

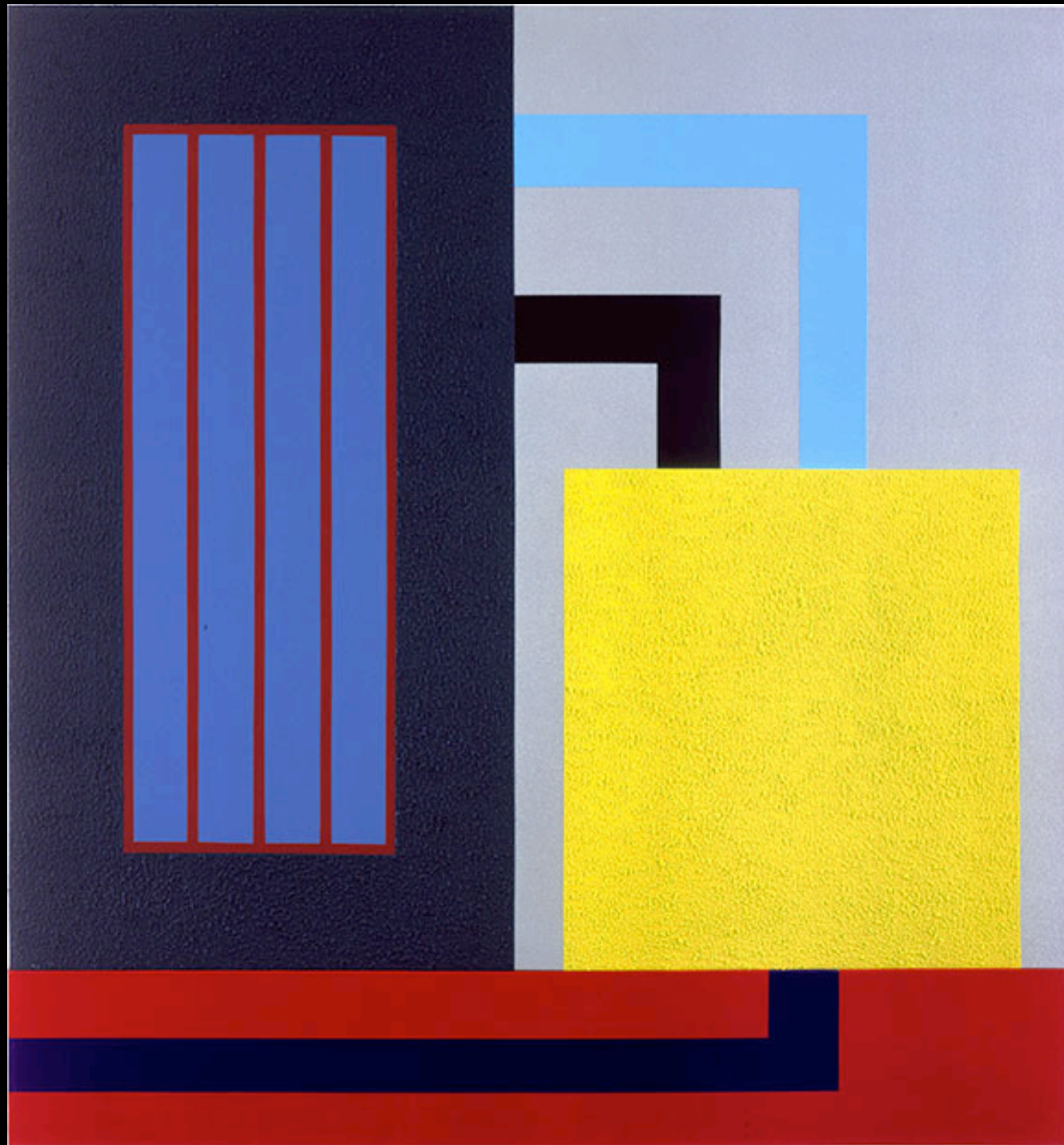
Shape

Shape

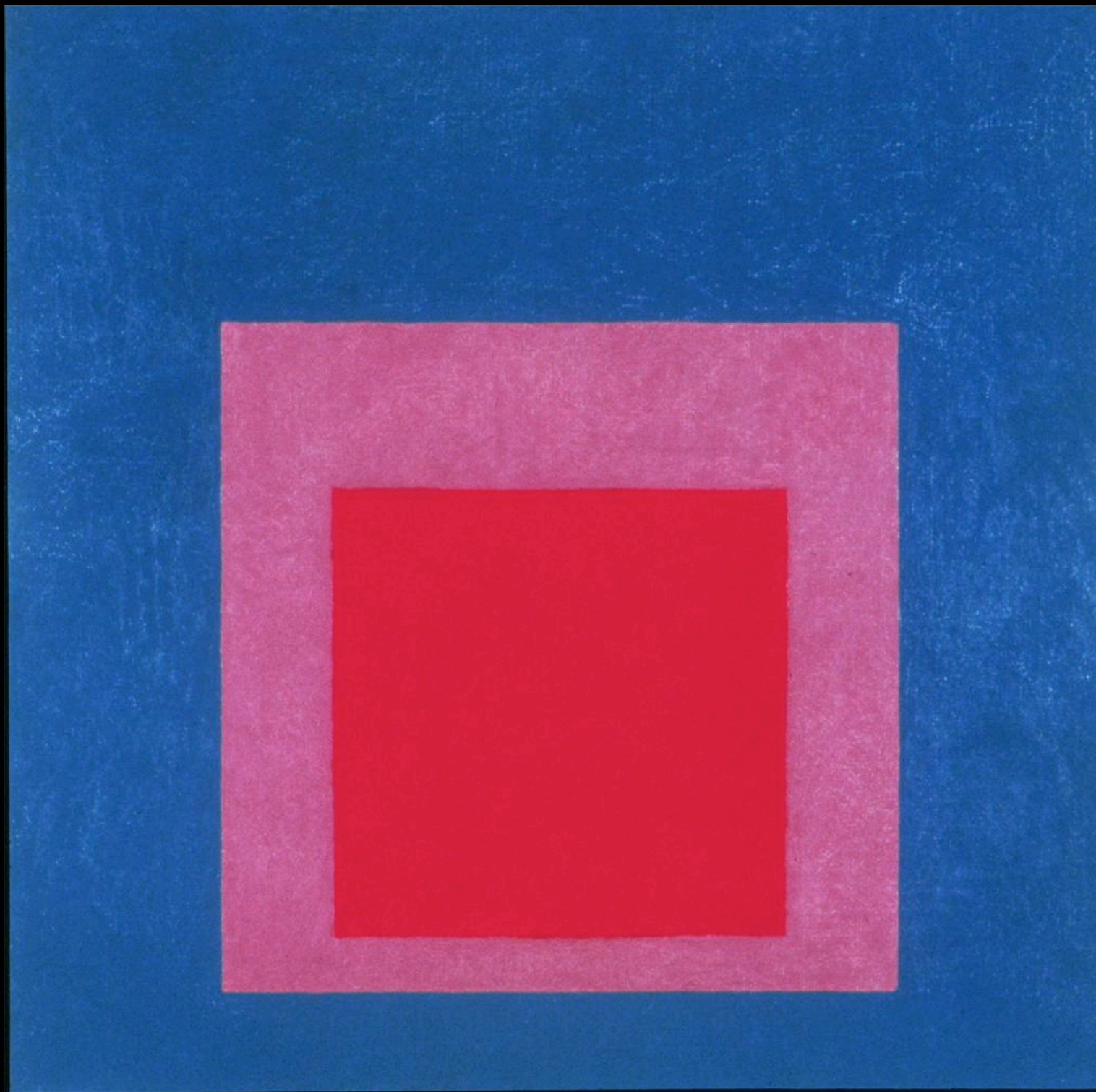
- An area that is separate from other areas and the background
- Contrast
- Actual shape - Outline (contour)
- Implied shape (connect the dots)

