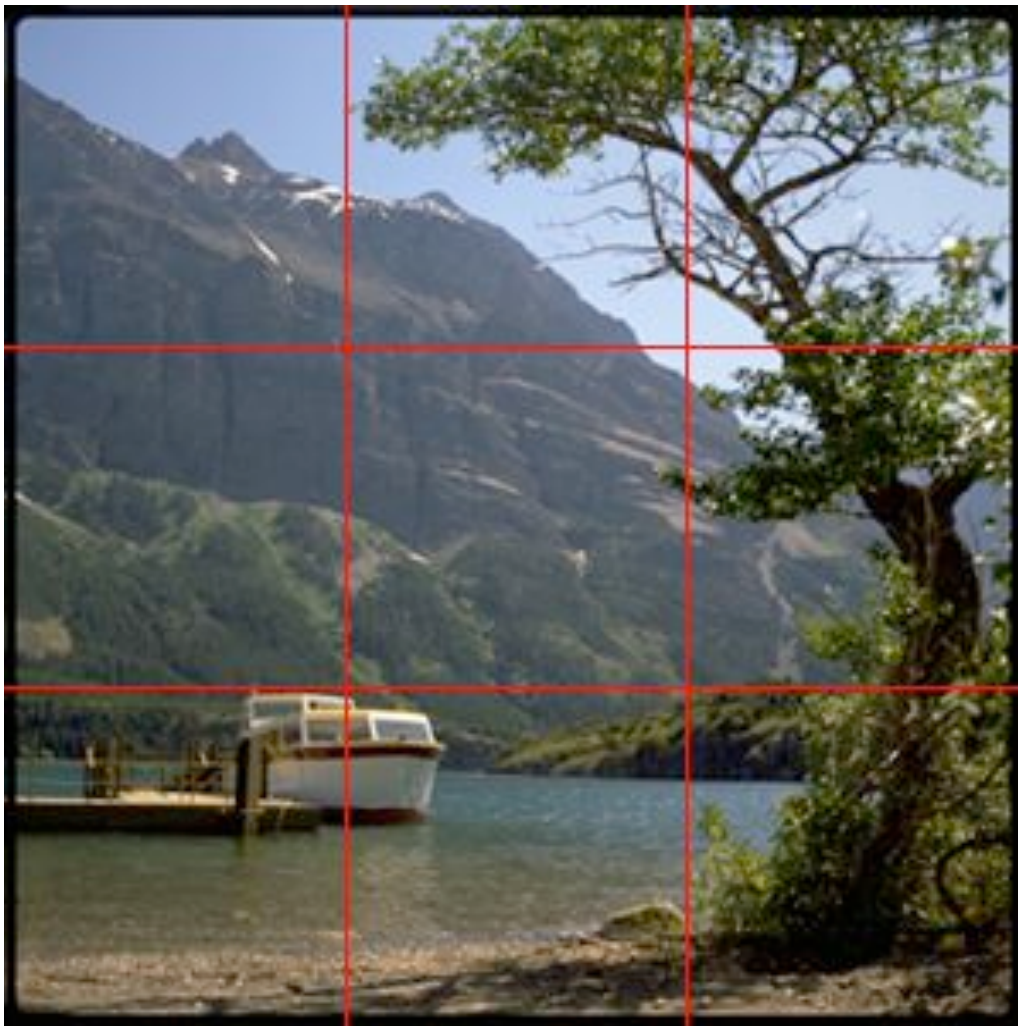


Framing the composition

Rule of thirds

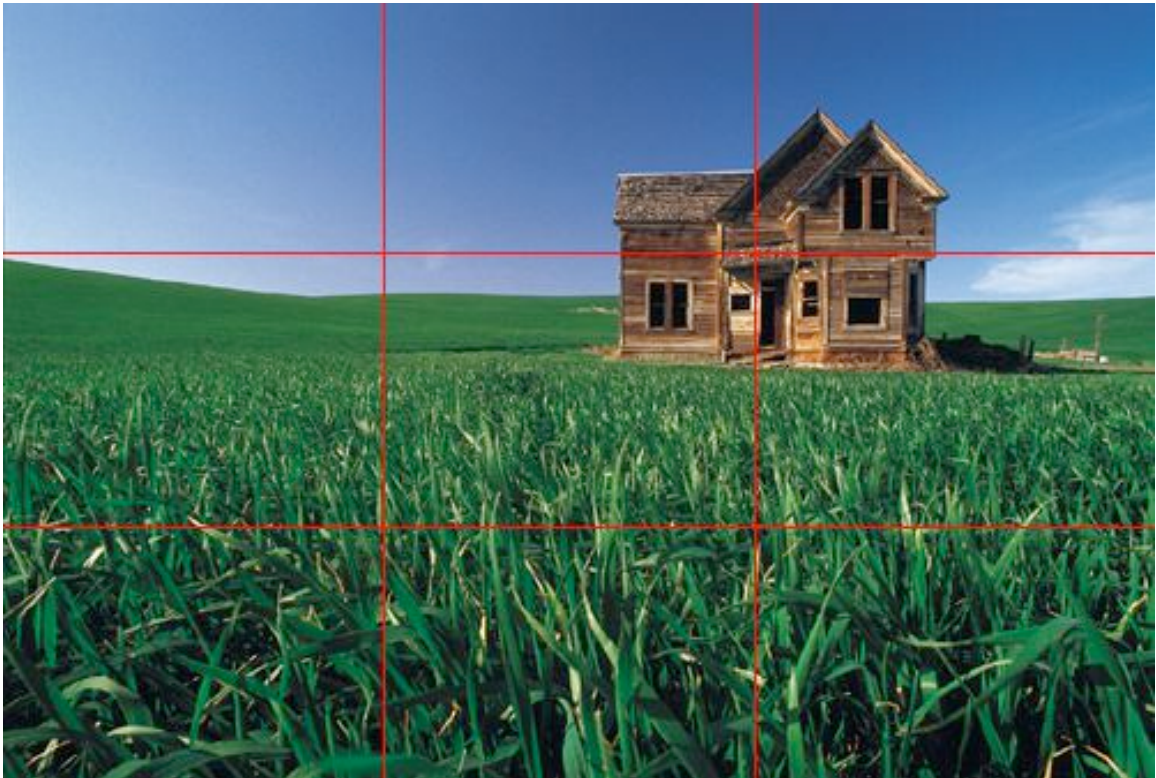
Placing the subject off-center often makes the composition more dynamic and interesting. Even if your subject fills the frame, the most important part of the subject (for example, the eyes in a portrait) should not be dead center.

Follow the rule of thirds (the Golden Mean). An easy way to compose off-center pictures is to imagine a tick-tack-toe board over your viewfinder. Avoid placing your subject in that center square, and you have followed the rule of thirds. Try to place your subject along one of the imaginary lines that divides your frame.



Framing the composition

Rule of thirds



Watch the horizon. Just as an off-center subject is usually best, so is an off-center—and straight—horizon line. Avoid cutting your picture in half by placing the horizon in the middle of the picture. To accent spaciousness, keep the horizon low in the picture. To suggest closeness, position the horizon high in your picture.

Composition is composed of:

- MASS (objects in the composition)
- Formal Balance (equal balance/classical balance) two objects of equal size becomes static.



- Informal Balance (unequal balance) large object counterbalanced with smaller object.



- LINE (implied line)
- vertical (strength)



- horizontal (tranquility)



- diagonal (force and energy)



- curve (beauty)



- S curve (line of beauty)



- leading edge (leads your eye somewhere in the picture)



Leading edge can also take you out of the picture.



- FORM (implied form)
- triangle/pyramid (solid base)



- radii (lines meet in the center)



- cross (opposing force)



- rectangle L (framing)



- VALUE (brightness and luminance)
- COLOR (hue)
 - strong (advancing)
 - warm (reds, yellows)



- weak (receding)
 - cold (blues, greens)



