

they
make
art

Composition





*“...the art of
arranging in a
decorative manner
the diverse elements
at the painter's
command to express
his feelings.”*

– Henri Matisse, *Notes of a Painter*



Elements of Composition

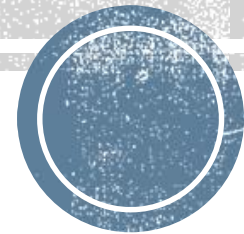
- Perspective
- Emphasis
- Balance
- Proportion & Scale
- Movement
- Pattern
- Unity & Variety



Perspective

*“Perspective is to painting what the bridle is to the horse,
the rudder to a ship.”*

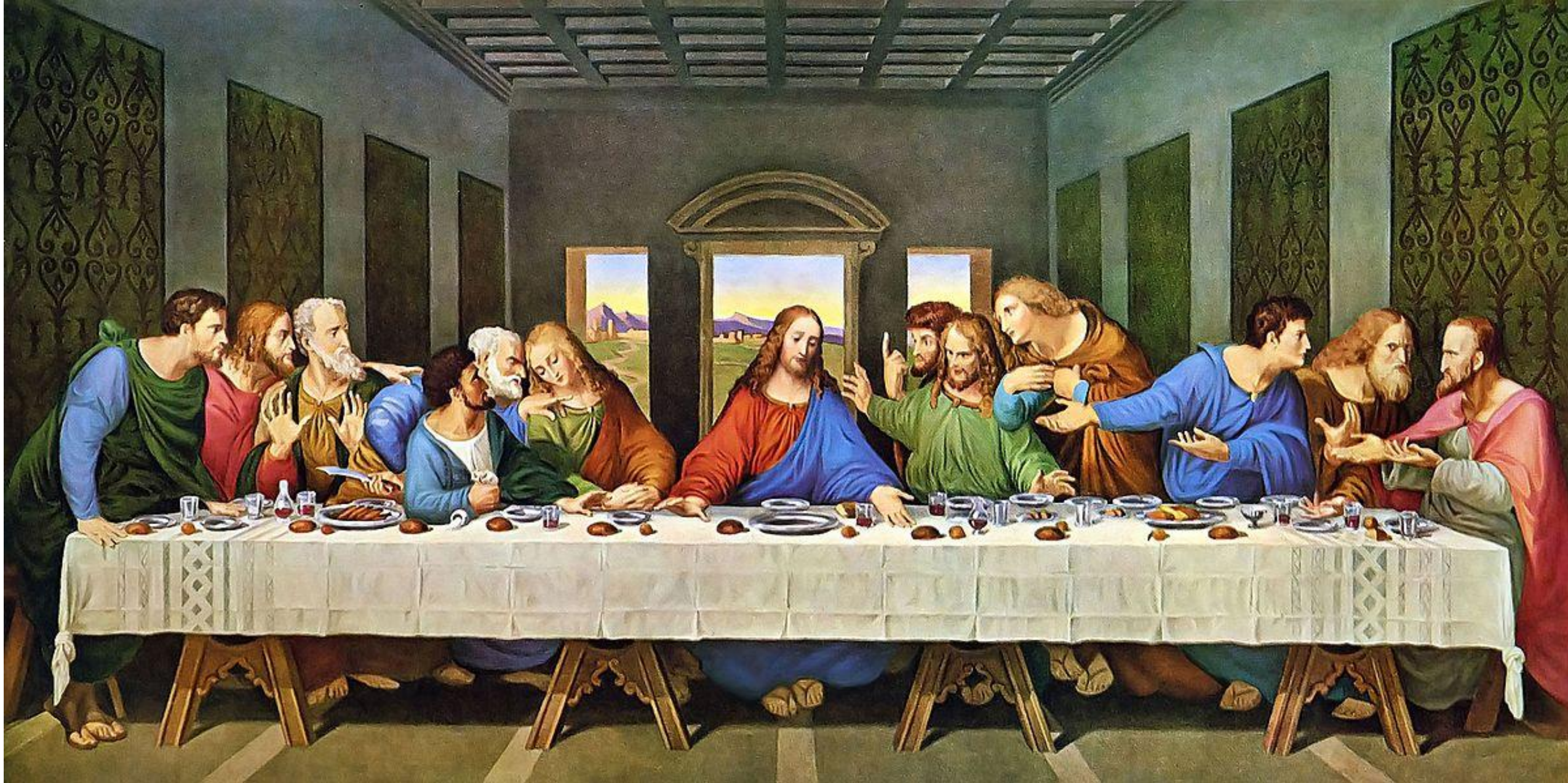
--Leonardo da Vinci



Medieval Art

- Flatter
- Limited shadows
- Viewpoint difference





Leonardo DaVinci, *Last Supper* 1520



Renaissance Art Perspective

“There are three aspects to perspective.

- The first has to do with how the size of objects seems to diminish according to distance;
- the second, the manner in which colors change the farther away they are from the eye;
- the third defines how objects ought to be finished less carefully the farther away they are.”

--Leonardo da Vinci



“Realistic” Perspective as the Artistic Norm



- Baroque (1600-1750)
 - Caravaggio
 - Rubens
 - Rembrandt
 - Vermeer
- Neoclassicism (1750-1830)
- Impressionism (1870s-1890s)
 - Renoir
 - Monet
 - Degas
- Post-impressionism (1886-1905)
 - Van Gogh
 - Gauguin
 - Seurat



And Then Came....

- Fauvism
- Expressionism
- Cubism
- Abstract Expressionism
- Surrealism
- Art Deco
- Pop Art



You Get to Decide

- Degree of Realism
- Point of View

“Once you know the rules of perspective, it is the painter's choice to use the techniques or disregard them as a matter of intelligent design and style....”

