

WHAT IS MINIMALISM?

A 1960S ART MOVEMENT – extreme simplification by reducing the artwork to its bare materials.

IN PHOTOGRAPHY – ‘Less is More’ principle focusing on subject, form, contrast and texture.

MINIMALIST IMAGES OFTEN FEEL

Calm, Quiet, Balanced, Simple, Beautiful, Peaceful, Modern, Clean, Tidy, Empty

Simple is a lot harder than it looks!

Before Minimalism

- 1900 – 1914

Pre 1st World War art, design and culture was dominated by pretty pictures, lots of detail and impressions with subjects of nature and romance. Art Nouveau and the Arts and Crafts Movement were fashionable

Impressionist Artists - Van Gogh, Monet, Klimt

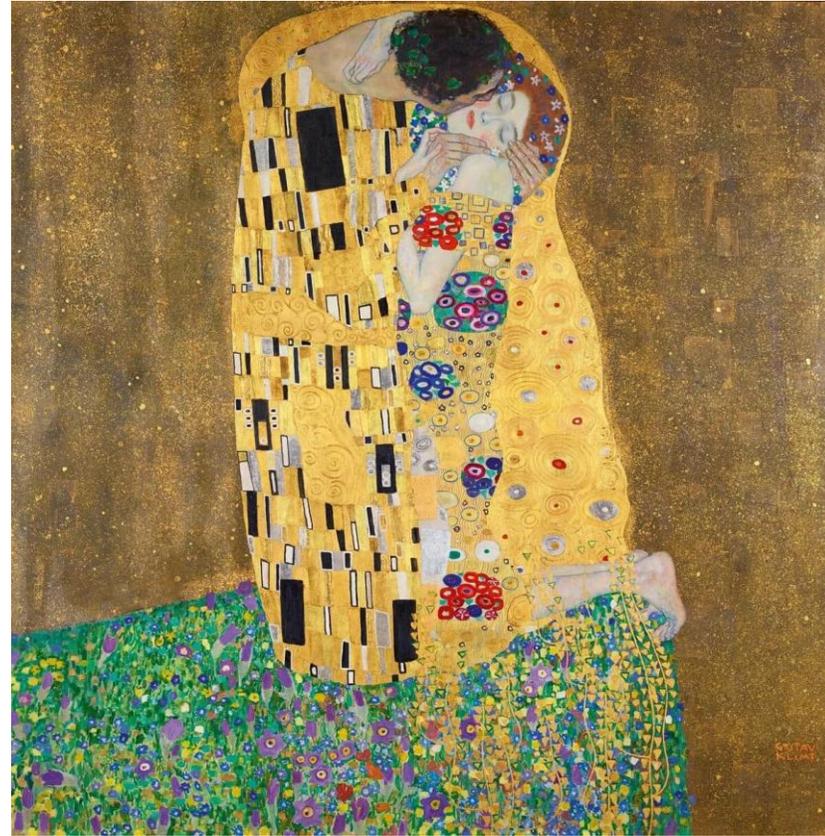
Designers – Worth, William Morris, Liberty – lots of pattern and frills

Photographers – Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen and Pictorialism

Pre Modernism



Monet 1905



Klimt The Kiss 1908

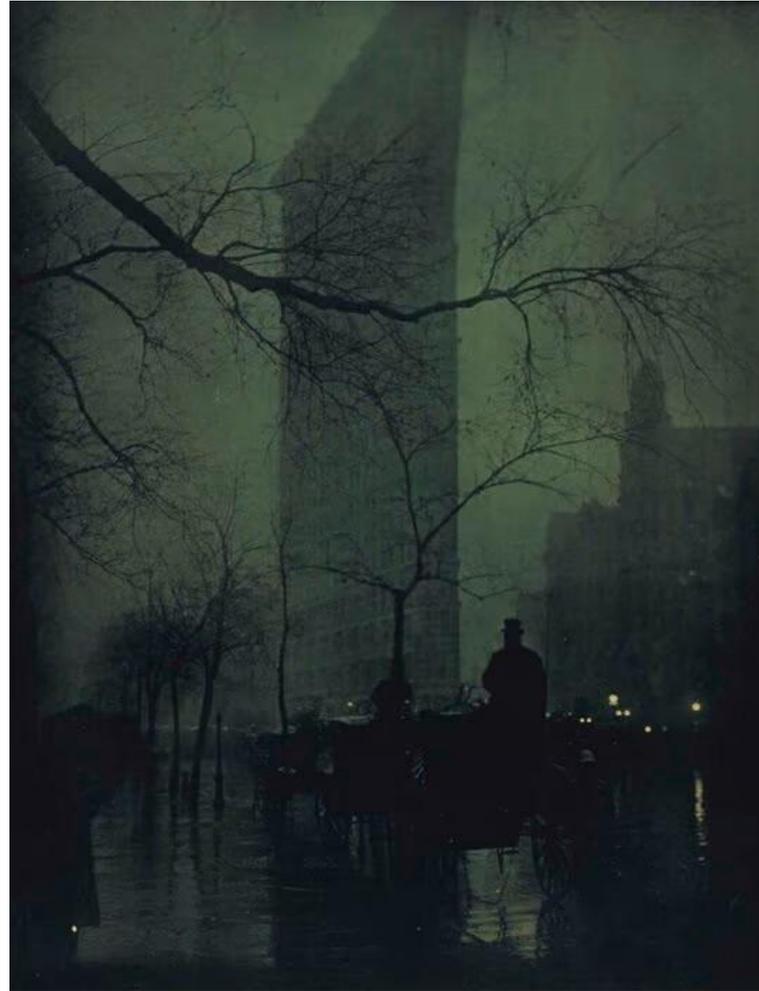


Arthur Dove
Nature Symbolised 1911

Pre Modernism Photography - Pictorialism



Alfred Stieglitz 'Early Morn' 1894



Edward Steichen 'Flaterion' 1904



Edward Steichen 1907

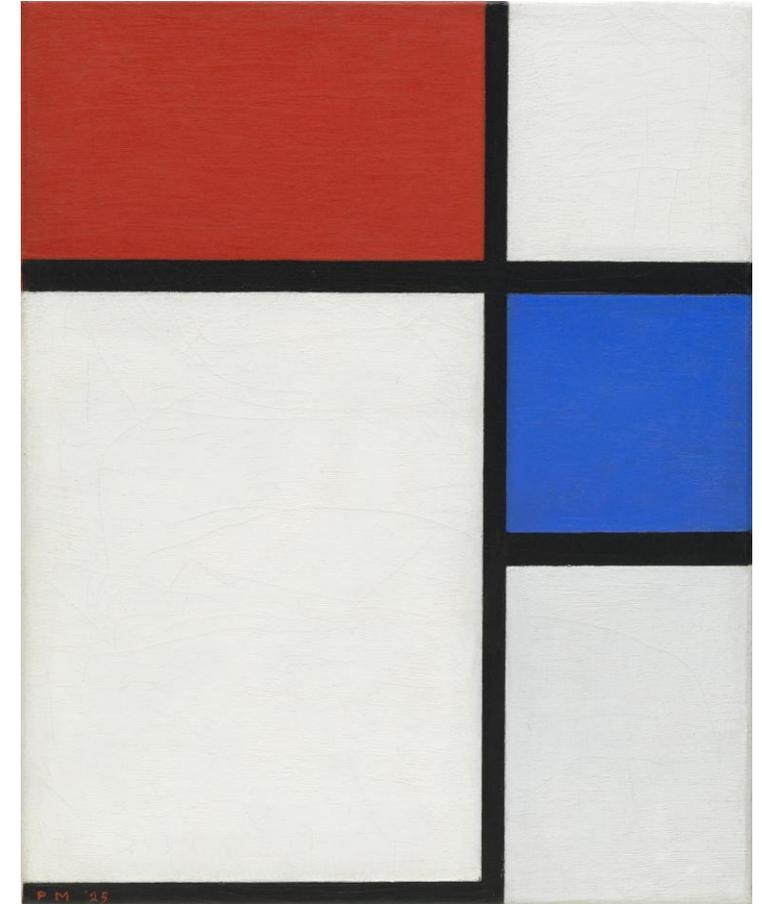
Modernism - post 1st world war – Art Deco and Bauhaus