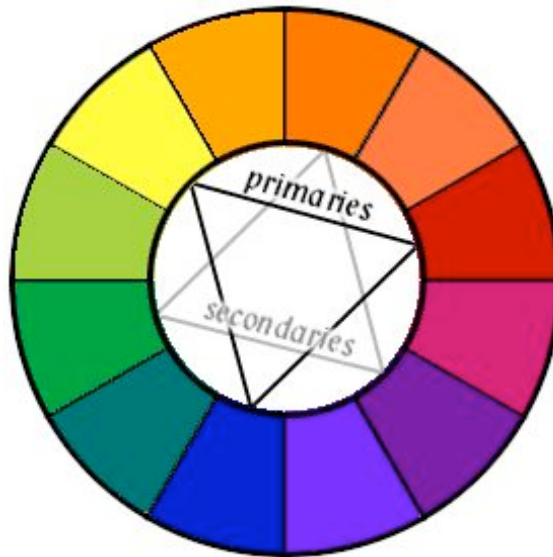
- contrast
- bright (strong and active)



- low (quiet and moody)



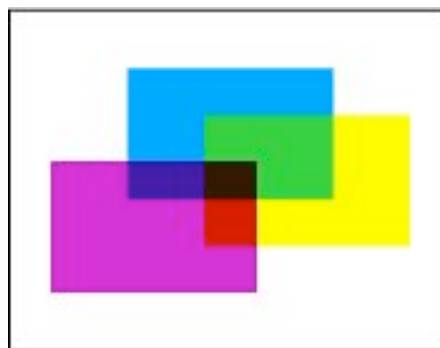
- complimentary (opposites on color wheel)
- primary colors
- secondary colors



Color wheel with primary, secondary and intermediate (or tertiary) colors.



Example 1: Additive principle of color combining (light)



Example 2: Subtractive principle of color combining (pigment)

Framing the composition

Rule of thirds

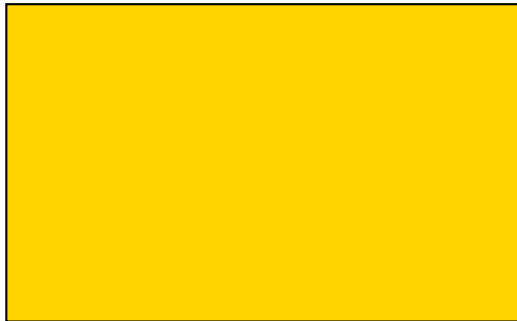
Golden ratio

If you were going to design a rectangular TV screen or swimming pool, would one shape be more pleasing to the eye than others? Since the early Greeks, a ratio of length to width of approximately 1.618, has been considered the most visually appealing. This ratio, called the golden ratio, not only appears in art and architecture, but also in natural structures.

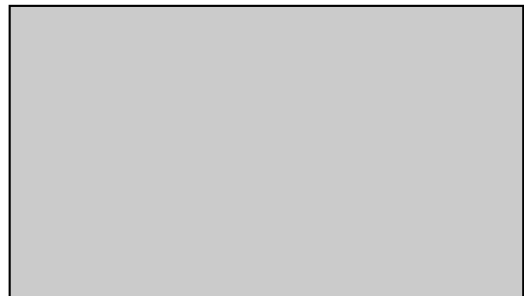


1.61803398874989484820 (1.618)

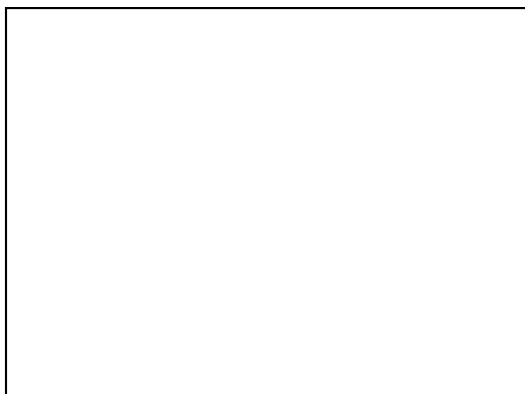
1:1.618 ratio (Golden Ratio)



6:9 ratio - HD TV



4:3 ratio (TV)



Framing the composition

Rule of thirds

Golden ratio

The sides of the Egyptian pyramids were golden triangles . Additionally, the three-four-five triangle is a golden ratio between the five unit side and the three unit side. The Egyptians considered this kind of right triangle extremely important and used it also in the pyramids. **Golden triangle** : An isosceles triangle with base angles of 72 degrees and a vertex angle of 36 degrees.