-- Coulter Watt



Emphasis



What Story Do You Want to Tell?

- What demands the most attention?
- Where is the eye naturally drawn?
- What causes the eye to rest (or stumble)?
- How do you maintain interest?



My Favourite Things (a letter from you)

- Este Macleod



Title Unknown

- Este Macleod





Balance

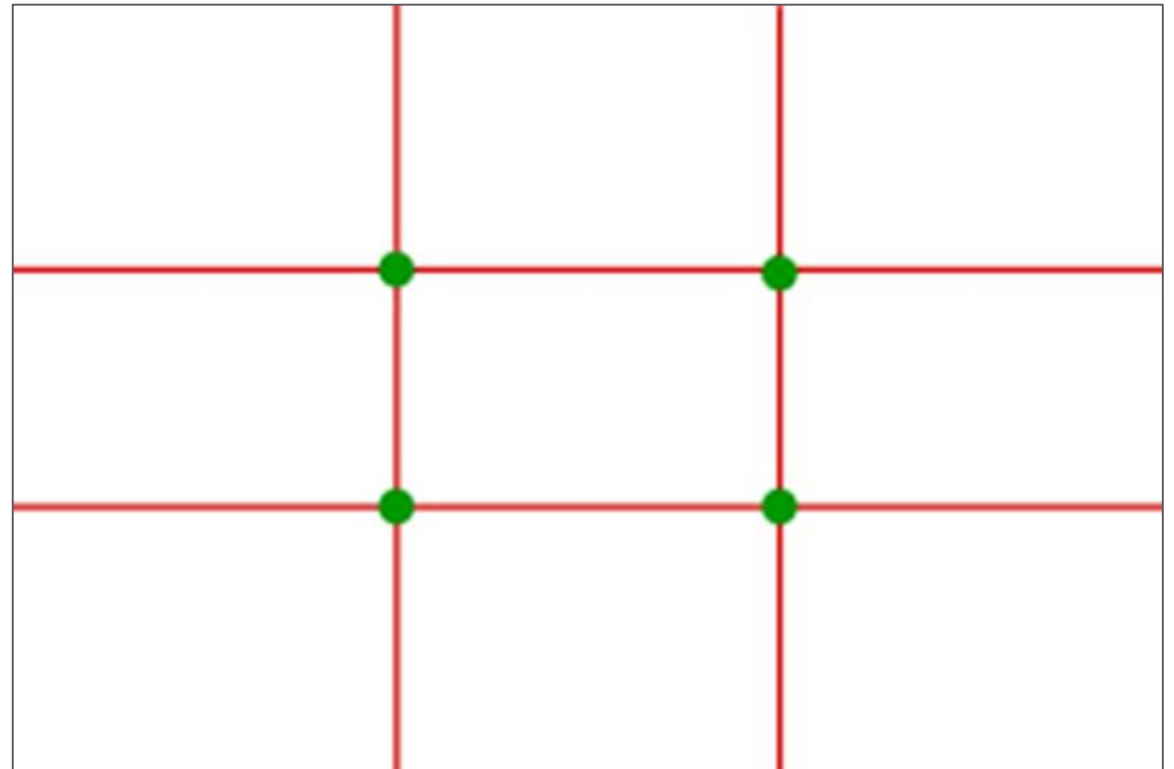


Rule of Thirds



(more of a guideline, really)

