

Instructions for Implied Space through Perspective Photomontages

Perspective allows an artist to control the illusion of depth in an image with space ranging from a few inches to many miles.

Linear, atmospheric, isometric and foreshortening are various perspectives that help to provide the illusion of depth effectively.

You will study each and in turn construct a photomontage that exhibits your understanding of these perspectives.

These systems of perspective describe how objects appear in relation to their distance from the observer. This is not so much science as a means of describing, and by interpretation of illustrating, objects in space.

Linear Perspective has a vanishing point (one or more), where lines converging into the distance. Objects also diminish in size.

The horizon line is the theoretical line that represents the eye level of the observer. Indoors the horizon is often not visible, yet there is still a theoretical horizon line representing the point of view of the observer.

Atmospheric Perspective creates an illusion of distance by getting paler or lighter as it recedes into the picture plane.

Objects will also diminish in size. Some artists will achieve atmospheric perspective with the use of color - warm hues advancing, cool hues receding. Lack of focus or lack of detail will also help to provide atmospheric perspective.

Isometric Perspective may resemble linear perspective at first glance, except that lines do not converge to a vanishing point.

Lines instead are parallel to one another in horizontal or diagonal configurations. These lines or areas will alternate in value - light to dark to light to dark.

Foreshortening usually applies to human and animal forms. It may appear similar to linear perspective, except that objects are coming towards the observer versus moving away into the picture plane.

Assignment for Implied Space through Perspective

1. Create an implied space photomontage that uses at least two different types of perspective, listed above, which provides a convincing illusion of depth (from several feet to several miles). At least three different images must be used: one for the foreground, middle ground and background. **Three perspectives are more challenging and will warrant a better grade, then two.**
2. Your finished composition should look like a single image that shows a scene that starts close to the observer and goes for miles into the distance.
3. Cut out the layers carefully (you may use more layers) and stack them to see if they give a convincing illusion. You may have to move parts around some to get the horizon lines to seem right.
4. Format size - 7" x 9" - landscape (horizontal) or portrait (vertical) with a 1/2" border in a color of your choosing.

Suggestions

The foreground and the background are the most critical parts. For the foreground, look for large, sharp, well focused imagery in brighter, warmer colors. For the background, look for imagery that shows deep space and has cool colors in the distance (warm colored sunsets are more difficult to achieve deep space).

The middle ground must fit somewhere in between the foreground and the background in space. There is a lot of flexibility with the middle ground. One strategy is to use the interior or a room for the middle ground with the background seen through a window or door. This allows you to use a smaller image for the background.

Linear Perspective considerations

Size - choose images for the three grounds with size in mind. Remember objects appear smaller the farther away they are. Try to judge the depth of the image from the size of the objects in it and choose accordingly.

The foreground object will need to be large or close. The background should include an object rather than just a cloudy sky, because depth is hard to verify. The middle ground should fit in the middle.

Horizon line - Every image has a horizon line that represents the level of the camera that took the picture. The horizon lines for all the image parts in your photomontage must be on the same line. Look carefully at your images and try to find where the horizon line is. Ask yourself if you are looking up, down or straight at the scene.

Atmospheric Perspective considerations

Color - Keep the foreground bright, warm or dark in color. The background should be the coolest in color.

Contrast - Use a highly contrasting image for the foreground. As the scene goes farther back, use less and less contrast.

Be aware of a highly contrast background with a softer middle ground.

Focus - Make the foreground the sharpest in the image, the middle ground a bit less sharp and the background the duller if possible.

Detail - Use more detail in the foreground and less as the scene diminishes.

Isometric Perspective considerations

Images of mountains, landscapes, stairs, skylines, etc. can help to provide isometric perspective and usually along with another perspective.

Foreshortening considerations

Remember it is an image coming towards the picture plane rather than into the picture plane.