



Do you find something suspicious in the picture?

Is there anything unusual?

It *seems* to be just a still life, doesn't it?



Arcimboldo.
Mannerism.
The gardener. 1573

As in any other image, the brain *needs*
a meaning behind an art work
to feel satisfied.

We give a sense to the picture as a whole.



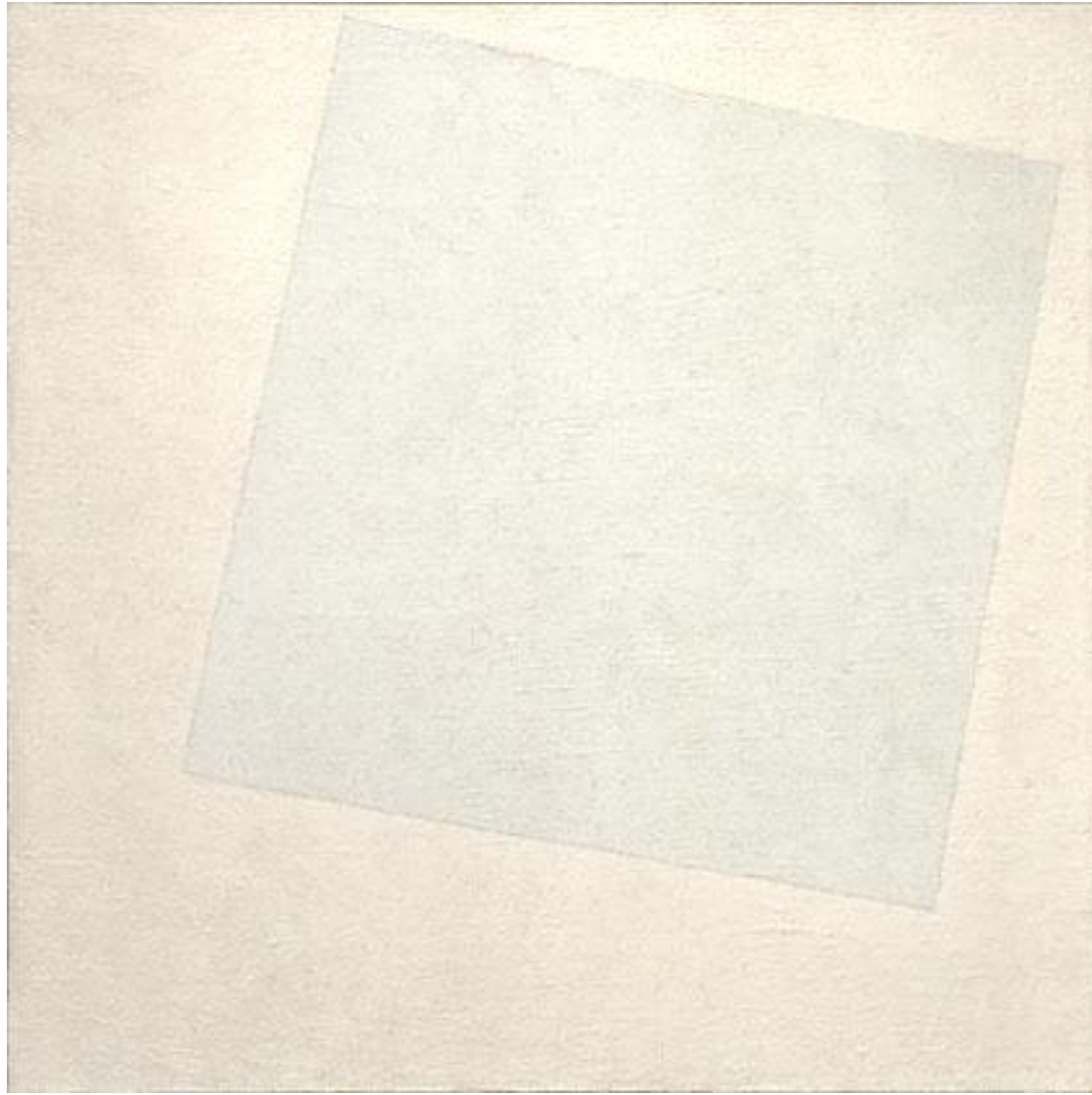
J. M. W. Turner. Romanticism.
Rain, steam and speed. 1844

The less we have in a painting, the more we “add” to “finish” it. The brain complete the gaps.

Just a “little step” from this picture to get to abstraction.

Artists started searching for a new language that reflected the new way of perceiving the world.

What is missing from the next picture to
get a pleasant perceptive experience?



K. Malevich. White on white, 1918. Suprematism.



- Lack of contrast

➡ the shape is difficult to see

- no associations with visual reality and visual elements reduced to their minimum:

➡ the brain works to make sense of it

➡ or the brain moves on to something else.

Visual perception is also connected to :
making decisions and attitudes in general.



Magritte. 1898, 1967. Conceptual art.
The treachery of images. 1928



Do you agree with that statement?
Does it make any sense?

We start asking questions, because
it doesn't match with what we usually
expect from a picture.

We automatically take the image for the object
itself, but “the map is not the territory”.
That's mainly the message of the picture.

Images are powerful.
They go deeply into our brains, causing even
physiological and emotional reactions.



S. Dali, 1904-1989.
Surrealism
Galatea of the spheres.

When it comes to perceiving art we should keep in mind two main aspects:

Regarding the work:

What

Who

When

Why

Regarding the spectator:

Previous knowledge

Age and mood

Motivation

Distance from the work

Summing up, any kind of art is about visual perception , to some extent;

what is left between the artist's work and the spectator's reception. We complete the artwork and we give it sense.



Visual Perception in art