GOAL: avoid static, centered compositions



Grid over

*“Dancers Practicing
at the Bar”*

- Degas





Christina's World

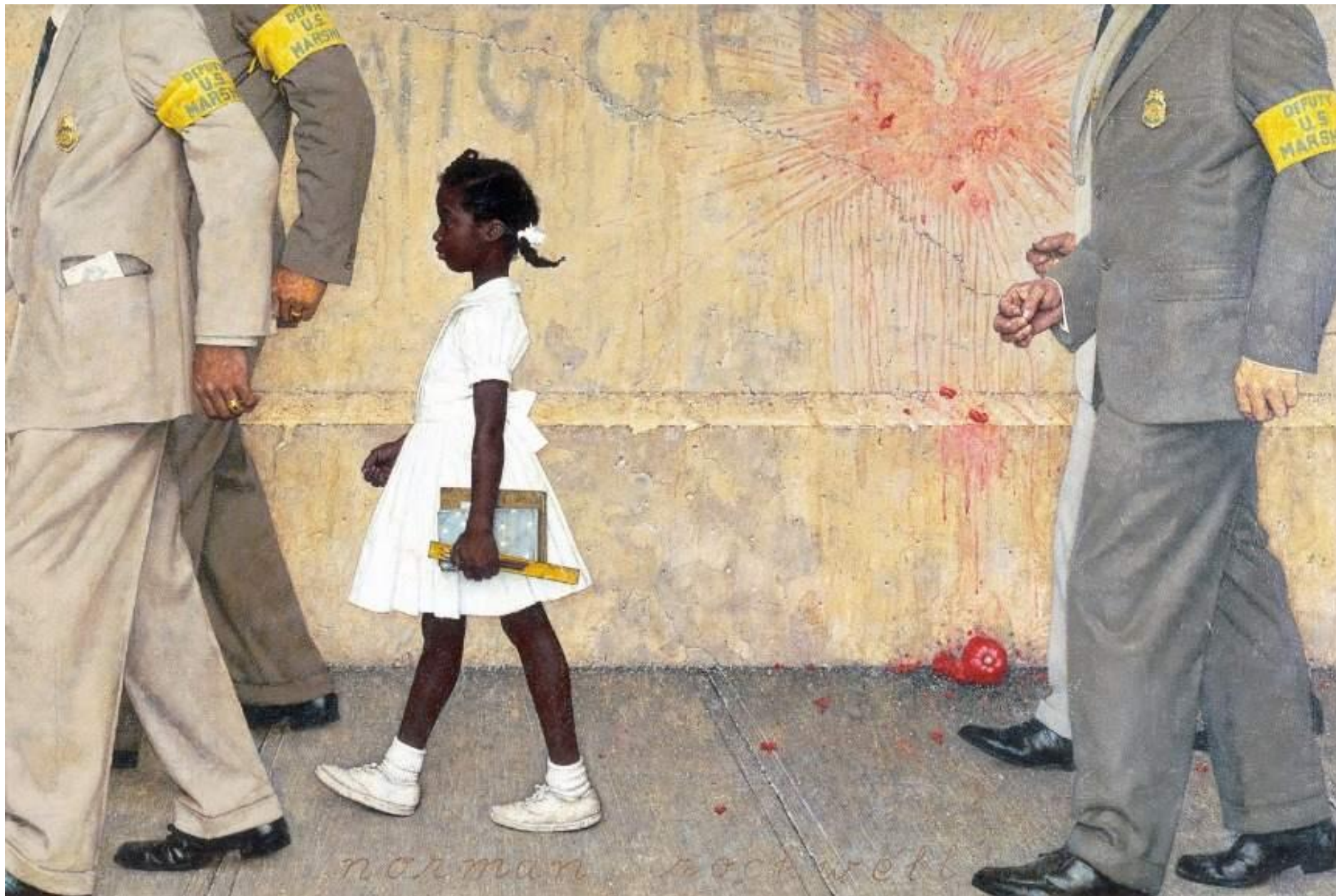
Andrew Wyeth, 1948



Rule of Odds

- Odd numbers tend to be more visually appealing
- Even numbers imply stability
- Odd numbers suggest dynamism
- Single element surrounded by an even number of elements creates a sense of emphasis (framing)





The Problem We All Live With

Norman Rockwell, 1964



Proportion & Scale



Aspect Ratio	Substrate Size