Mechanical/Geometric

- hard-edged
- straight lines



Peter Halley



Josef Albers

Organic

- freehand
- biomorphic
- curving lines



Jean Arp



Helen Frankenthaler



© 1995 Smithsonian Institution; Courtesy National Museum of American Art

Helen Frankenthaler

Shapes & their Relationships

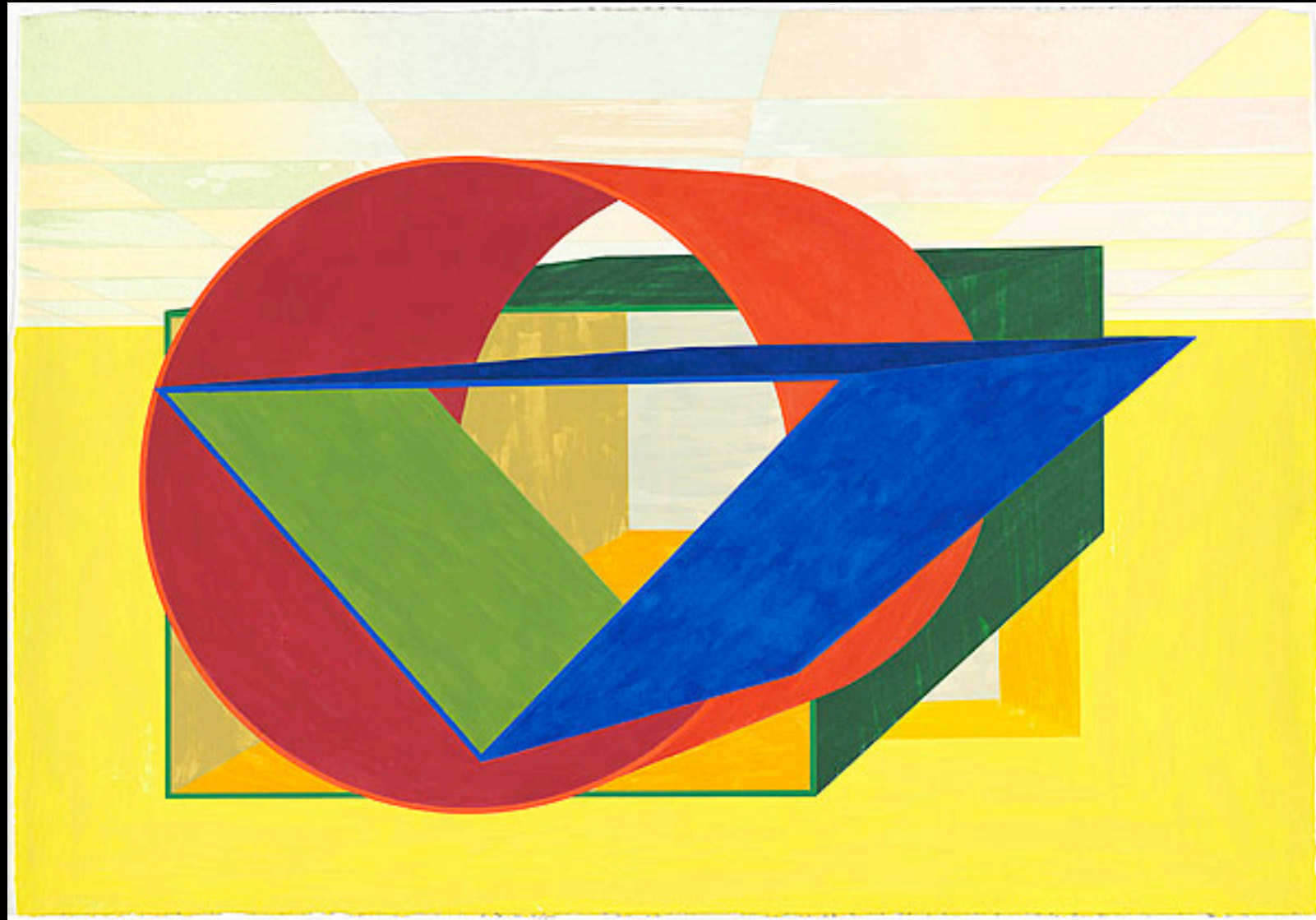
- Separate
- Touch
- Overlap
- Interconnect (Union)
- Subtract



Stuart Davis



Aaron Douglas



Al Held



Julie Mehretu

Positive/Negative Shape

- The shapes formed around the main shape(s)



