The ELEMENTS DESIGN

Elements of Art

All artists have the same elements of art with which to work. They are line, shape, color, value, form, texture, and space. All the art in the world is done with one or more of these elements. If we want to make art, we need to understand these seven elements of art.



We can see the art elements in nature in this photograph. Line - in the road and the wire; Shape - of the roof, road, and trees; Color in the cool green trees and the worm. red roof; Form - of the house and trees; Texture - of the trees and road: Space - between us and the house.



Line, Shape, Color, Value





ne, Shape, Color, Sodore, Value, Space



Line

Shape

Color

Value

Form

Texture

Space



Shapes come in many types and sizes.





Every color can be bright, dull, dark, or light.





Value refers to dark and light in painting or drawing.













Texture is how a surface of something feels or looks.

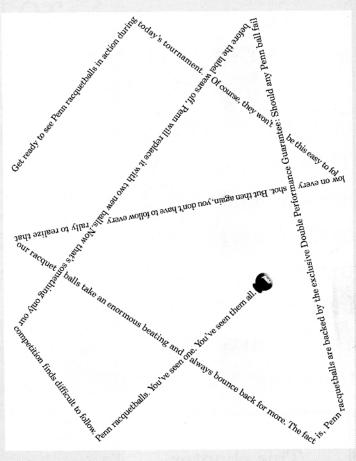


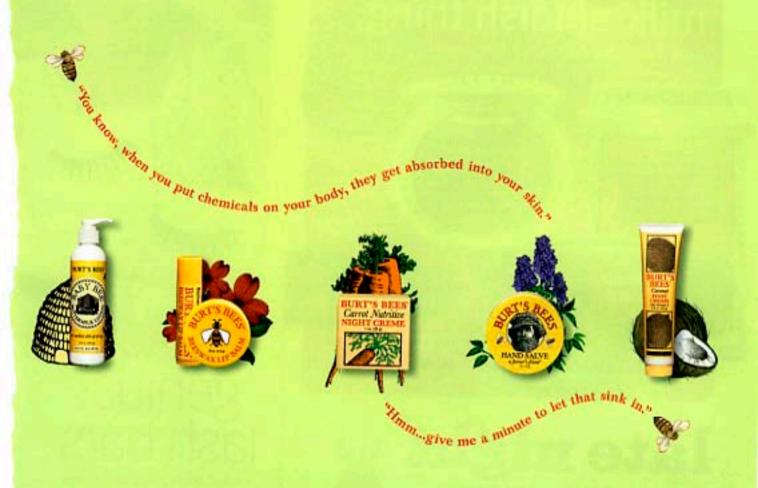




Space exists around us. We use illusions to make space in art.

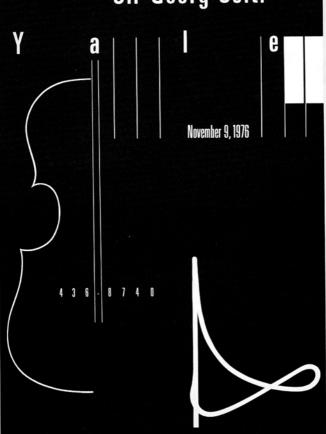
LINE





For everything from your head to your toes, Burt's Bees offers a whole line of delicious products that are every bit as natural and effective as our world famous lip balm. To try Burt's Bees natural products, make a beeline to a store near you or visit burtibees.com,

Chicago Symphony a t Sir Georg Solti



Mike Zender for The Chicago Symphony Orchestra

OND SAN ANTONIO HOUSTON . PETENDON & COMP.

ANTONIO HATS CHITER . UTER . STREET, WINDSTON BRADFORD LAWTON DESIGN GROUP, SAN ANTONIO TEN GALLONS OF TEXAS DESIGN • SEPT, 12 - DOT, 10 • JOHN HAM ON HAMBER OF THE SEPT. 12 - DOT, 10 • JOHN HAMBER OF JOHN HAMBER O

D. S. STOUT, TEXAS MONTHLY MAGAZINE, AUST.

* SIBLEY/PETET DESIGN, AUSTIN AND DESIGN

Featuring the Work of Ten # September 12 · October 10 -Main Gallery - Fox Fine Arts Center € University of Texas at El Paso >

RECEPTION For Visiting Designer

7 pm, Sept. 12, in the Main Gallery Following a Slide Lecture at 6:00 pm. Room 452, Fox Fine Arts Center.



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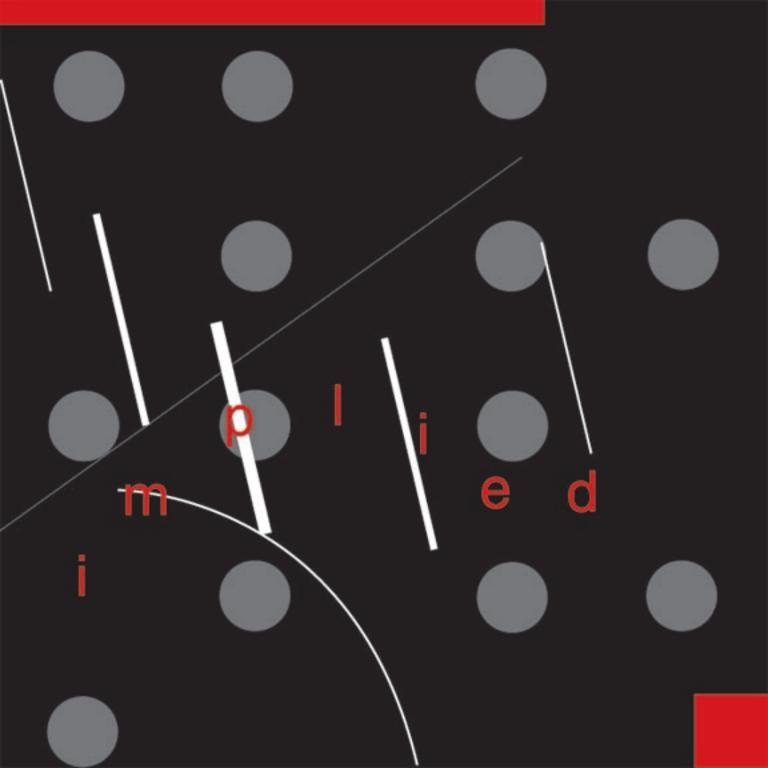
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SHAPE





HENRI

(1869-1954)

ARTIST OF CLASSICAL GREATNESS

Matisse is an artist of classical greatness, and his visionary forays into new art have changed our understanding of the world. His artistic career was long and varied, covering many different styles of painting from Impressionism to near Abstraction.