1:1	6" x 6" 12" x 12" Any size square
1:2	6" x 12" 8" x 16" 12" x 24"
2:3	2" x 3" 6" x 9" 12" x 18" 16" x 24" 20" x 30" 24" x 36"
3:4	3" x 4" 6" x 8" 9" x 12" 12" x 16" 18" x 24" 30" x 40" 36" x 48"

Aspect Ratio	Substrate Size
4:5	8" x 10" 16" x 20" 24" x 30"
6:5	10" x 12" 20" x 24"
7:5	5" x 7" 10" x 14" 20" x 28"
7:9	7" x 9" 14" x 18" 21" x 27" 28" x 36"
11:14	11" x 14" 22" x 28"

Golden Rectangle Sizes:

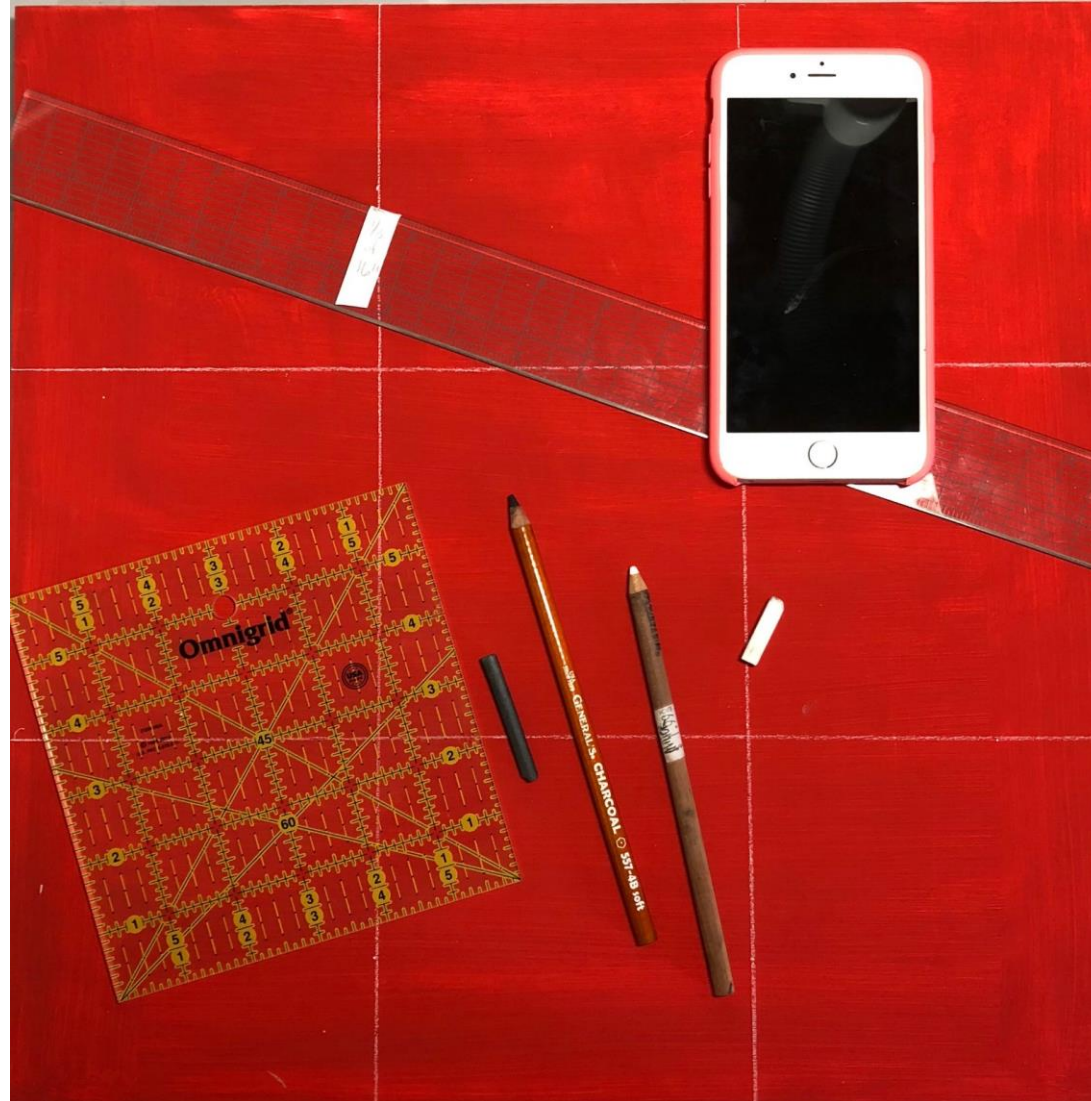
7 x 11	12 x 19	18 x 29
8 x 13	13 x 21	20 x 32
10 x 16	15 x 24	