Piet Mondrian 1917 Color Planes



Laszlo Maholy Nagy
Semi Circles 1921 (Bauhaus)



Piet Mondrian
Composition II 1929

1920s



Immogen Cunningham 1920

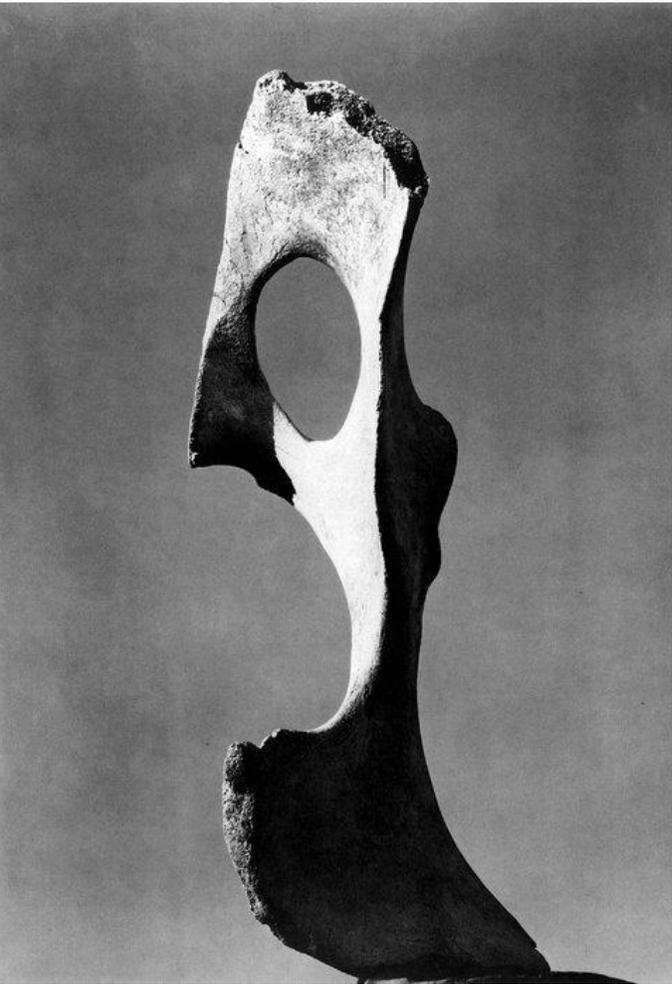


Edward Weston Shell 1927



Alfred Stieglitz 1922

1930s



Willard Van Dyke 1932
Bone and Sky



Edward Weston 1936
Dunes

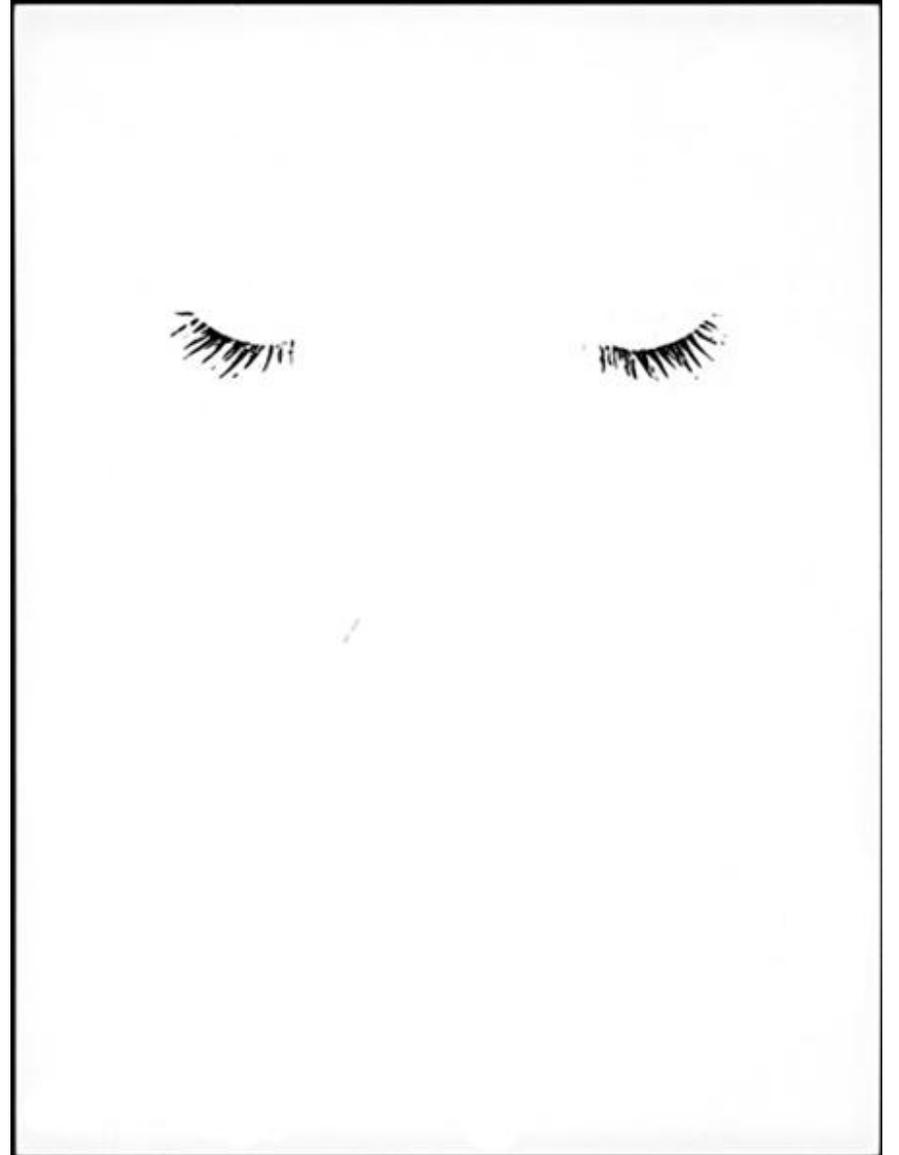


George Hoyningen Huene 1930
Divers

1930s



Henri Carier Bresson 1938



Erwin Blumenfeld 1935

1940s



Ansel Adams Lake Macdonald 1942



Louise Dahl Woolfe 1948

1950s

Erwin Blumenfeld
Jean Patchett 1950

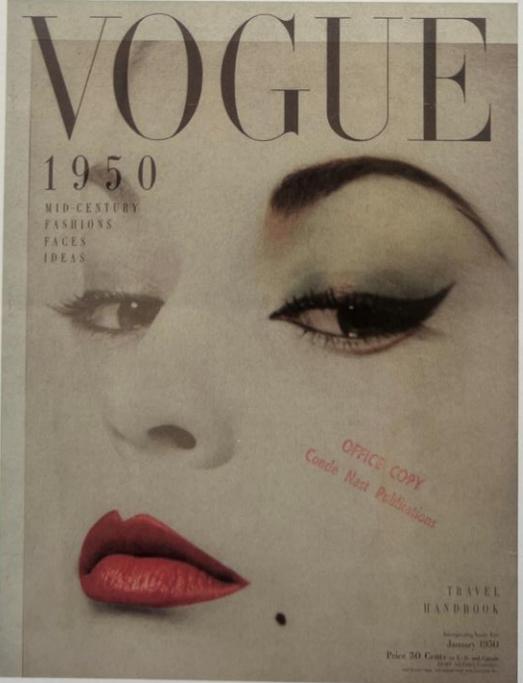
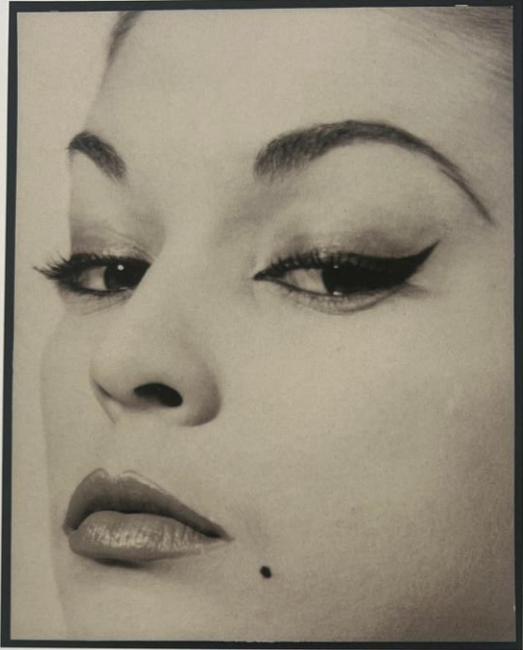


Irving Penn
Jean Patchett 1950



Reduce, Reduce, Reduce

How much can you remove from your image what is important and what I not?