George Grosz



Harunobu



Aaron Siskind

Figure/Ground

- Figure is the subject
- Ground is the background/environment



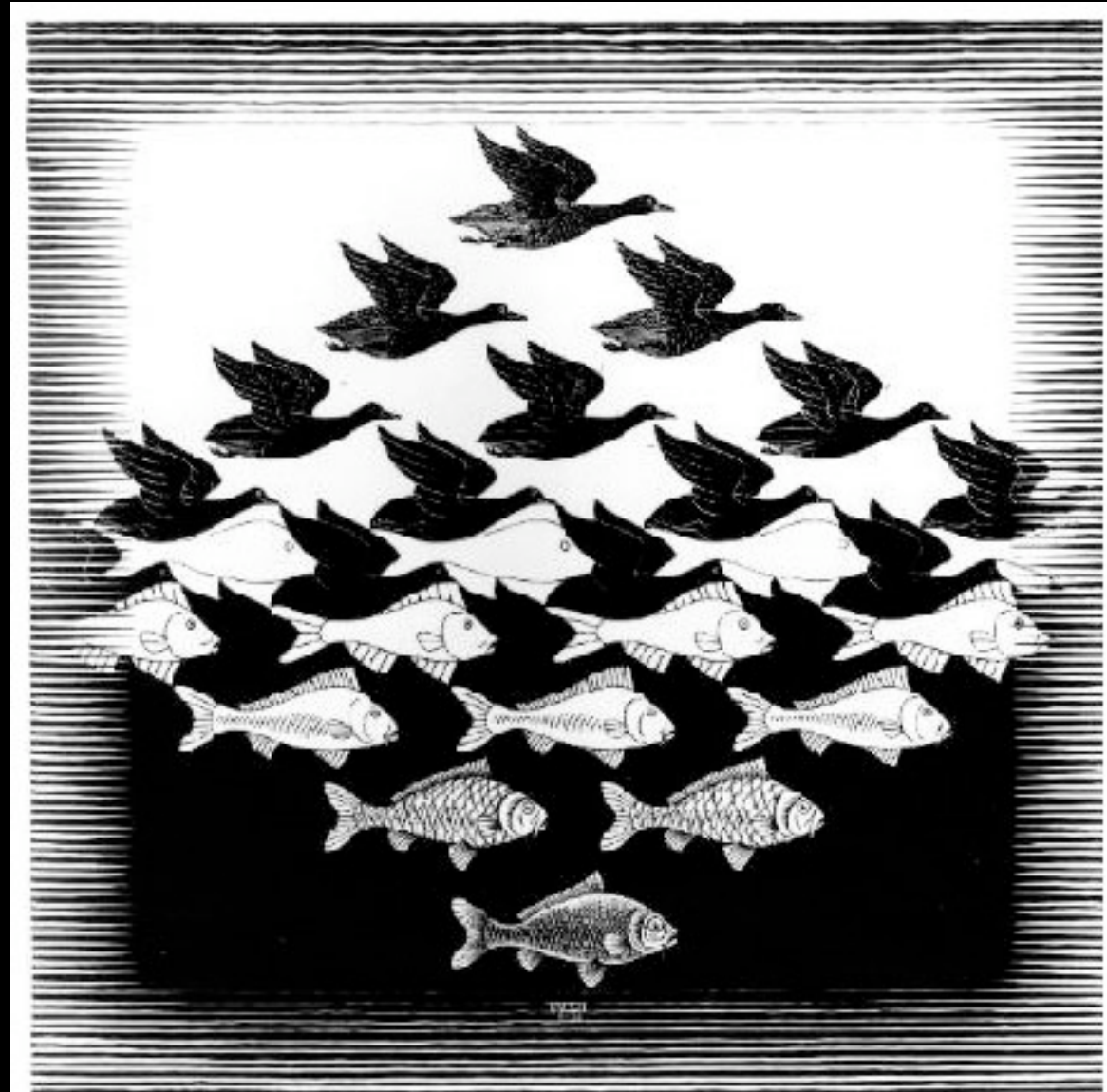
Matisse



Inka Essenhigh

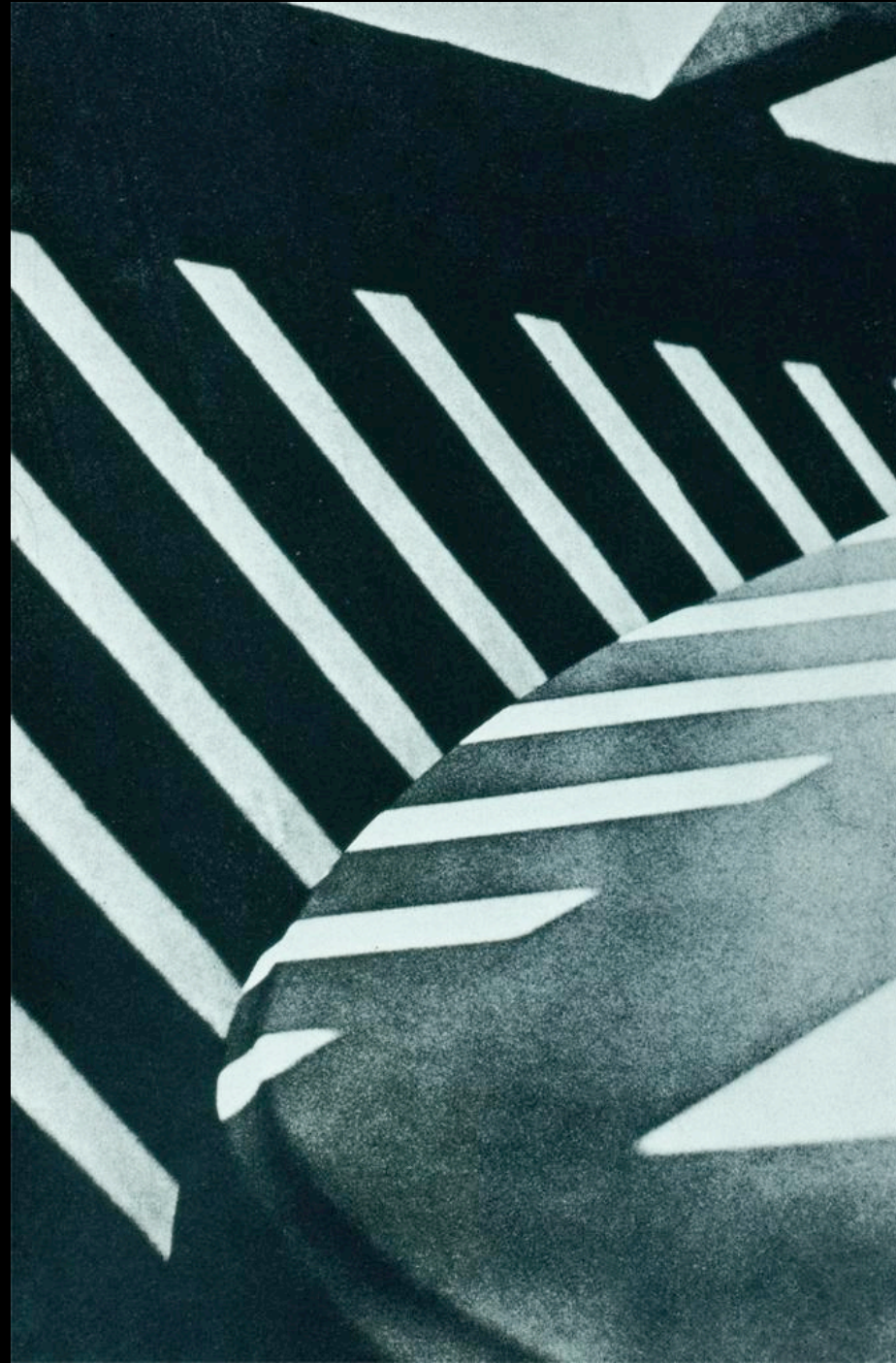
Figure/Ground Reversal

- When the relationships switch
- ambiguity



M.C. Escher: *Sky and Water I* 1938 woodcut

Figure Ground Reversal



Paul Strand



Mark Rothko

Shape Project

- Gather source material (photos, etc), do sketches
- Create a one color shape or shapes that implies a narrative
- Think about economy, only use the details that are needed to create your narrative
- Cut out your shape or shapes
- Consider how it should be presented: over another surface, as a stencil, etc.