The Great Pyramid

The Greeks put the Golden Ratio to work. Its use in architecture became wide spread, and when Iktinos designed the Parthenon in the 5th century B.C., he used the Golden Ratio throughout it.

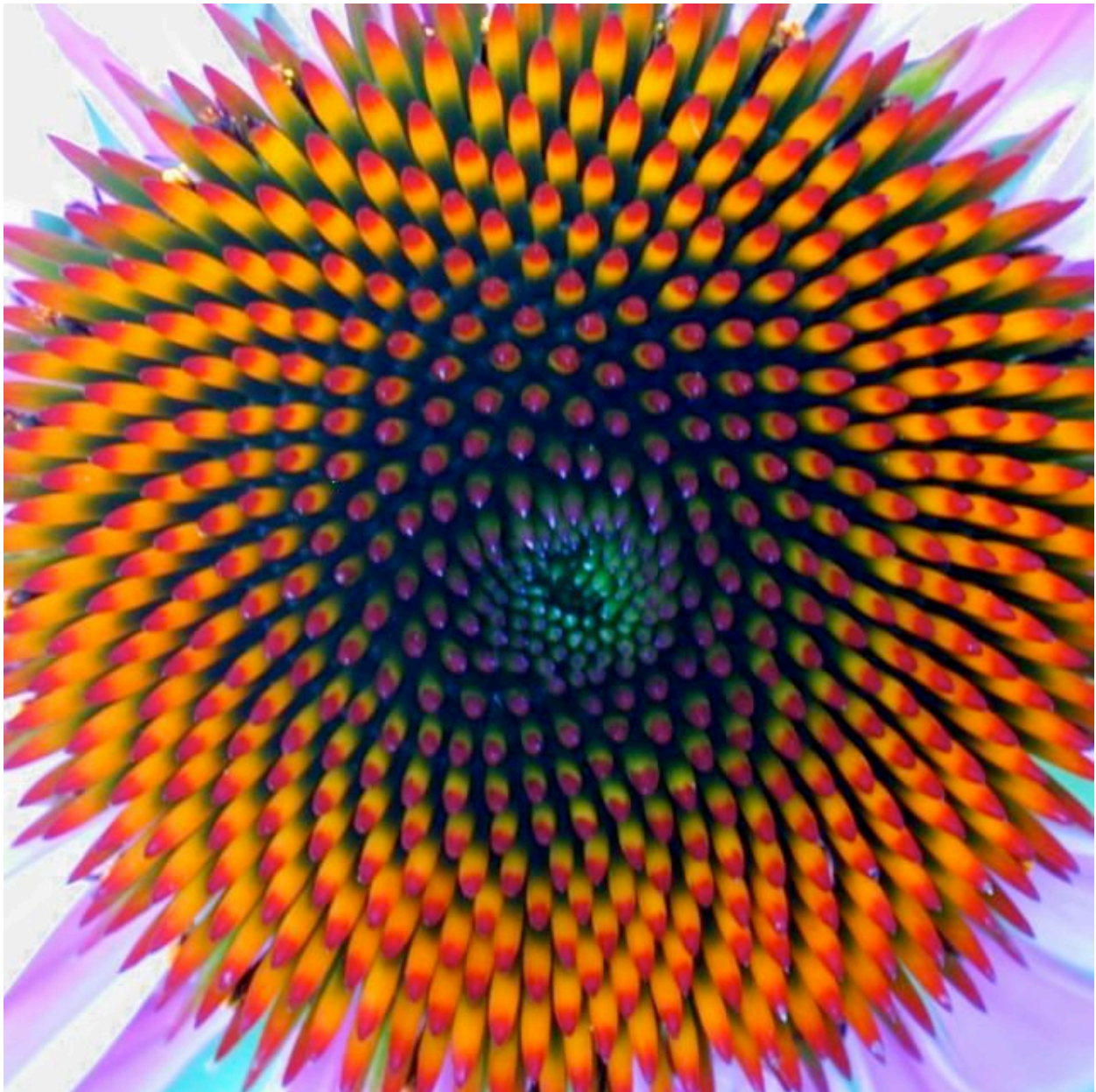


The Parthenon

Framing the composition

Rule of thirds

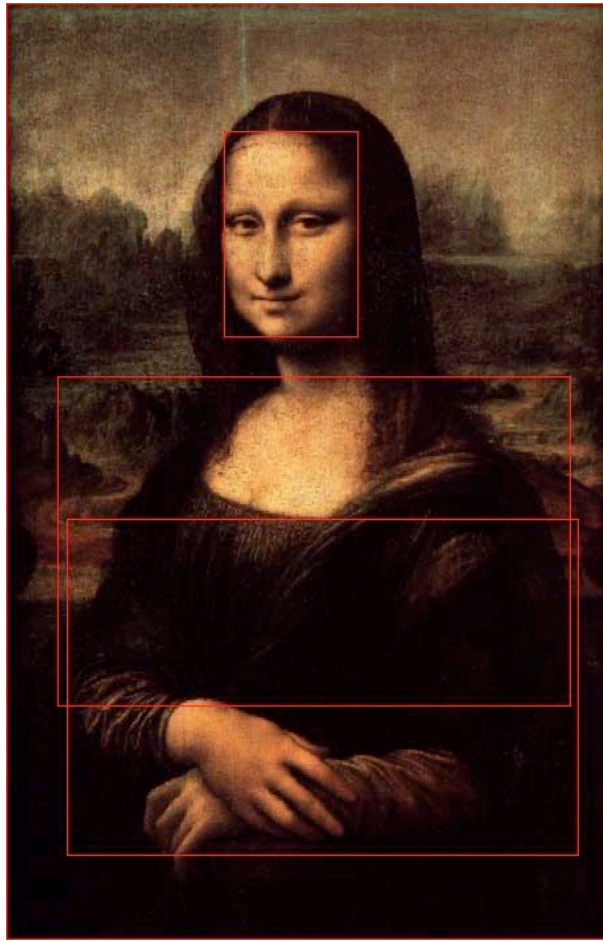