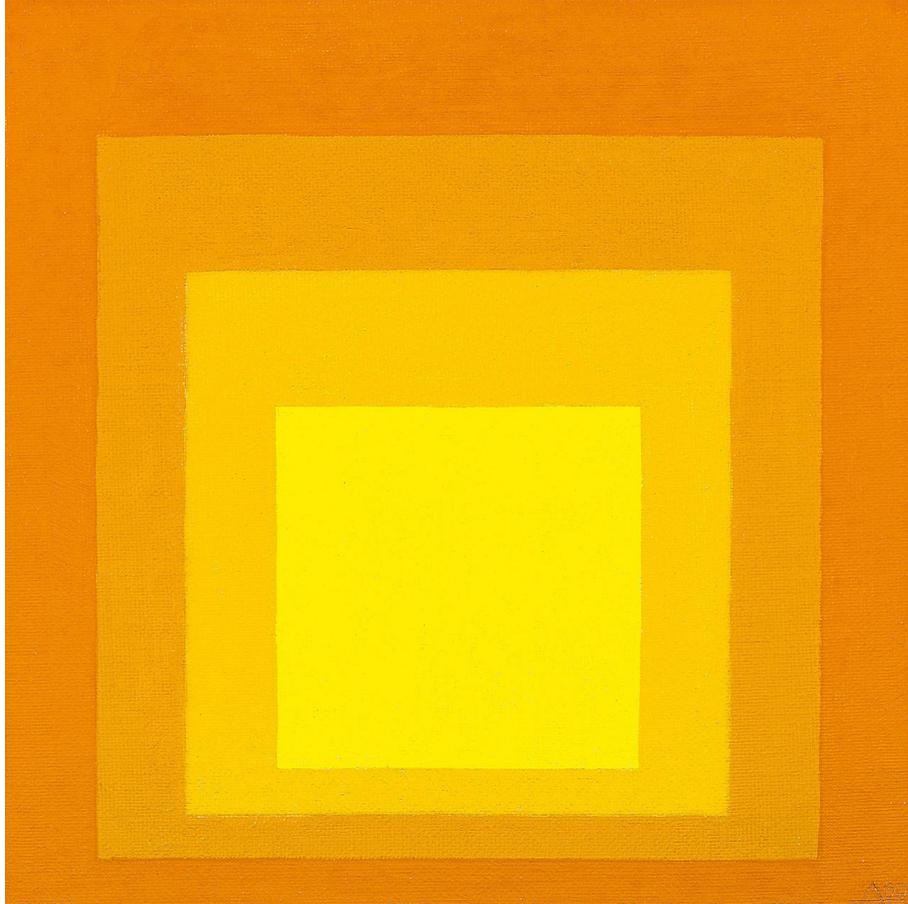
Fan Ho

Hong Kong
1950s

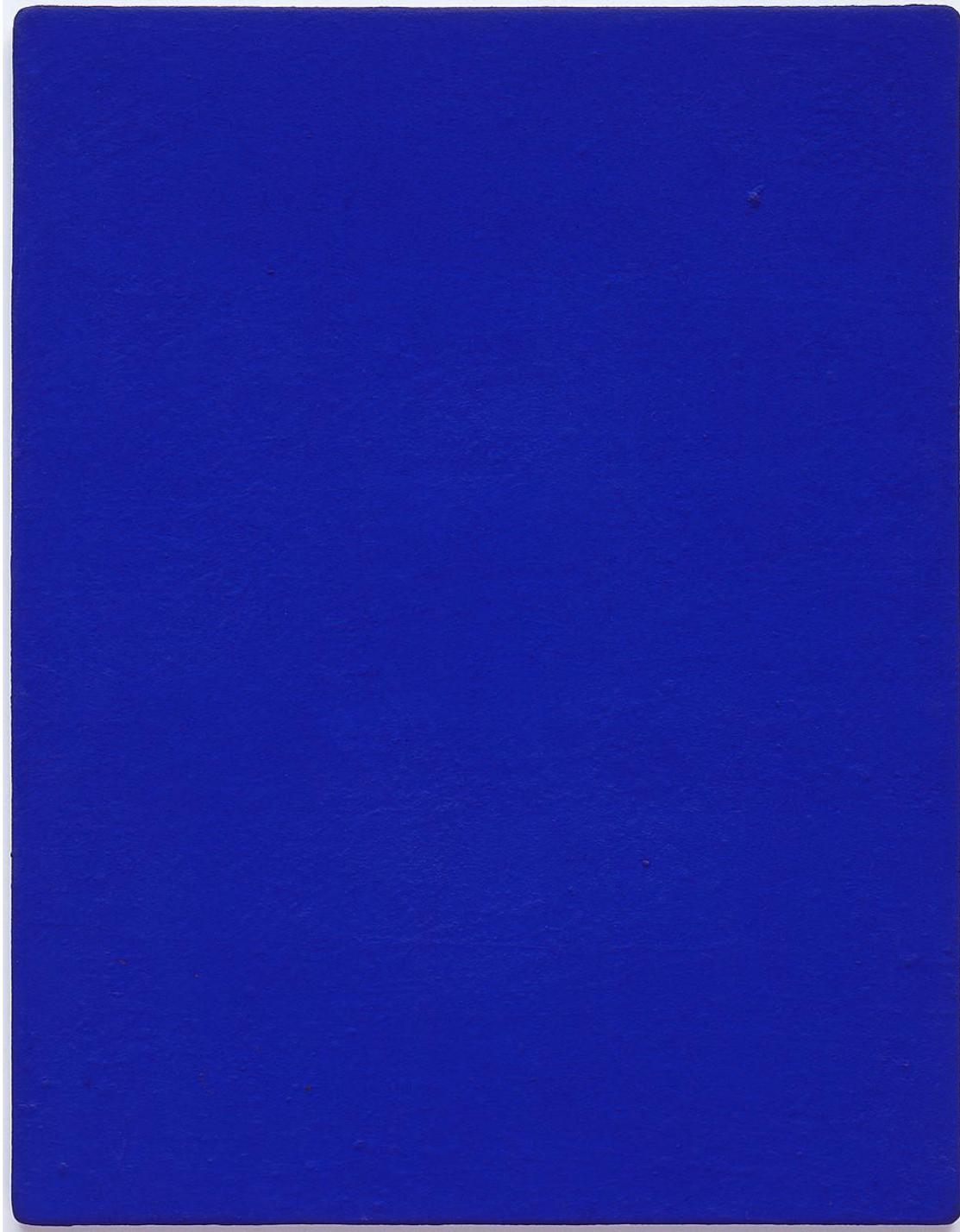


1960s Minimalism

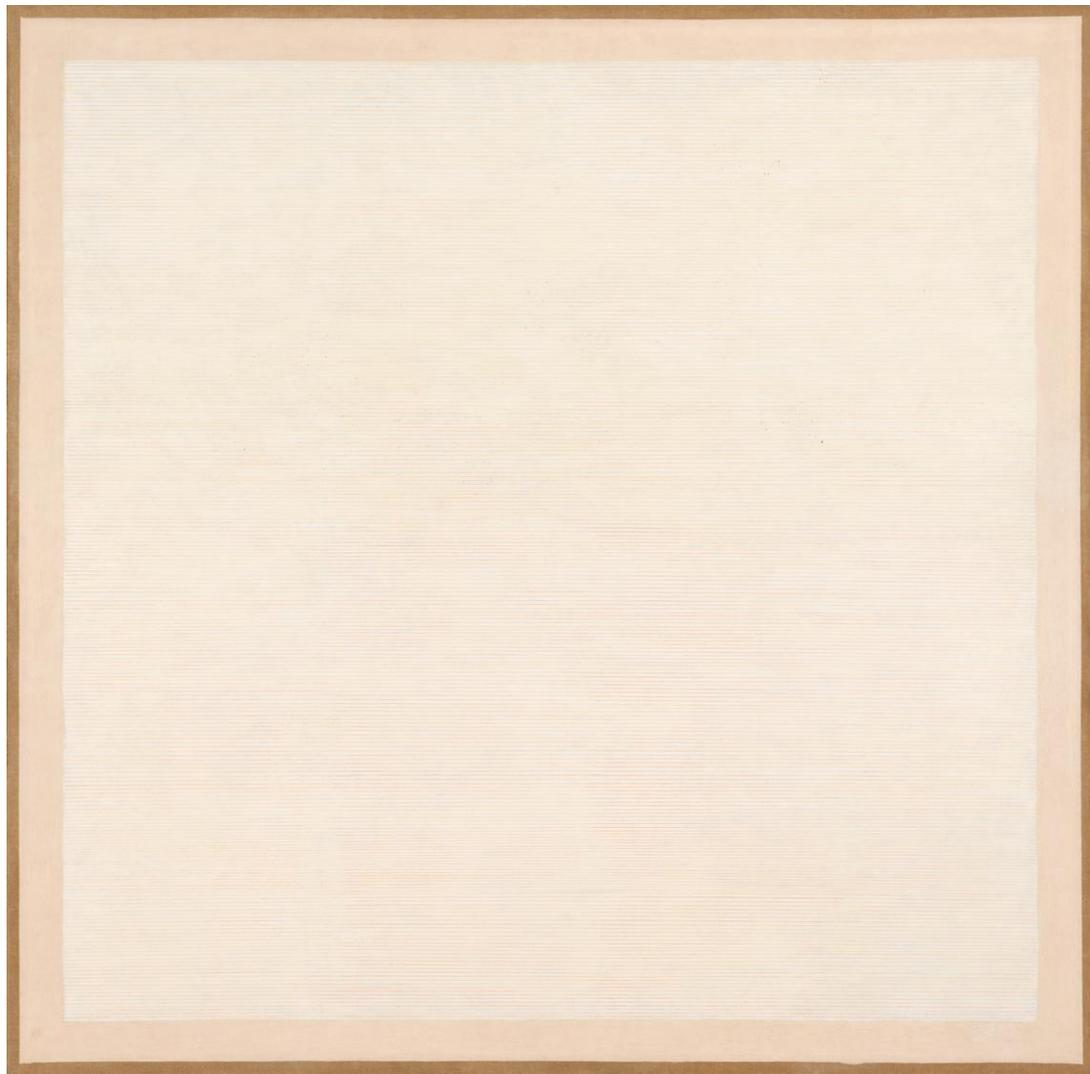