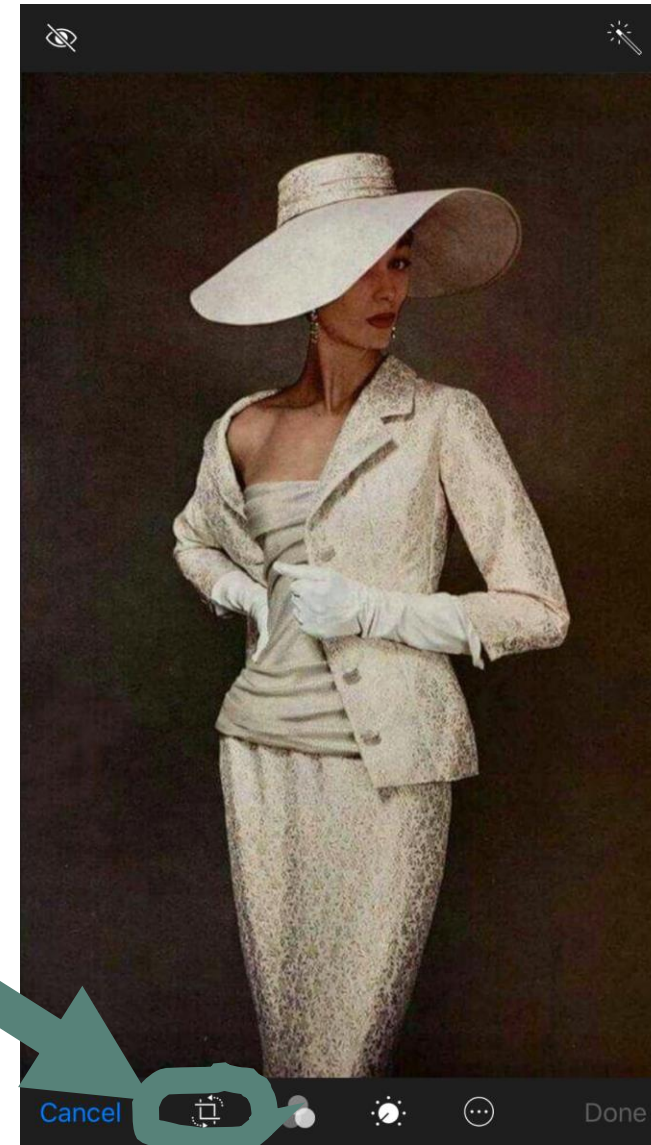
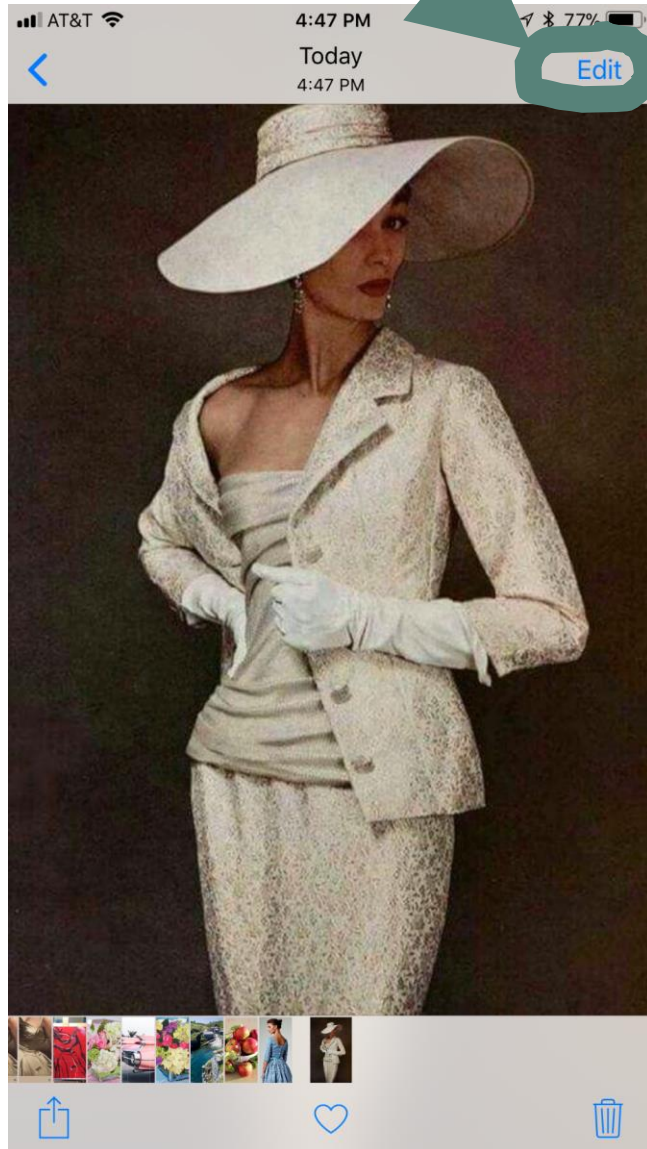