Matisse moved into a period of selfless invention. In the last phase, too weak to stand at an easel, he created his paper-cuts, carving in colored paper, scissoring out shapes, and collaging them into sometimes

vast pictures. These works, daringly brilliant, are the nearest he ever came to abstraction. Its geometric rightness and chromatic radiance sum up the two great gifts of this artist and it is easy to see why he is the greatest. He understood how elements worked together, how colors and shapes could come to life most startingly when set in context: everything of Matisse's works together superbly.

(www.ibiblio.org)



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Gill Sans Sans Serif (Humanistic)

1927

Eric Gill

Gill Sans was issued by Monotype. Gill studied under the calligrapher and stonemason, Edward Johnston, at the Central School in London, therefore it comes as no surprise that Gill Sans is based on his teach-

ers typeface for London Underground. Due to it's legibility and its 'Britishness', Gill Sans has been adopted by many companies and organizations as their corporate typeface. (www.markboulton.co.uk)



SPETEMA

For All Senses.

WORST GIFT/BEST GIFT

THE RELAT IVES ARRI VED AT OUR HOUSE, I WAS ONLY TOO HAPPY TO ESCORT THEIR PACKAGES TO THE TREE WHERE I HAD ALREADY SECTIONED GIFTS ACCORDING TO NAME, AGE, AND FAMI LY RELATION, WHEN SOME ONE FINALLY GAVE THE OKAY TO OPEN PRESENTS, THERE WAS HO CONTROLLING ME. I GRASSED THE BIGGEST PACKAGE AND STARTED RIPPING. SUDDENLY I STOPPED. INSIDE WAS A BABY WET-N-WIPE. ONLY THEN DID CHECK THE NAME TAG ON THE PRESENT: "TO RENEE. " MY BROTHER ROLLED ON THE FLOOR, DYING OF LAUGHTER; MY RELATIVES SMILED IN AMUSEMENT, I

AS

HAVE LEARNED THAT IT IS QANGEROUS TO ASSUME
THAT THE BIGGEST AND BEST FACE AGE IS ALWAYS FOR YOU.
LOFUS KIDS A PRESENT. SHE DID ALL BEST

MY GREAT AUNT OLIVE NEVER MISSED
GIVING ALL OF US RISS APREEMY. SHE DID ALL RIGHT,
USUALLY, CONSIDERING THERE WERE 90 OF US. BUT
SOMETIMES SHE GOT CONFUSED. ONE YEAR?
RECEIVED GIRLS TIGHTS (THE WRONG)
STEE, EVEN.).
STEE, EVEN.).

I TAY TO STAY AWAY FROM THE

I CONCEPT OF BEST AND WORST; DON'T LIKE FEELING THAT

EVERTHING IS BEING GRADED ON SOME COSMIC

REPORT CARD. (HOWEVER, THE YACUFORM WAS A HIGHLERIT.)



Altared States

April

There are times when magazine editors strive-struggle, even-to link stories thematically in some kind of razzmatazz special issue. And then there are times when, completely inadvertently, a thread appears to weave through several pieces, sewing the issue together in a satisfyingly subtle way. Such is the case with this month's W in which contemporary personalities as absurdly disparate as reality-TV phenom Jessica Simpson and French celebrity intellectual Bernard-Henri Lévy offer their thoughts on love and marriage.

You'd have to have been in an extended media blackout not to know that Simpson has split from her husband, Nick Lachey, with whom she rocketed to fame by inviting millions of TV viewers into their living room. on Newlyweds. In an interview with Senior Editor Whitney McNally, Simpson claims she still talks to Lachey (amicably) every few days, but she says she is at ease with her decision to leave him. "When you walk away from something and there's no gravitational pull," she tells McNally, "then you know you're doing the right thing,"

Much of Simpson's relationship with Lachey feels quaintly old school: They started dating when she was only 18; they married when she was barely in her 20s, Before Simpson takes the plunge again, she may want to heed the advice of the lauded British actress Helen Mirren, who, though 35 years her senior, has followed a far more self-reliant path. In her youth she enjoyed a series of romantic liaisons. She has now been involved with director Taylor Hackford for 20 years, but they did not marry until 1997, and then primarily for estateplanning purposes. "I really, really recommend not marrying for 20 years," Mirren tells West Coast Editor Kevin West, "I still don't quite understand why anyone gets married anyway."

From the tenor of his interview with Features Director James Reginato, it would seem that the novelist Edmund White is squarely in Mirror's camp. In his new memoir, My Lines, White, an early proponent of gay liberation, writes freely of his many, many sexual conquests, claiming to have had 100 men by the ripe old age of 16. "Tve always had nice relationships with hustlers, many of them long-sustained," he tells Reginato. "They're usually good listeners. I think you often feel happier after a session with a hustler than after a session with a shrink. And after a certain age, you sort of need to pay for it in one way or another." It's easy to detect a note of misogyny as White wistfully recalls the Seventies, when gay men had relationships with no pretense of monogamy. He can't quite understand some gay men's urge to marry, remain faithful and even raise children together these days. "Now it seems that an awful lot of men have been colonized by female culture," he complains.

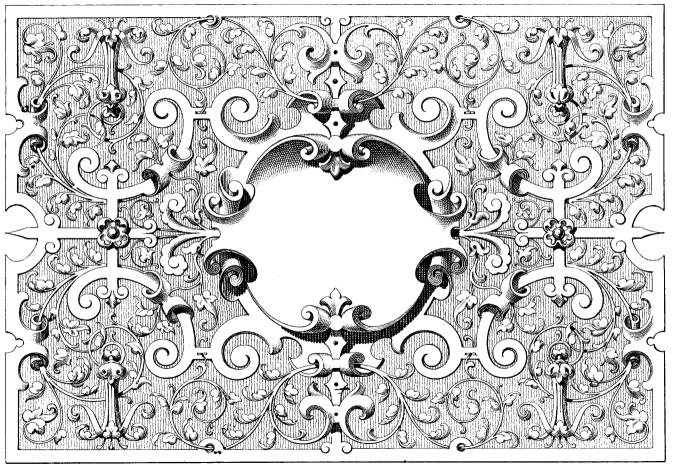
Lévy, long noted for his love of beautiful women as well as for his unique philosopher-activist persona, might argue that colonization isn't so bad after all. He claims to have been "thunderstruck" upon meeting his current wife. French actress-singer Arielle Dombasle. (She, meanwhile, had already fallen in love with his book-jacket photo, the way stalkers do.) Their mutual passion, Reginato reports from their new villa in Tangier, is palpable.