Yves Klein
Monochrome Blue 1959



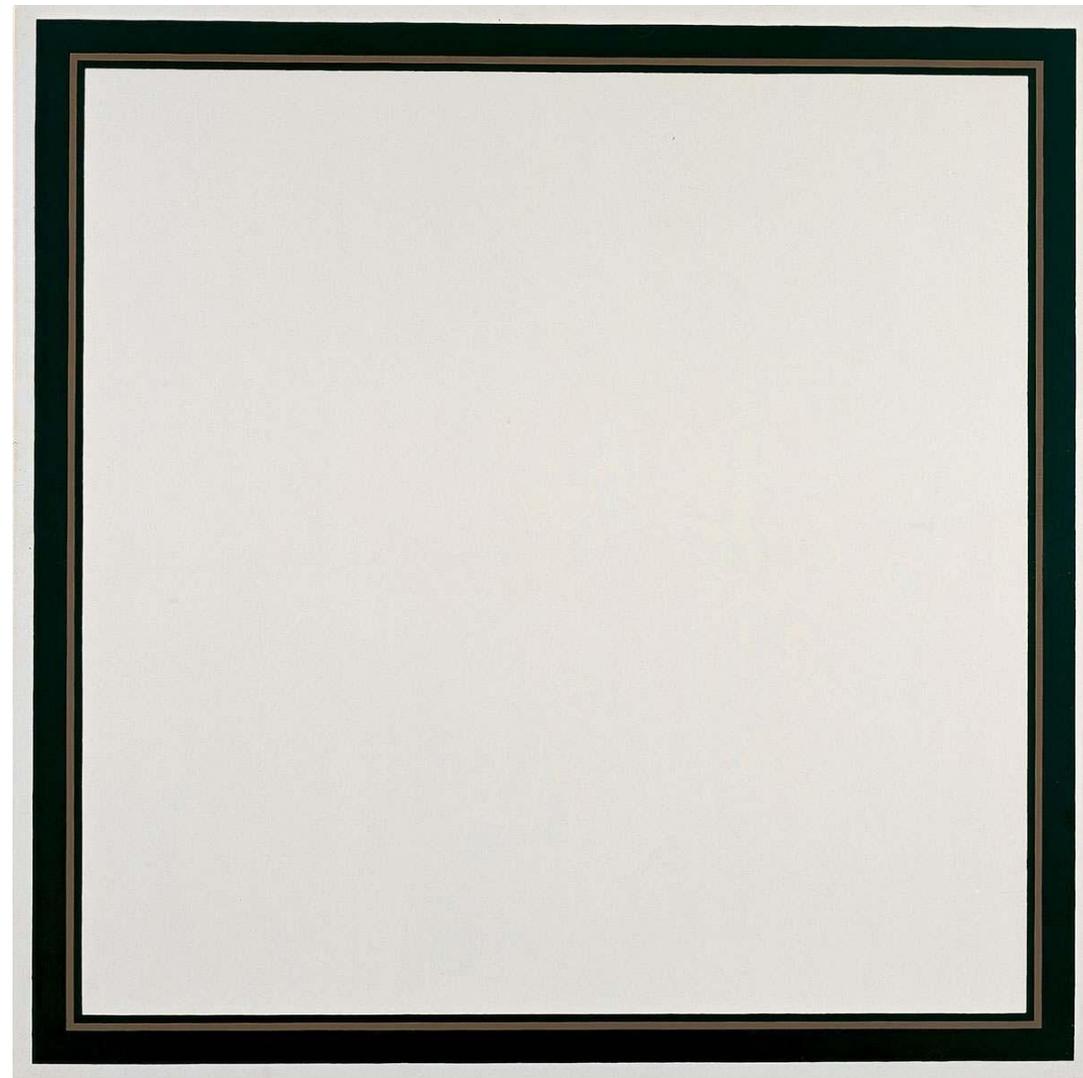
Josef Albers Homage to the Square 1961
Series on Colour Interaction