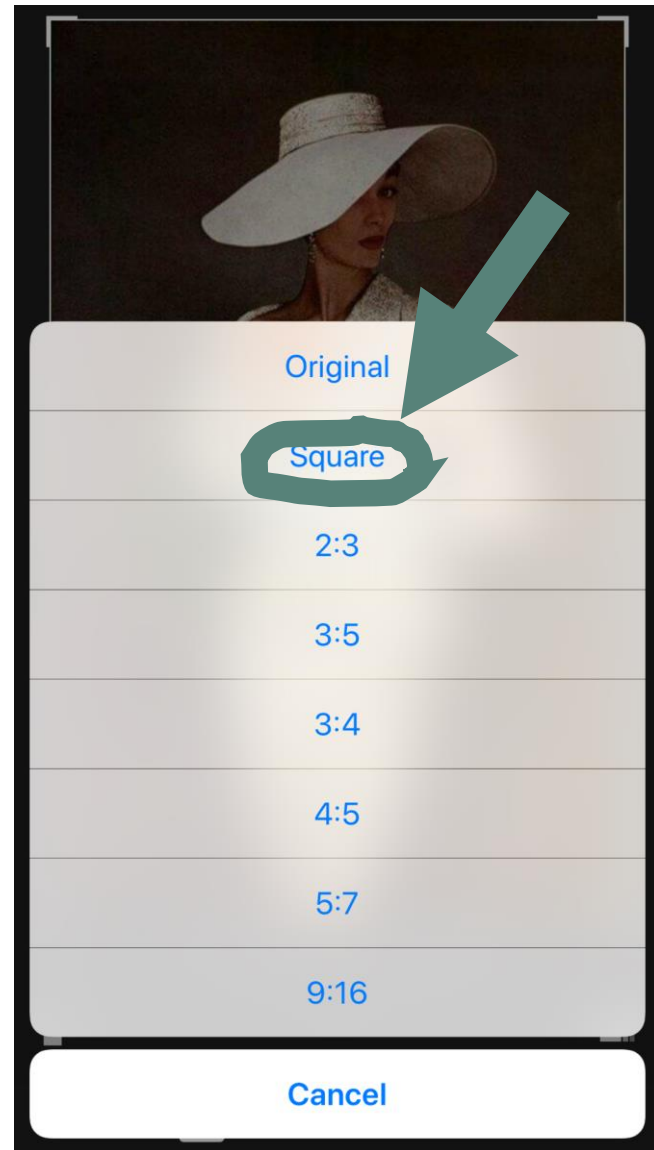
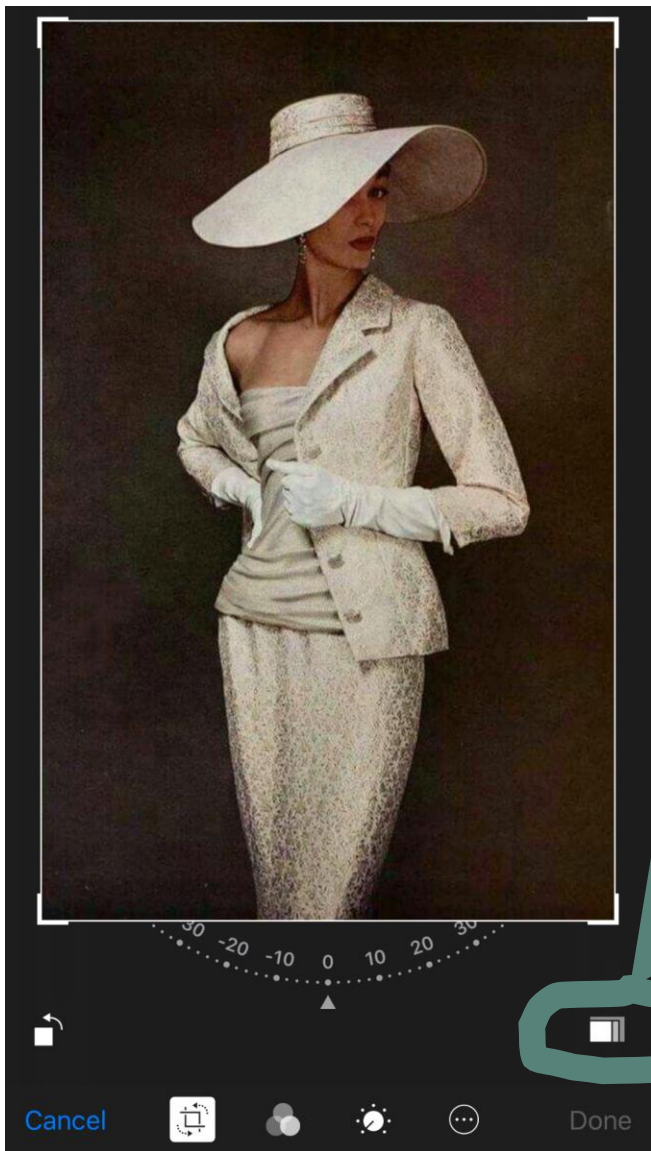
Breaking Down the Complexity