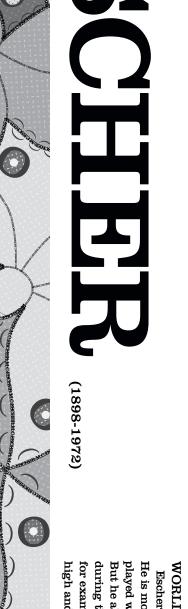
In yet two more pieces touching on the institution of marriage, Reginato attends the glamorous Argentine nuptials of polo star Nacho Figueras and Delfina Blaquier (who actually wed at city hall three years ago, between the births of their two children), and Jewelry News Editor Alison Burwell examines the curious phenomenon of Hollywood's leading ladies marrying country singers, motorcycle mechanics and the like. "Marrying down is the way to get somebody hot," social wit Simon Doonan tells Burwell. "If you marry up, you might end up with a husband who looks like Shrek." Not exactly a fairy-tale ending. -JULIE L. BELCOVE



TEXTURE







ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz1234567890(.,;; Clarendon Slab Serif Robert Besley

A square serif is b Originat

ACKSON

(1912-1956)

Jackson and dripp it with `s an admix

an admix of Action that it was sion or re

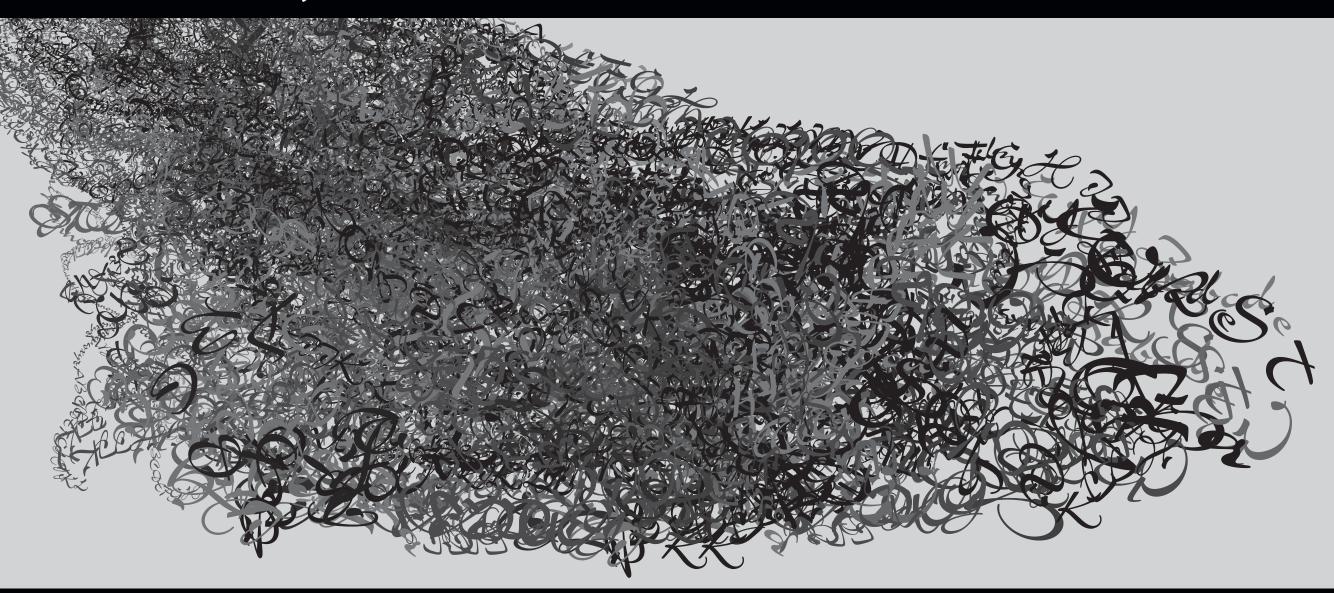
Old Style

Lynda Benglis (1941-)

Highly Visible Sculptor

Known for her exploration of metaphorical, biomorphic shapes, Benglis has balanced abstraction with content and gesture with mass, creating a diverse body of work known for its formal and innovative qualities. She is deeply concerned with the physicality of form and how it affects the viewer, and she uses a wide range of materials to render iconographic

impressions of mass and surface. Though essentially abstract, the sculptures simultaneously suggest an image of contemplation and physical power. She has also worked extensively in video and has experimented with printmaking, cast paper, painting, drawing, and ceramics.
(1555-toomey-tourell.com & 6555-tandempress.6isc.edu)