Keylines and texture!
Agnes Martin Milk River 1963



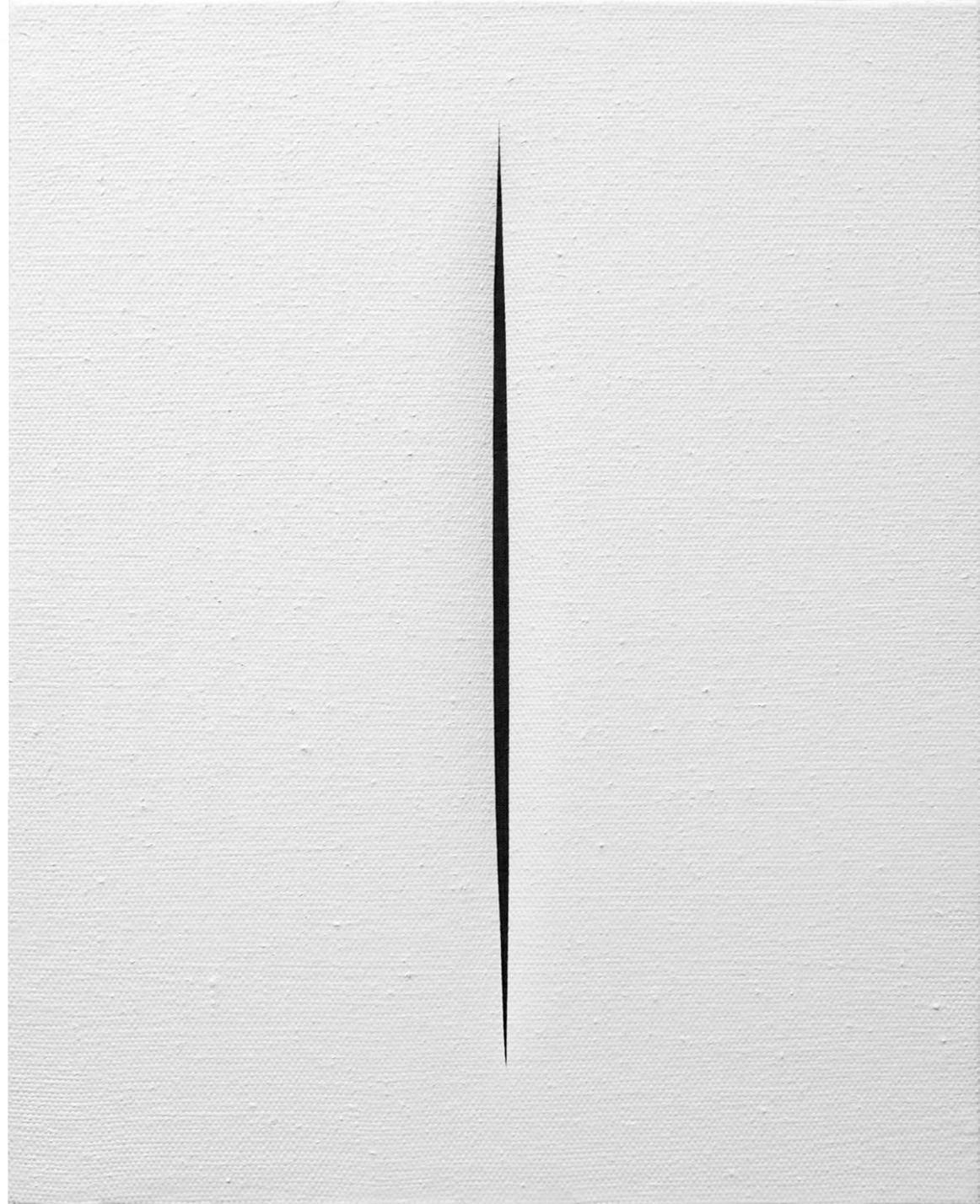
Jo Baer 1969



1960s White Canvas
Lucio Fontana

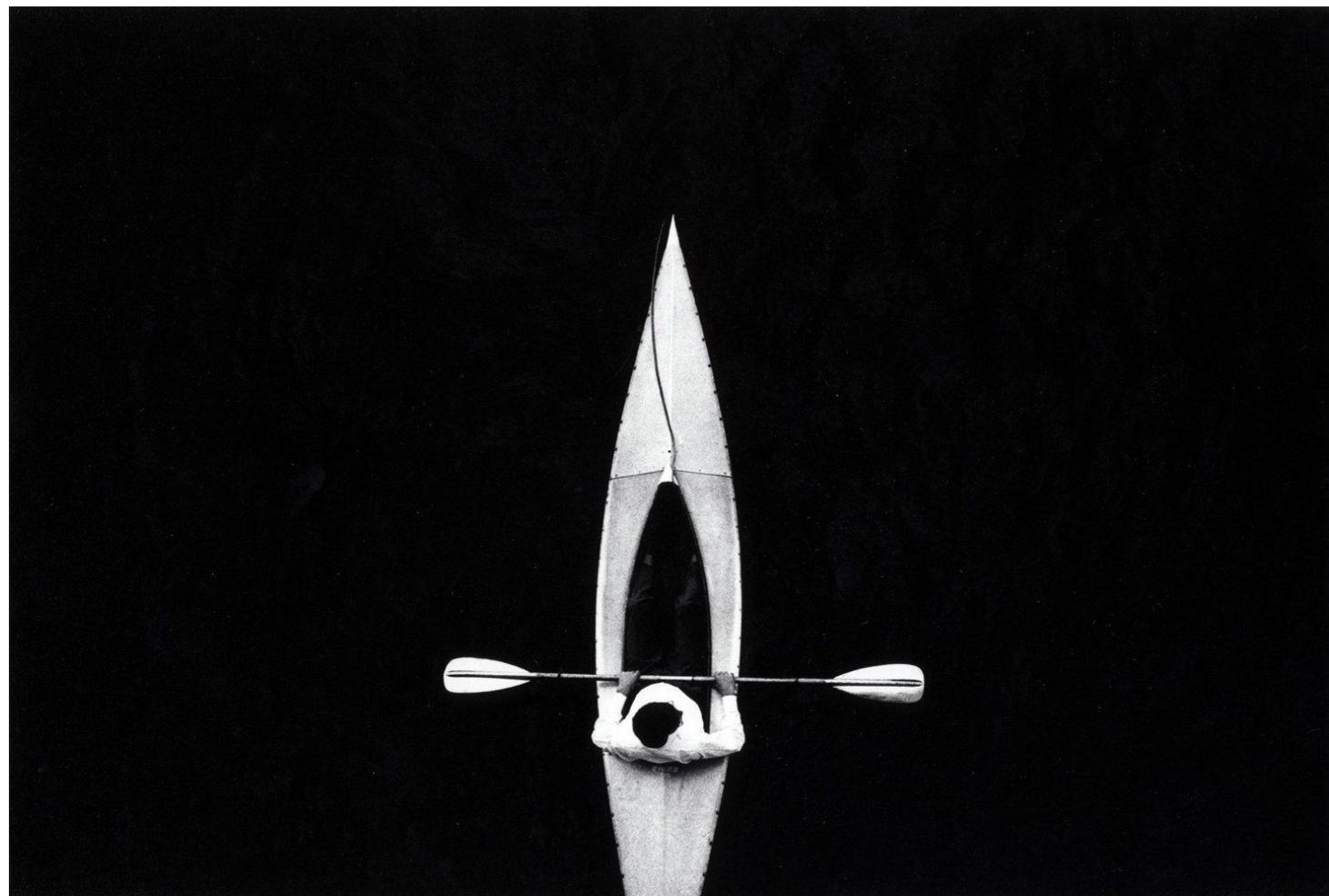


William Klein Photograph
1952





1965 Mondrian Dress
Yves Saint Laurent



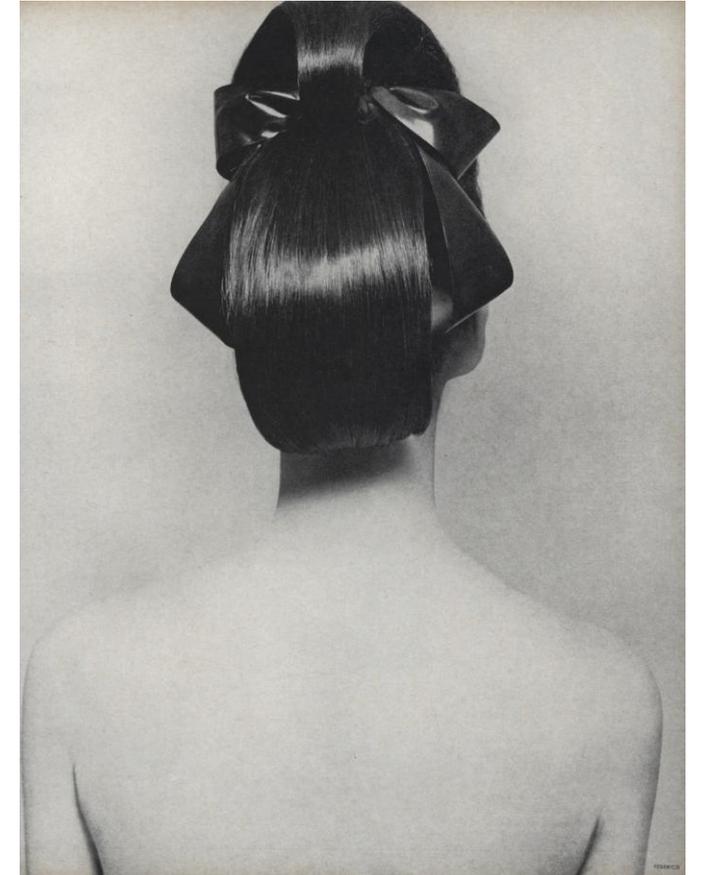
Ray Metzker 1961



Robert Adams 1968
Colorado Springs



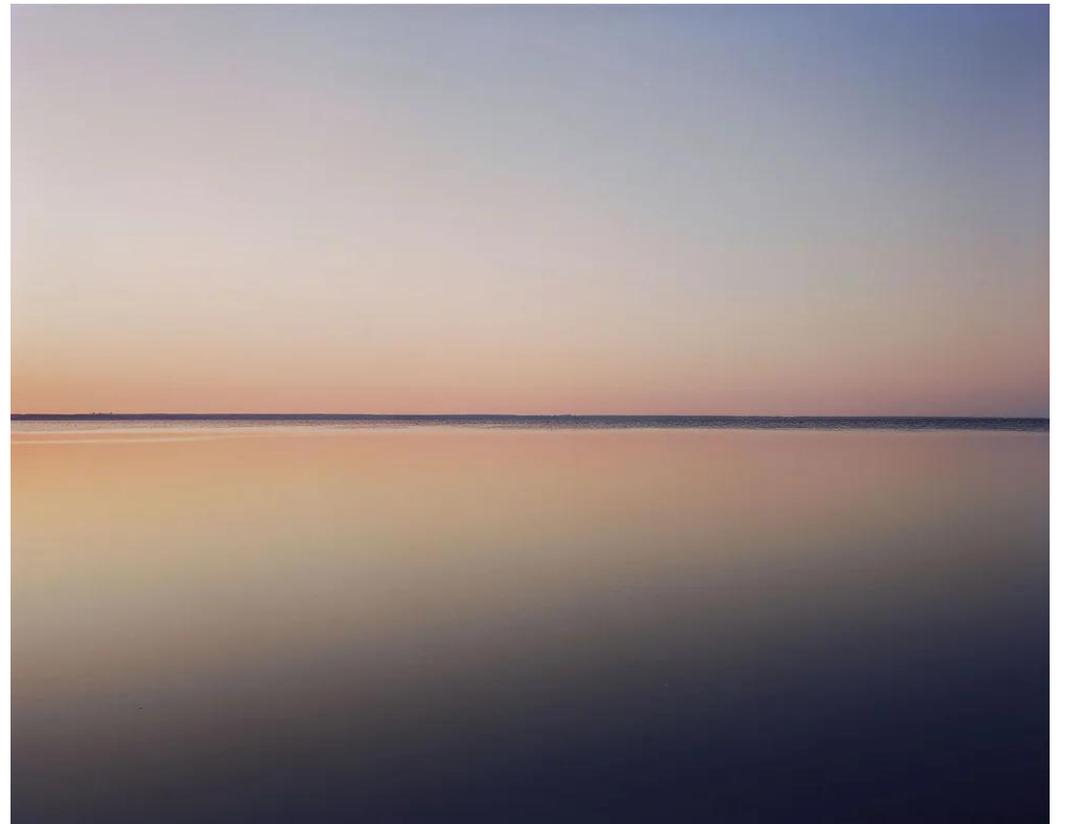
Fan Ho 1961
Private



Federico
Contessa Crespi's Hair 1967



1970s Joel Meyerowitz
Cape Cod and Sea / Sky



1980s
Hiroshi Sugimoto
Long exposure Movie Theatres