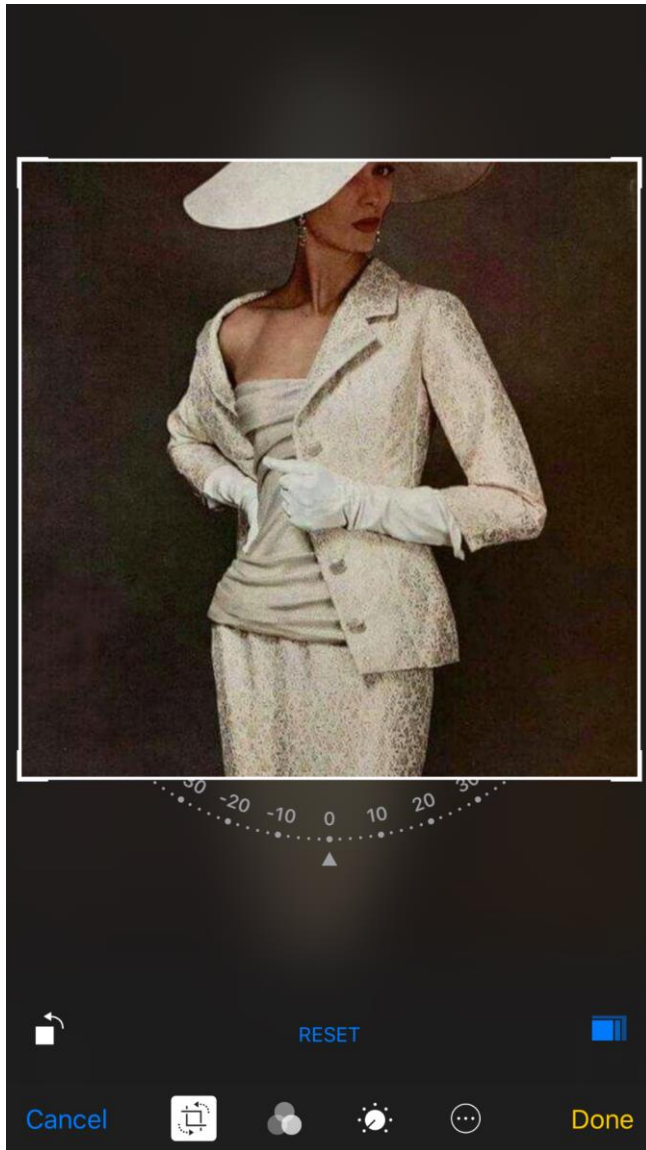
Using the Tools at
Your Disposal



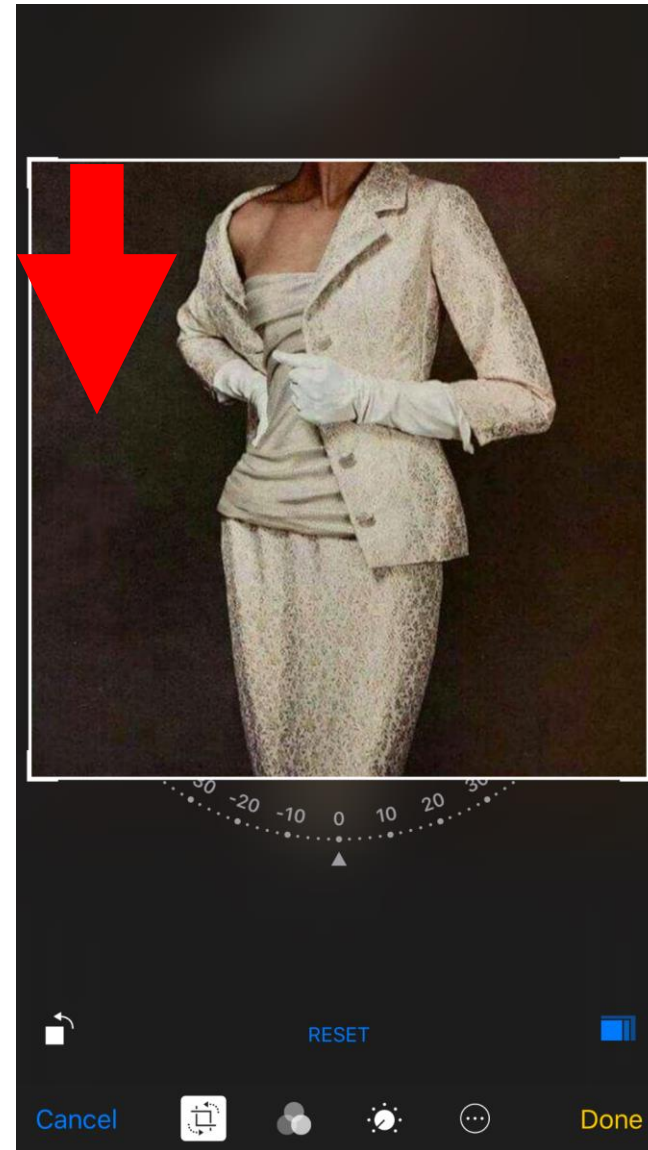
Cropping from iPhoto







Auto Placement of Crop Box



Move Crop Box to Desired View

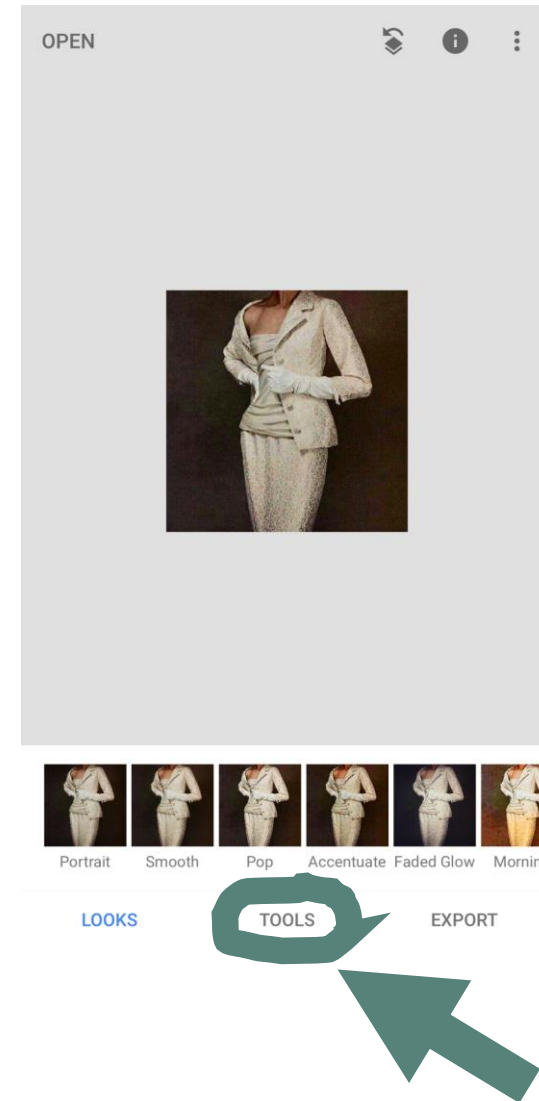
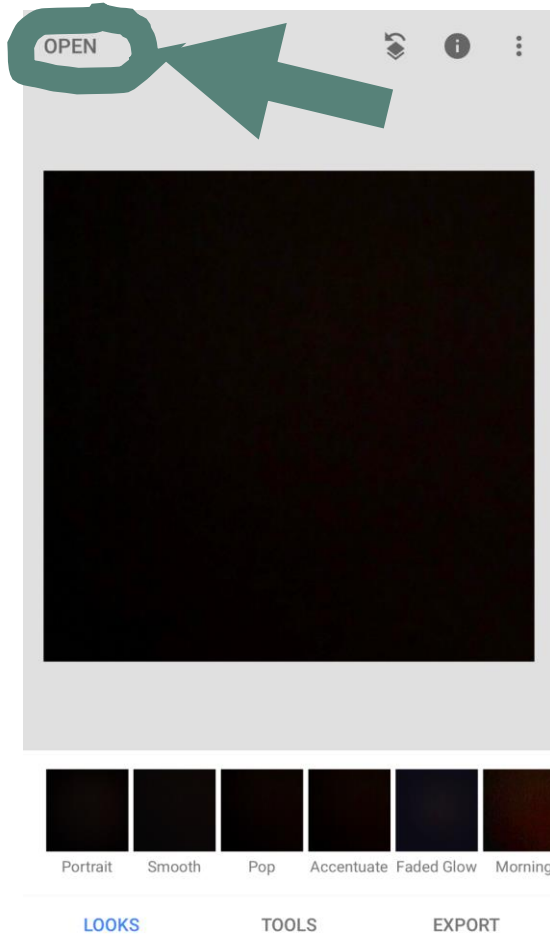