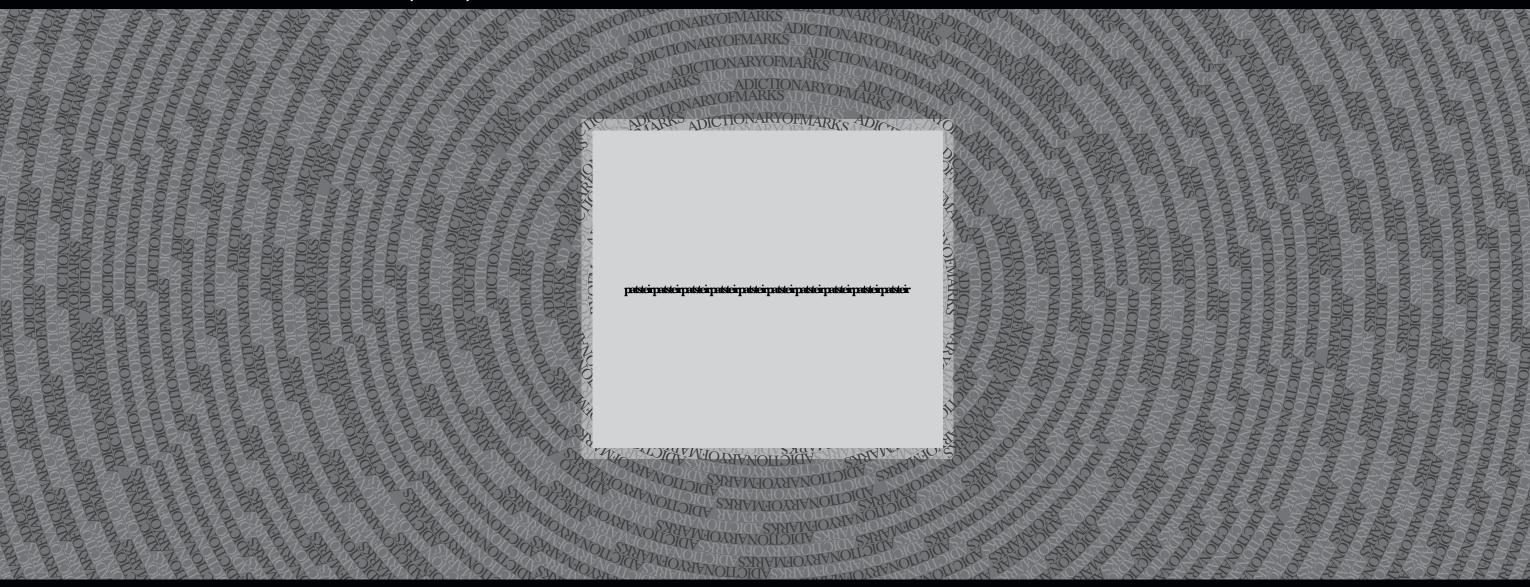
PAT SIELL (1940-

ART OF ICONOGRAPHY

Painter, printmaker Steir is a painter and draftsman of words, letters, signs and symbolic marks, drips and spills applied to paper and canvas. She, who now lives in New York City and Amsterdam, was born Iris Patricia Sukoneck in New Jersey. Immersed in a study of the arts and philosophy as a girl, She continued her interests at Boston University and Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, studying lithography and etching from 19 (showing 500 of 2767 characters).

In a series of six works Drawing Lesson, Part I, Line #1, Steir has created what she calls "a dictionary of marks," derived from the way in which artists whom she admires employ line. Each pair of works represents a particular intellectual, emotional, or expressive quality of line. One pair refers to the work of Rembrandt. The center square of her piece is a sort of "blow-up" of Rembrandt's basic line.

(Sayre, Henry M. A World of Art. & www.askart.com)



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Baskerville Transitional

John Baskerville 1757

Baskerville was originally created in England for setting books such as quarto edition of Vergil. His type face introduced the modern, pseudoclassical style, with level serifs and with emphasis on the contrast of

light and heavy lines. Books printed by Baskerville are typically large, with wide margins, made with excellent paper and ink. His masterpiece was a folio Bible, published in 1763.



SPACE



NEW YORK ASPEN BAL HARBOUR BEVERLY HILLS SOUTH COAST PLAZA HOUSTON AMERICANA MANHASSET SHORT HILLS LAS VEGAS ALA MOANA CENTER ROYAL HAWAIIAN SHOPPING CENTER SHOPS AT WAILEA





1951-)

VIDEO ARTIST

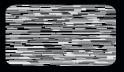
Hill is one of the most important contemporary artists investigating the relationships between words and electronic images—an inquiry that has dominated the video art of the past decade. Originally trained as a sculptor, he began working in video in 1973. He has produced a major body of single-channel videotapes and video installations that includes some of the most significant works in the field of video art. His first tapes explored formal properties

of the emerging medium, particularly through integral conjunctions of electronic visual and audio elements. The exploration would give way to thoroughly unique investigations of linguistics and consciousness—including the empirical inquiries of Why Do Things Get in a Muddle? (Come on Petunia), URA ARU (the backside exists), and Incidence of Catastrophe—offering resonant articulations of philosophical and poetic insights.