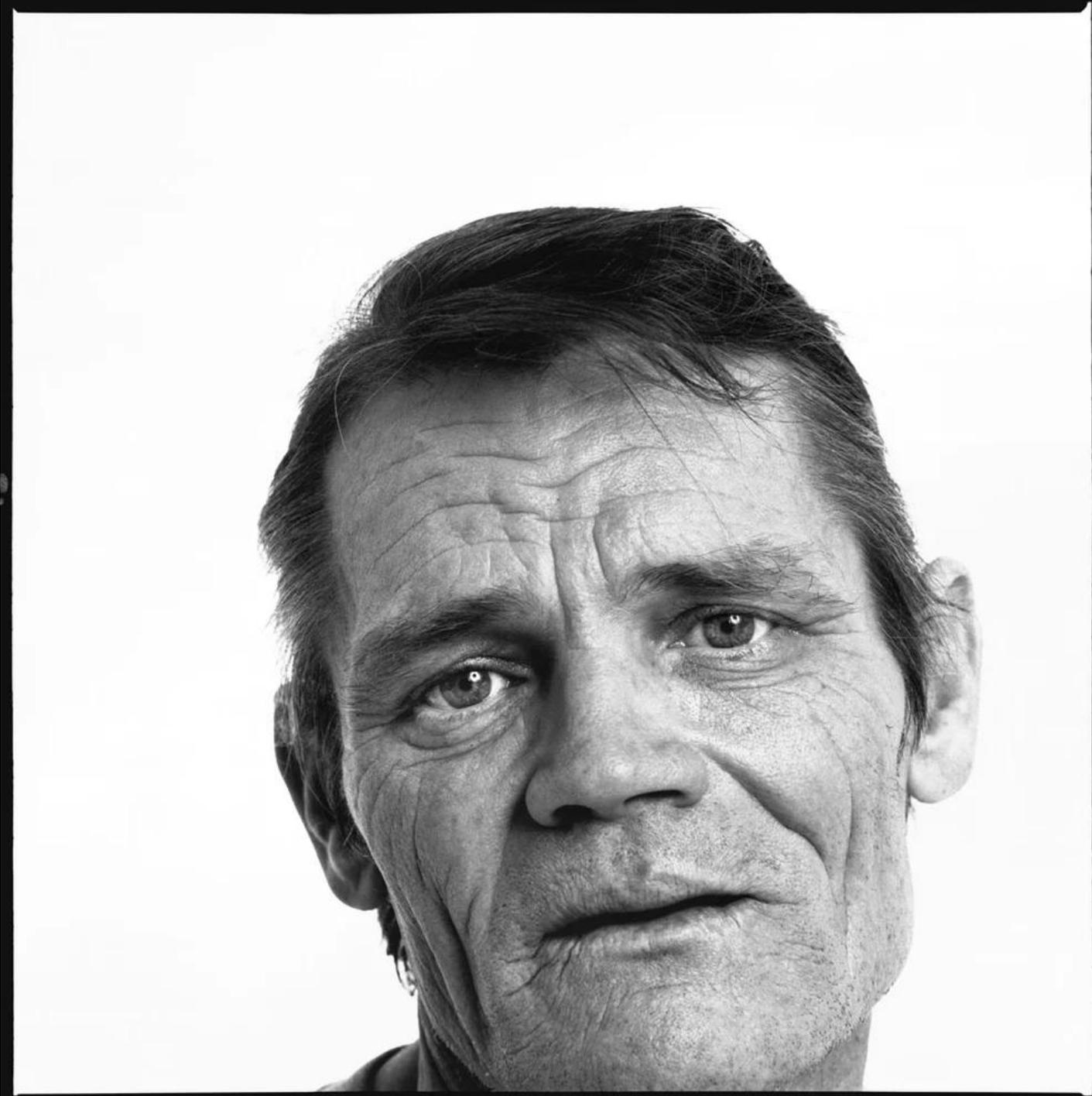
Nick Knight 1986
Yoji Yamamoto dress



Richard Avedon
Chet Baker 1981



Irving Penn
Italian Still Life 1981



1990s



Uta Barth 1995 Field



Corrine Day Kate Moss 1993

Mona Kuhn 1997



Hengki Koentjoro - Minim



Darren Almond 2013
Long Exposures by Moonlight



Irving Penn Icelandic Poppy 2008



Hiroshi Sugimoto Colour of Shadows
2004



Nick Knight Cornwall 2020

- Martin Annand – Park Life



Techniques - Sky

- use the sky as your backdrop for a fresh blue or white
 - Move the horizon – middle, top or bottom