Kara Walker



Kara Walker



Kara Walker



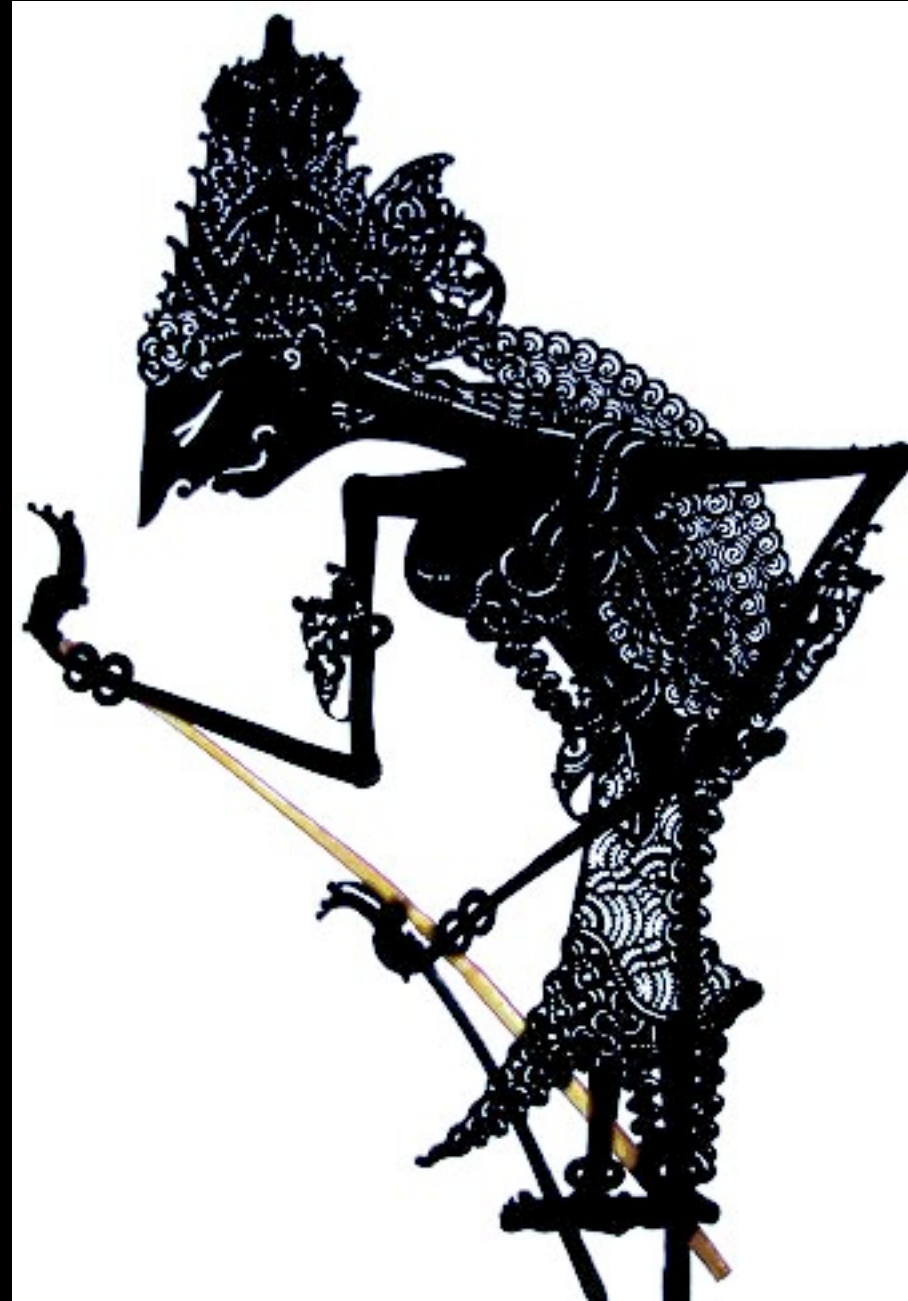
Banksy



Banksy



Cut paper - Kako Ueda



Shadow puppets



Shadow puppets