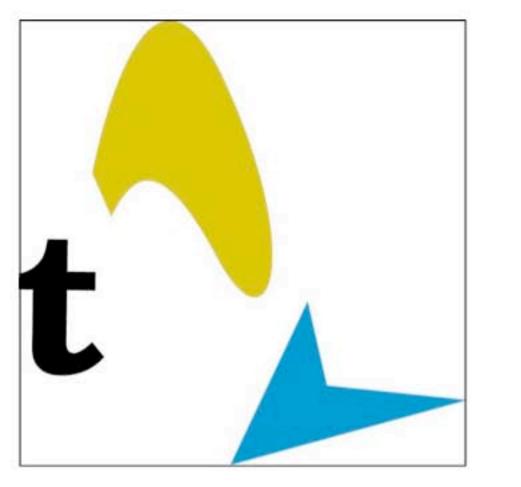


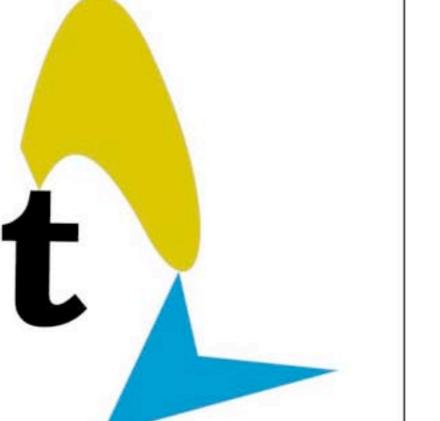


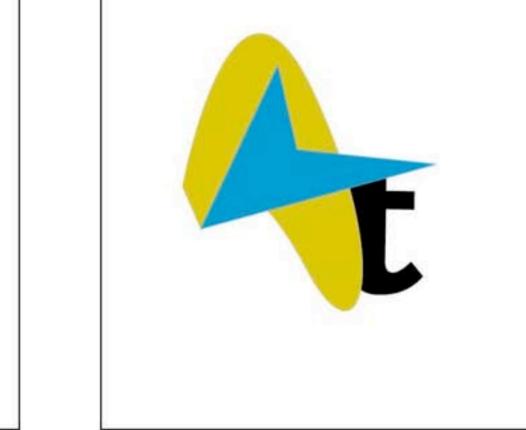


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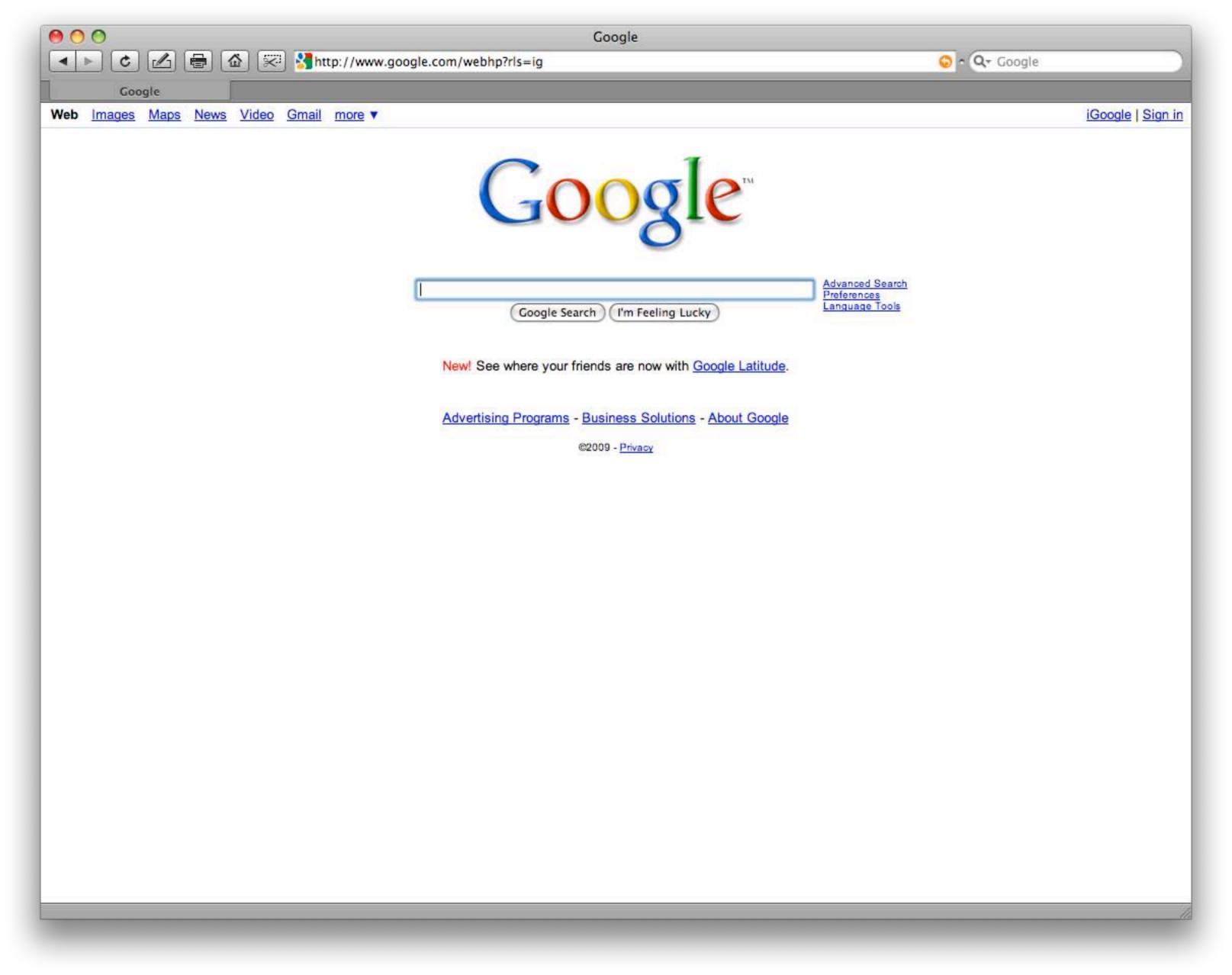






Ground







The ultingrids Grid System

The ultimate resource in grid systems.

"The grid system is an aid, not a guarantee. It permits a number of possible uses and each designer can look for a solution appropriate to his personal style. But one must learn how to use the grid; it is an art that requires practice. " Josef Müller-Brockmann



Join The Forum

Search

Articles

Applying Mathematics to Web Design

Because of its beautiful nature, mathematics has been a part of art and architectural design for ages. But it has not been exploited much for website design. 02.Mar.2010

Tools

#grid

A tool that inserts a layout grid in web pages, allows you to hold it in place, and toggle between displaying it in the foreground or background. 02.Mar.2010

Books

Universal Principles of Design

Universal Principles of Design is the first comprehensive, cross-disciplinary encyclopedia of design. 04.Nov.2009

Templates

The Golden **Grid Template**

A PSD template based on the CSS framework The Golden Grid by Vladimir Carrer.

Blog

Grid **Based Designs**

A gallery showcasing some of the world's best websites designed based on a grid.

02.Mar.2010

Mystery of Golden Ratio Explained

The Egyptians supposedly used it to guide the construction the Pyramids. The architecture of ancient Athens is thought to have been based on it. 02.Mar.2010

Fluid 960 Grid System

A jQuery based fluid grid system template based on Nathan Smith's 960 Grid System. Allows multiple layouts including 12 or 16 fluid columns and 12 or 16 fixed columns.

Designing for the Web

A Practical Guide to Designing for the Web has written explanations of the core principles of graphic design in relation to the web. 08.Oct.2009

Photoshop 4 Column Grid

02.Mar.2010

A free 4 Column Photoshop grid template for a 1024×768 screen resolution by Ray Gulick. 08.Jun.2009

InDesign 568x792

By Dario Galvagno. Adobe

Grid System (12)

InDesign file with a grid

divided into 12 columns

Golden Ratio. Includes a

system for a 568pts x

792pts page that is

and rows using the

Buy Slammer = Help Haiti

The grid-generating app Slammer is part of the Indie+Relief initiative. Buy it and all proceeds from today (01/20) will be donated to Haiti.

20.Jan.2010

Eternal Network

Lovely minimal grid based site design that's reminiscent of old computer paper.

Inspiration

Ace Jet 170 **AisleOne Athletics** BBDK Blanka Build Corporate Risk Watch Counter Print David Airey Design Assembly **Dirty Mouse** Experimental Jetset Form Fifty Five **Grafik Magazine Grain Edit** Graphic Hug I Love Typography Lamosca Mark Boulton **Minimal Sites** Monocle Neubau NewWork OK-RM Original Linkage Robin Uleman SampsonMay Schmid Today September Industry Soulellis Subtraction Swiss Legacy The International Office

The Golden Proportion

The golden section-a precise way of dividing a line, music or anything else-is showed up early in mathematics.