 - The sky alone can be the subject



Terri Brealey



Keith Spicer



Sonia Mitchell

Techniques - Textures

- Focus on one colour
- Capture just the textures of the materials
- Study how they react to light



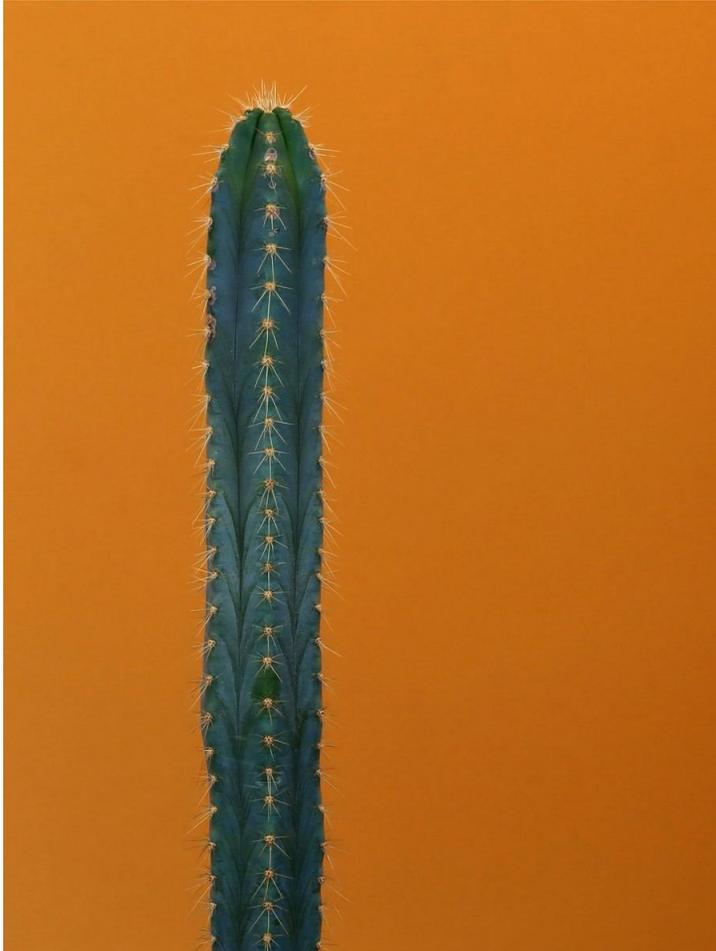
Cristina Liviero



Claire Lewis

Techniques – Space

- Give yourself lots of space around your subject, this can quieten the subject



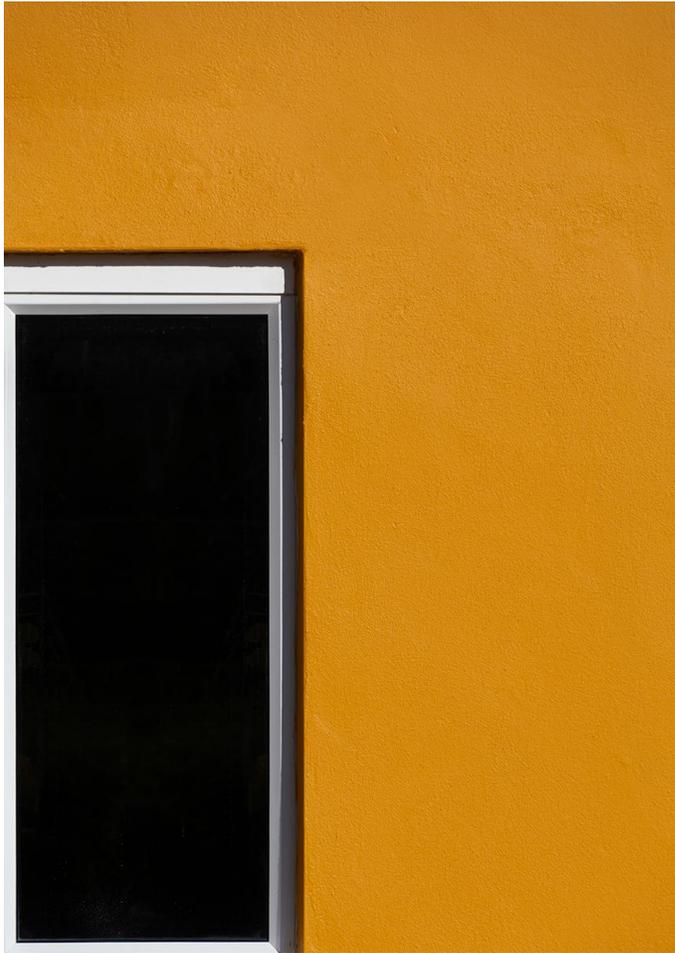
John Scaife



Claire Lewis

Straight Lines

- Place your subject in the centre
- Balance your horizontals and verticals
 - Try diagonals too.