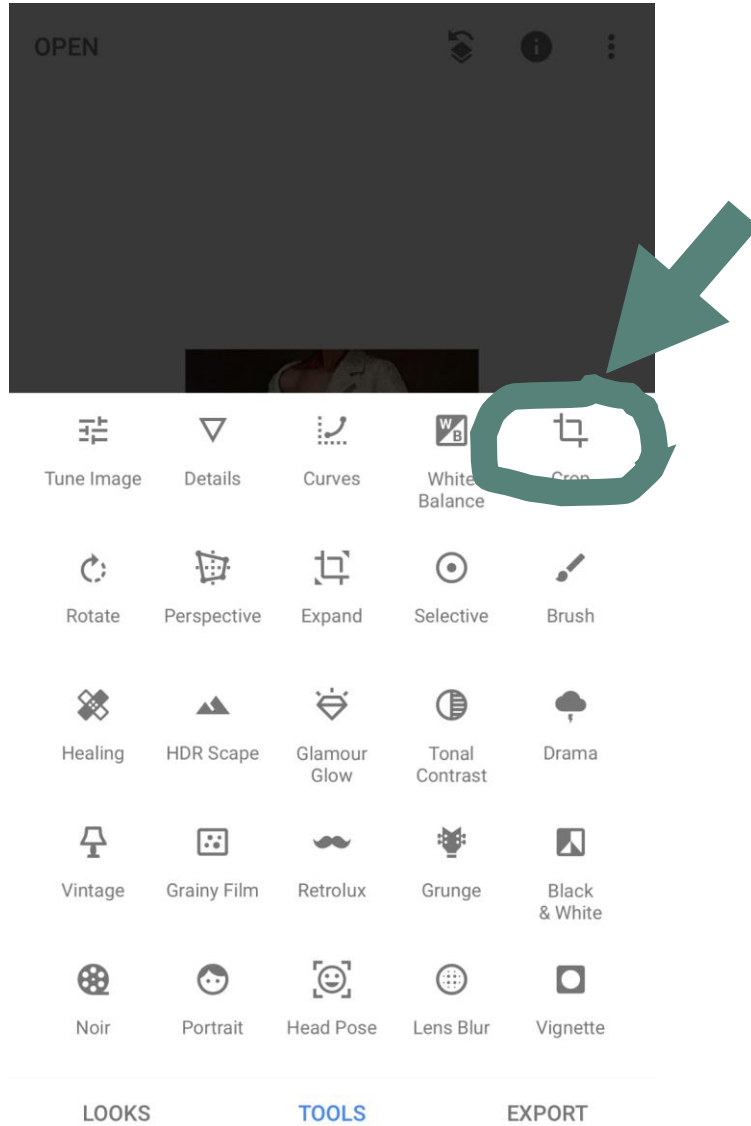
Snapseed App



Creating Grids in Snapseed

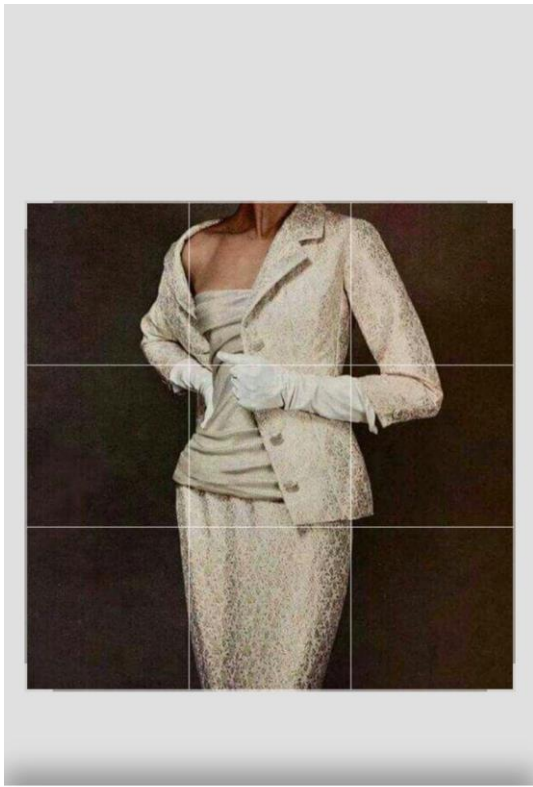


Navigate to Photo or Photo Library
(Select “From Device,” then choose Album)

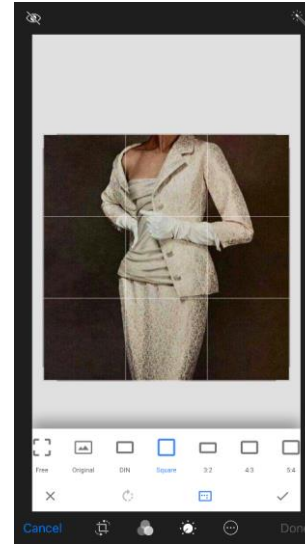


**9-frame Grid overlays image
& initially word CROP appears
in center (it goes away in a
few seconds)**





**When CROP message disappears,
take a “screen grab” photo of
the gridded image**



**Crop “screen grab”
to get to
“clean” version of the
gridded image**



Using Grid for Initial Sketch

they
make
art



Questions for Composition

- What story do I want to tell?
- Do I have the right canvas for the job?
- What is the “star”?
- Is there something that should be edited out (Coco Chanel’s accessory rule)?
- Is there something missing?
- Does the overall effect work for me?



Exercises

- The “Colorform” Exercise
 - Select a background color and lay in one or more ground colors in the 4” grid
 - Cut out elements and arrange in an interesting composition (keep in mind rule of thirds and rule of odds)
- Finding Your Painting
 - Using 6” square or 5” x 7” formats, crop “landscape” images to create a story that you might want to paint
 - Try adding (or eliminating) elements





Glass & Water



“Secrets”

- Seeing what's there (not what you expect to be there)
- Seeing through
- Noticing distortions
 - Color
 - Line/shape
- Reflections
- Taking risks





Photo: @debbierosemiller, 2019



6" x 6" oil on wood, @debbierosemiller, 2019



Photo: @debbierosemiller, 2019



8" x 8" charcoal sketch, @debbierosemiller, 2019



Photo: @debbierosemiller, 2019



8" x 8" acrylic, Patti Mollica, 2017



Photo: @brianmillerart, 2019



6" x 6" acrylic, Brian Miller, 2019



Photo: @debbierosemiller, 2019



6" x 6" oil on wood, @debbierosemiller, 2019

Some More Fun Glass Treatments



Carol Marine



Lori Mehta



Sarah Sedwick



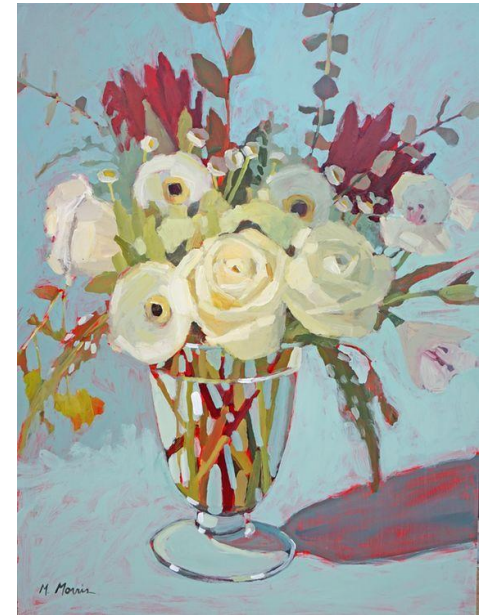
Laura Lacambra Shubert



Monica Linares



Nicholas Harding



Melanie Morris

Next Week

- Finishing & showing/selling your work
- Artist Choice for your paintings
- Bring in:
 - Still life objects that have meaning for you
 - Photos of landscapes or objects
 - Paintings that you completed in glass and/or at home during this class
- Practice all we learned about color, loosening up, value, & composition
- Gallery walk and celebration of our work to date