06.Jan.2010

Masonry

06.Jan.2010

Masonry is a layout plugin for jQuery that arranges elements vertically then horizontally according to a grid. 06.Jan.2010

The Way of Typography

View All Books →

The book also goes into depth on how to create grid systems by hand with only pencil, straightedge and compass. 18.Sep.2009

12pt baseline grid.

16.Apr.2009

View All Templates →

06.Jan.2010

View All Articles →

View All Tools →

View All Blog Posts →

Thinking for a Living This Studio Toko Typographic Posters Visuelle Xavier Encinas

Year of the Sheep

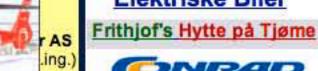
Mikro Farge- Hus-Alarm Robot Kamera Kamera sett | m/nr. sender med Wi-Fi til PC kr. 799,- O kr. 2999,- 0 kr. 499,-Hobby



Trådløs Skype-tel. Solcelle-Ryggsekk

RC Tiger & Leopard-Tank 53 cm lang. Skyter Kuler 30m RC Jagerfly (131 cm) nnfellbare Hjul. El. Jetmotor fra kr. 1998,-









RC Produkter Forbruker Elektronikk



Elektrisk Hummer-Jeep kr. 3.498,- 0

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Elektronikk Astronomi Leksikon: **Fysikknet** Norsk Eng. Universet Fri-program1 2

VTOL plattform (WASP)

(VTOL = Vertical Take Off & Landing). Fart: 100 km/t Høyde: 3000 m Video-1 Flytid: 2 timer Video-2 Kan leveres med: Flytepontooner & Link-A Rakettdreven-Fallskjerm. Link-B

Pris ca. kr. 298.000,-



Elektronikk

Digital-TV mottaker



Disko-Lys

RC mega-Truck

100 cm lang.

4WD. 8 ch

kr. 598,- 0



Translator











Figurer

med el. Jetmotor. 1 m Star Wars lang kr. 999

Sykkel-PC Togbane (til PC) raktor (elektrisk TV-Ur & Armb. Ur Walkie Talk

16 cm lang

Hobby

Mini (4ch) Helikopter Søk i ARNGREN kr. 999,- 0

Bilde-Akvarium & o for PC & TV. Se Gratis o

levende Fisker kr. 2998 - NRK 1,2,3 & TV-2 998,-



m/ Innfellbare-Hjul & Lys

T-Rex 450SE V2 (8 ch)

kr. 9.998,- O Video

Helikopter 0

RC Fiskebåt med Fish-Finder

100 cm lang



Hobby

999,- 0 (40 l. 80w)



Jet-Ranger Carbonfiber 6 ch RC Helikopter (3D) fra kr. 3998,- 0



Helkopter Rr. 999.

CONRAD

R/C Produkter





SIZE

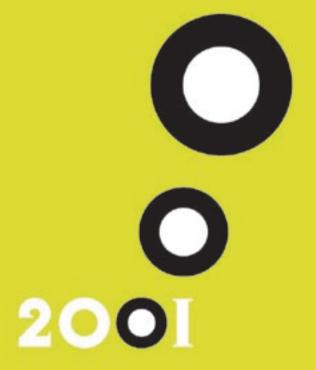
Surviving TRAINING. jungle

FALL CONFERENCE



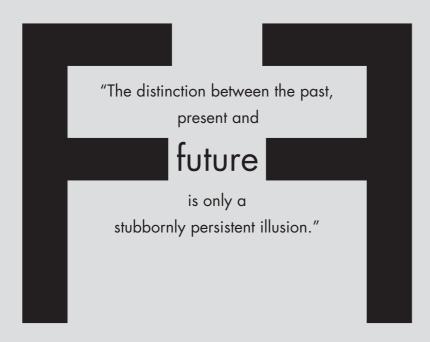
Surviving the TRAINING jungle







may all horse common for the contract country pose-



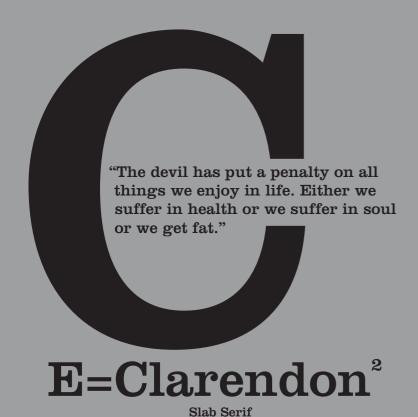


GERMANY 1927



Futura was Paul Renner's solution to form following function. It has often been thought that this typeface was part of the Bauhaus movement, however it was rarely used by designers who embraced that style. Futura is efficient and simple. It's based on basic geometric forms and adores white space.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz (@\$#&!)



LONDON

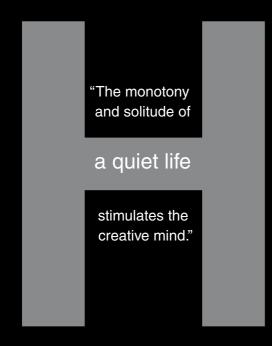
1845



Robert Besley created Clarendon to be legible and to attract the attention of consumers. This slab was made to be a display type. Clarendon is actually its own typeface category. It has smoother bracketed serifs than many slabs. It has a no non-sense style.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

0123456789 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz (@\$#&!)





SWITZERLAND

1957



Max Miedinger created Helvetica and it then moved to the U.S. to become the corporate identity type-face. It's ubiquitous. It's like air. It's everywhere. It's efficient, clean, readable and absolutely fabulous, even if it is bloodless.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

0123456789 abcdefghijklmnopgrstuvwxyz (@\$#&!)

"Isn't it strange that I who have written so many unpopular books should be such a popular fellow?"



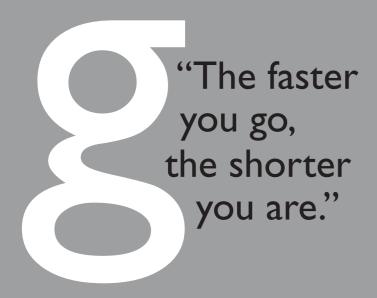
PARIS 1530



Claude Garamond was a punch-cutter by trade. He created his typeface, Garamond, to mirror former calligraphic letter forms to make the masses more comfortable with machine made type.

Garamond is classic, elegant, and versatile. It's used often for setting books. The fine curves of this typeface work well with geometric sans serifs. It is not reserved purely for conservative uses.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz (@\$#&!)