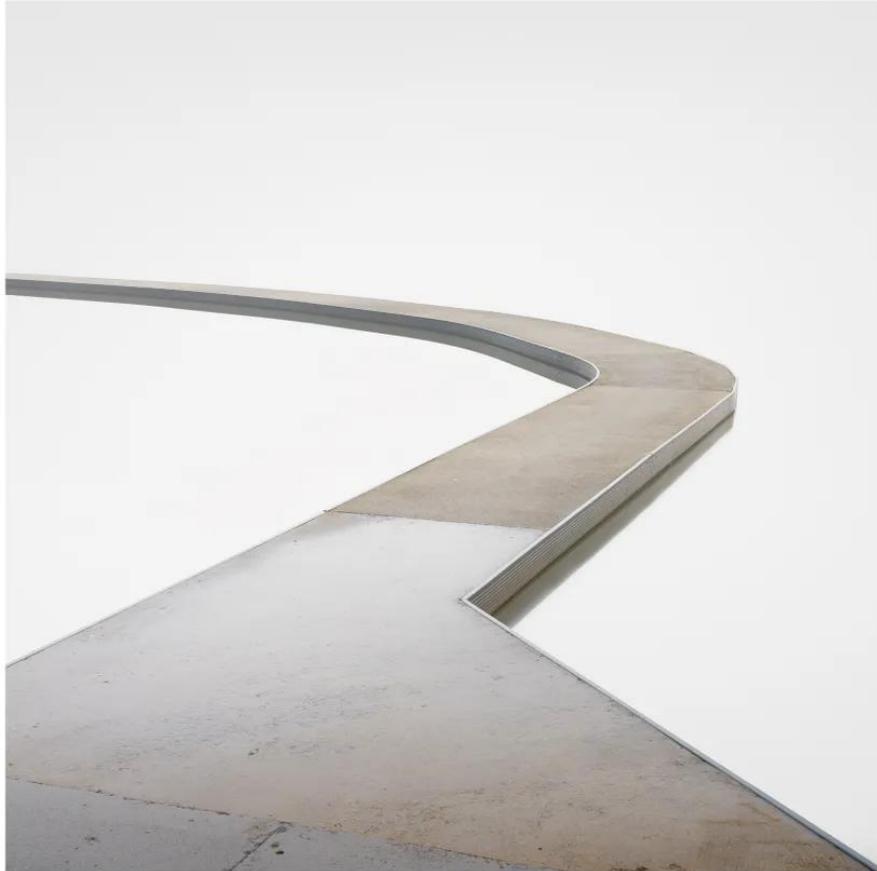


Tony Stringer, Diane Amesbury



Calm Waters

- Use an ND filter and long exposures for milky water
- Focus on the reflections from still ponds and puddles



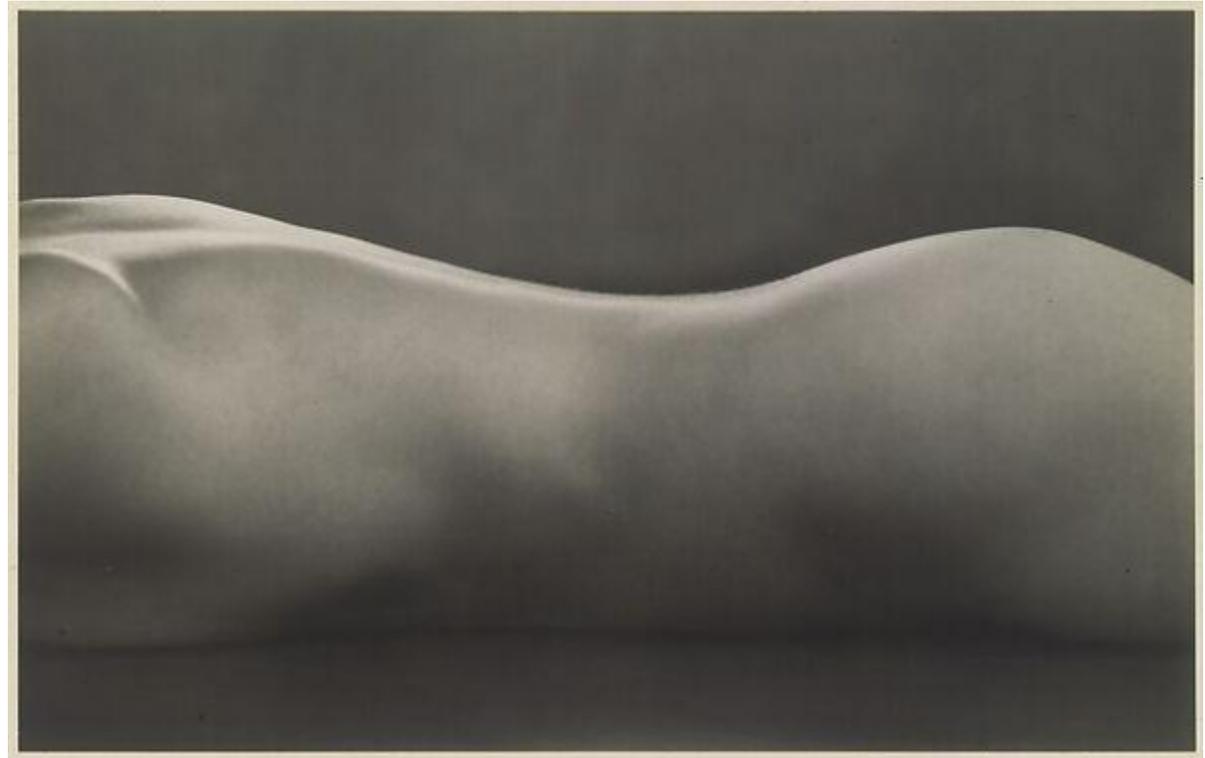
Martin Annand Clevedon Sea Pool



Hengki Koentjoro

Shapes

- Focus on the shape of the subject, nothing else
 - How do you enhance that shape?
 - How do you simplify a building to its shape?



Simon Moore and Edward Weston

Silhouette

- Remove any distractions from the image with light and shadow
- How far can you push your light levels before losing your subject?
 - Don't be afraid to blow out your whites or use total black



Use Colour

Pick bold colours and make bold shapes

Liere Cavia Vogue Portugal, Irving Penn, Rene Burri



Links

- Martin Annand <https://23martian.co.uk/portfolio/>
- Magnum Photos
<https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/nanna-heitmann/>
- Lens Culture Minimalist Photographers
<https://www.lensculture.com/search/projects?fallback=not-found&q=minimalist&modal=project-8345-norwegian-seascapes-by-fine-art>
- Minimalist Photography Awards
<https://minimalistphotographyawards.com/>

Photographers and Artists List

Alfred Stieglitz
Edward Steichen
Piet Mondrian
Lazslo Mahony Nagy
Immogen Cunningham
Edward Weston
Karl Blossfeldt
Willard Van Dyke
George Hoyningen Huene
Erwin Blumenfeldt
Henri Cartier Bresson
Ansel Adams
Louise Dahl Woolfe
Irving Penn
Fan Ho
Ray Metzker
Robert Adams
Federico
Joel Meyerowitz
Nick Knight
Hiroshi Yamamoto

Hengki Koentjoro
Martin Annand
Rene Burri
Richard Avedon
William Klein
Darren Almond
Mono Kuhn
Uta Barth
Corrine Day
Liere Cavia
Lucio Fontana