Golden ratio



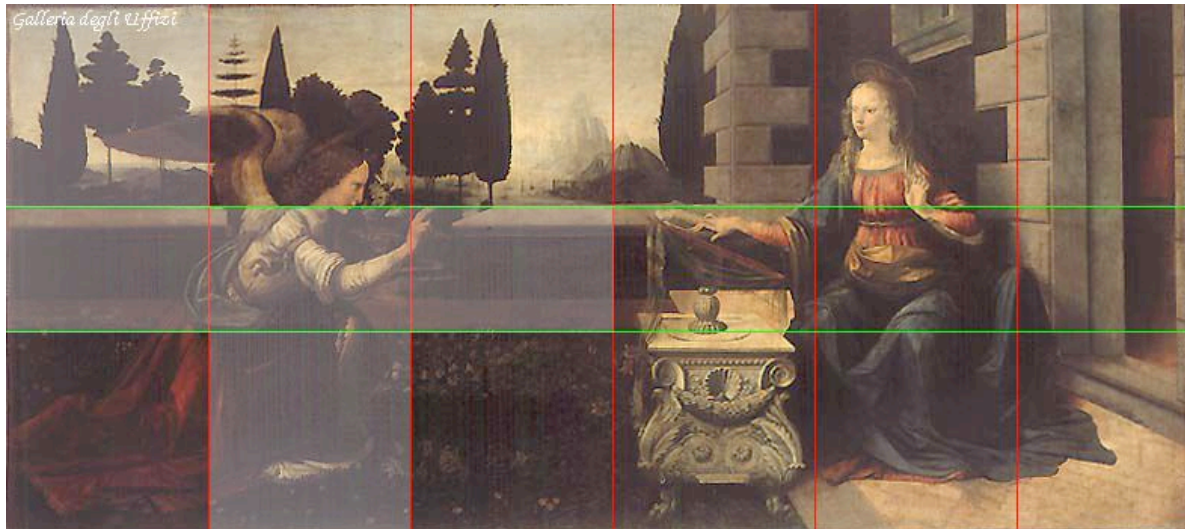
Nature's use of the Golden Ratio

Other names: The Golden Ratio. The Golden Mean. Phi. The Divine Section. The Golden Section. The Golden Cut. The Golden Proportion. The Divine Proportion.

Leonardo DaVinci



Mona Lisa



The Annunciation

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