Eric Gill was a stone carver and illustrator. He "carved" his typeface with the help of Stanley Morison. Gill Sans is quirky with many idiosyncrasies. It's based on the original roman letter forms.

This sans serif has a large extended family with many weights. It also has a relatively small x-height. It is artistic and civilized and tends to play very well with others—the perfect "friendly" typeface

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

0123456789 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz (@\$#&!)



AMERICA

1992



Poetica was developed by Robert Slimbach to model chancery handwritten scripts that were used during the Italian Renaissance and also influenced italics and modern calligraphy. This typeface was the first Adobe Originals script typeface of its style. It contains a vast amount of alternate characters which embellish it and give it variety and richness. It is very elegant.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

0123456789 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz (@\$#&!)

jonathan Swift

We are little airy creatures,

All of different voice and features;

One of us in glass is set,

One of us you'll find in jet.

T'other you may see in tin,

And the fourth a box within.

If the fifth you should pursue,

It can never fly from you.

aAbBcCdDeEfFgGhHiljJkKlLmMnNoOpPq QrRsStTuUvVwWxXyYzZl234567890?!&%

Geometric Sans Serif

ERIC GILL considered himself a sculptor, stone carver, illustrator, and occasionally a calligrapher, but not a type designer. An Englishman who studied under Edward Johnson, he was basically recruited by Stanley Morrison of Monotype Corporation to design a truly modern typeface.

The first project did not go smoothly, and Gill was diverted to work on Gill Sans. Indended to be the British counterpart to Futura, it was released in 1928, and generally panned. But after World War II it was successfully exported outside of the United Kingdom.

of the United Kingdom.

Sans

Egyptian

Clarendon Egyptians (or slab-serif typefaces)

Egyptians (or slab-serif typefaces) were first developed to adddress the need for bold lettering suitable for a growing advertising industry. Prior to this, typefaces were primarily designed for books and continuous reading, not for attracting attention.

Clarendons are a subcategory characterized by bracketed slab serifs. Clarendon was created in England by Robert Besley for the Fann Street Foundry in 1845. He holds the distinction of being the first to register his typeface, but his attempt to patent it ultimately failed.

traditional english

I am not found in the ground,

But always in the air.

Through each cloud with thunder loud

You cannot find me there.

Now if from France you choose to dance

Your way just into Spain,

I there am seen and near the queen

In hail, in mist, and rain.

-author unknown

a A b B c C d D e E f F g G h H i I j J k K l L m M n N o O p P q Q r R s S t T u U v V w W x X y Y z Z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ?!

Catherine Fanshawe

"Twas whispered in heaven, 'twas muttered in hell, An echo caught faintly the sound as it fell; On the confines of earth 'twas permitted to rest, And in the depths of the ocean its presence confes'd; 'Twill be found in the sphere when 'tis riven asunder, Be seen in the lightning and heard in the thunder: 'Twas allotted to man with his earliest breath, Attends him at birth and awaits him at death, Presides o'er his happiness, honor and health, Is the prop of his house, and the end of his wealth.

Transitional

JOHN BASKERVILLE created his ideal typeface in his pursuit of perfect printing. He spent years refining the letterforms, and a few more in having the first types cut. The first book using these forms was produced in 1757 in England.

Baskerville's letters were lighter and more delicate than Old Style typefaces. This, and the increased contrast in the stroke weight compelled Baskerville to develop new printing technologies to properly reproduce his type. He made improvements in inks, papermaking, and on the printing press itself.

Initially, Baskerville's improvements were not appreciated. His contemporaries considered the typefaces unreadable, but Baskerville has been one of the most widely used faces for the last 75 years.

Baskerville

a A b B c C d D e E f F g G h H i I j J k K l L m M n N o O p P q Q r R s S t T u U v V w W x X y Y z Z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ? ! & % #

Geometric Sans Serif

PAUL RENNER taught at the printing school in Munich with the likes of Georg Trump and Jan Tschichold. While he was teaching here, around the years 1927-1929, he designed the typeface for which he is known.

Futura displays a great deal of influence from the Bauhaus, empha-

sizing simplicity, but it diverges from a rigid adherence to geometry. Renner's original concept was much more stylized, but the drawings were

delivered to the type foundry with indications allowing for some minor adjustments by the staff designers. They remained true to the concept, but made significant changes to the lowercase forms, resulting in an excellent blend of Renner's ideals and established typography.

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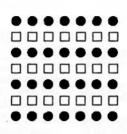
traditional English

The beginning of eternity, The end of time and space The beginning of every end, and the end of every place.

-author unknown

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VALUE



IFREADINGTH

One in five Americans can't read.

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They often can't find work. When they do, they earn about 42% less than

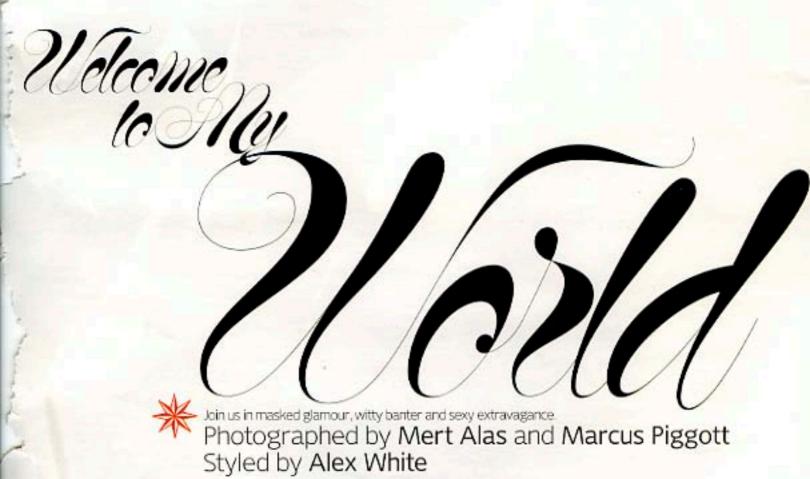
AGINENOTRE

high school graduates. If you know someone struggling with this problem,

ADINGATALL.

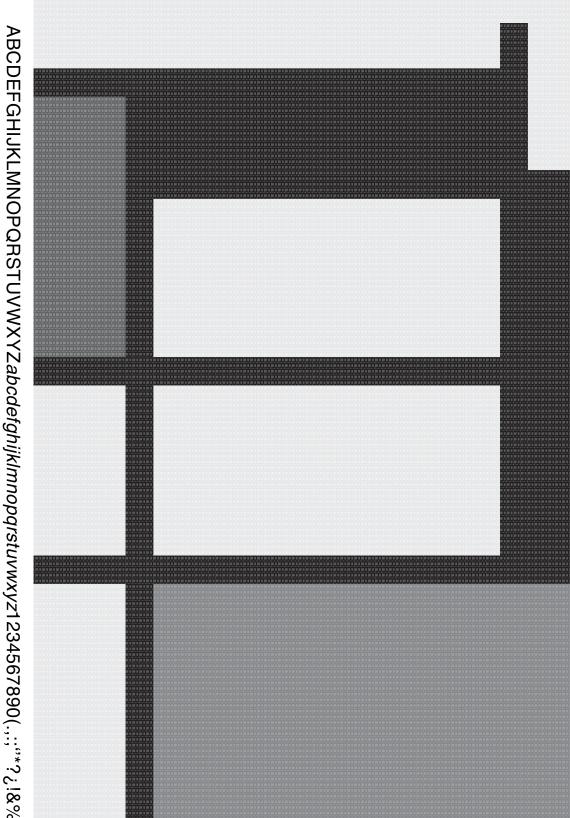
call 632-9495. We'll help sort things out.





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Sans Serif (Grotesque)

1957





COLOR

up front NOBODY'S PERFECT

<u>CHIN</u>

by Rebecca Johnson

"God." I once sighed to a boyfriend, "I really hate my chin." "Which one?" he asked.

That was pretty much the end of him. When it comes to my physical imperfections, there's only one person licensed to comment. Me. That said, the man had a point. I do have a terrible chin. Soft, droopy, full, as if you had roasted a chicken and all the fat had pooled at the bottom of the jaw. A lot of dog breeds have the same chin-basset hounds, pugs. It's the chin of a fat person, but I have it whether I am a size 4 or 14 (I've been both). Once, I made the mistake of letting an artist do my silhouette. Seeing my chin-more hypotenuse than right angle-in profile sent me into a decade-long funk.

It's easy to develop selective myopia when it comes to other physical flaws. Nobody but my husband knows the true state of my thighs or burn. Not even me. The one full-length mirror

in our house is strategically located in a dark closet. The chin, on the other hand, is impossible to hide from. Brush your teeth, put on makeup, get your hair cut; there it is. Staring you in the face.

I think it was Benjamin Franklin who said energy and persistence conquer all things. He obviously did not have a double chin. I've tried everything-facial exercises, headstands, makeup contouring.

One day, I read in the Daily News that Howard Stern, the radio personality, had had plastic surgery to correct a double chin. I logged on to the Internet and carefully studied the "before" and "after" pictures. Usually, I prefer the "before," but on Howard, the difference was phenomenal. In one picture, he looked like the kind of man who would imprison a teenager in an underground bunker for five years. In the other, he looked wiry and intense, like Samuel Beckett.

Taking your beauty cues from Howard Stern is probably not the best idea, but the pictures were so convincing, I shook off my misgivings and made an appointment to see a plastic surgeon on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. As I lay in a reclining chair, he told me to bare my teeth like a cheetah (metaphor mine) while he fingered the purse of flesh.

"I think I can do something with this," he said.

"Really?" I asked hopefully. I had chosen him because he'd been recommended by an acquaintance. Plus, I'd seen his picture in the New York Times society pages and been irrationally comforted by his straight, white teeth and boyish blue eyes. It was as if Senator John Edwards had suddenly developed a sincere interest in my double chin.

"Of course," he said, nodding, "it won't look like it did when you were 20.1

"Of course," I said, trying to hide my disappointment, "So, um, what will it look like?"

"It'll look as if you'd lost fifteen pounds," he answered, ushering me out the door to the lady who tells you how much it will cost to look like you've lost fifteen pounds.

Standing on Park Avenue, I opened the estimate with trembling fingers. Including blood work, anesthesia, followup visits, et cetera, the total came to roughly twice what I paid for my first car, half a year of preschool tuition, or five years of membership at my gym. Rarely in life are we presented with such a clear choice in which to assert the values by which we live. Howard Stern or Benjamin Franklin? Reader, I went to the gym.

HEIGHT by Patricia Marx

Call me five foot three. But also call me a liar. I am five foot one and a half on a good posture day. Well, five foot one. I started life as a runty baby, grew ever so slightly to become a short child, and eventually became a not terribly grownup grown-up. I am not complaining, at least not for a few sentences. Plenty of people are shorter than I am, and not all of them are still in school. Moreover, I am not permanently short, since I can put on very high heels-and do. Sometimes I even put on Rollerblades, and let me tell you,

if you don't already know, looking down on the world from the lofty stature of five foot five is almost like being Zeus. At the end of the day, however, if you happen to be in the company of polite society or in bed, which I occasionally am, you must take off the Rollerblades.

But I am still not complaining, at least for a few more sentences. Being undersize comes with advantages. As a kindergartner, you tend to look like a toddler.

which means that all you must do to be considered highly intelligent is not drool. Utter a simple sentence and you rate as a genius. In your teenage years, you can be anything you want to be as long as what you want to be is the cheerleader on the tippy top of the human pyramid. Later, you will make a fine chimney sweep. And that, I am sorry to say, is about it as far as benefits go.

Tall people, some studies have shown, tend to be more successful, more admired, smarter, and something makes me think they have better cell-phone connections, too. Height, it has been determined by the people who look into this sort of thing, is more important than gender in determining income-an extra inch corresponds to an additional \$789 a year in pay. A recent study in England found that for every inch taller a man is than his romantic rival (in speed-dating sessions, at least), the number of women who want to meet him increases about 5 percent. Don't be so surprised. You've never heard the phrase diminutive, dark, and handsome, have you? Nor, by the way, have you ever heard a parent say to a child, "Eat this spinach so you will grow up to be little and strong." Short people, it is true, do live longer, but with all those, ahem, shortcomings, what, really, is the point?

Now comes the complaining. It is not fair that I cannot, without putting on pounds, consume as many calories as do the more altitudinous. It is not fair that pint-size people are said to have Napoleon complexes, whereas tall people are never said to have Osama bin Laden complexes. It is not fair that we wee individuals are evidently considered too lightweight to be president. The last shorter- up front >158

Plenty of people are shorter than I am, and not all of them are still in school

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