

Out of Proportion



Class: 2D1

**Duration: 8 Class Sessions
(20 minutes each)**

Focus Element: Space

Medium: Graphite on Drawing Paper

Cognition & Reflection

VA.68.C.1.2

Use critical-thinking skills to identify connections between the elements of art and principles of design in personal artworks.

VA.68.C.2.2

Evaluate artwork objectively using criteria based on the elements of art and principles of design.

Objective

Students will explore the **Principle of Design: Proportion** by intentionally exaggerating or distorting size relationships in a creative composition. Through brainstorming, sketching, and a final artwork, students will demonstrate how altering proportion can change meaning, create emphasis, and engage the viewer visually.

Students will:

Analyze examples of proportion in art and surrealism. Plan an imaginative composition using exaggerated or altered scale. Apply proportion, balance, and emphasis in a completed artwork. Reflect on how proportion affects the overall message and mood of their piece.

Summary:

In this project, students investigate how proportion influences the way we see and understand art. By distorting size and scale, they learn to use proportion to create emphasis and visual interest. Students develop ideas through thumbnails, apply the principle of proportion in their final drawing, and reflect on how their choices affect the viewer's perception.

Out of Proportion Project Steps



Week 1 of Final: Drawing & Layout

Goal: Begin your final drawing using strong composition and proportion.

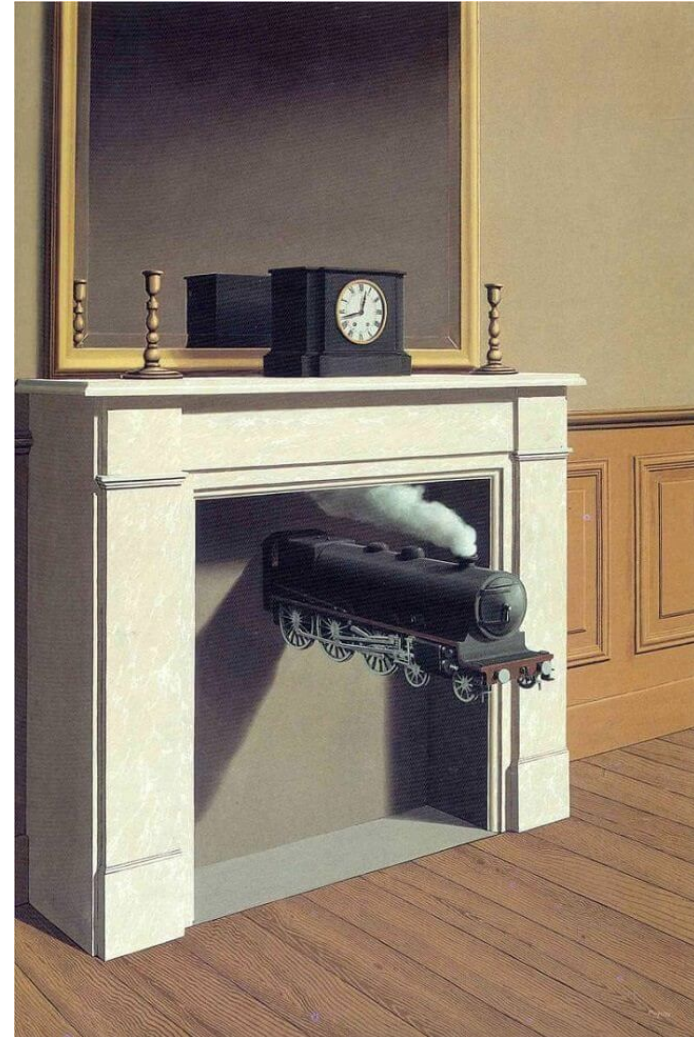
- ☐ Lightly sketch the large and small objects to plan space on your paper.
- ☐ Check for clear exaggeration or distortion in proportion.
- ☐ Adjust composition for balance and emphasis.
- ☐ Begin refining outlines with smooth, confident lines.
- ☐ Add background or setting that supports your idea.
- ☐ Use overlapping and placement to show size relationships.
- ☐ Add textures or value (shading) to define forms.



Week 2 of Final: Details & Refinement

Goal: Add depth, details, and visual interest.

- ☐ Begin outlining in ink or dark pencil for clean lines.
- ☐ Erase extra pencil lines carefully for neatness.
- ☐ Check that your proportions still communicate your idea clearly.
- ☐ Add color or final value to emphasize contrast.
- ☐ Review the rubric to make sure all criteria are met.



Out of Proportion Rubric

Criteria	4 – Exceeds Expectations	3 – Meets Expectations	2 – Approaching Expectations	1 – Needs Improvement
Use of Proportion (Principle of Art)	Proportion is intentionally exaggerated or distorted in a creative and meaningful way. The size relationships strongly enhance the idea.	Proportion is clearly changed and supports the idea of the artwork.	Some attempt at using proportion, but the exaggeration is unclear or inconsistent.	Little or no evidence of proportion being intentionally used.
Creativity & Originality	Artwork shows unique thinking, imagination, and risk-taking. The concept is highly original.	Artwork shows creativity and thoughtful planning.	Idea is somewhat predictable or relies on common examples.	Artwork lacks originality or effort to think creatively.
Composition & Balance	Composition is visually strong, balanced, and thoughtfully arranged to guide the viewer's eye.	Composition is balanced and complete.	Composition feels awkward or incomplete in some areas.	Composition is disorganized or unfinished.
Craftsmanship & Effort	Artwork is clean, neat, and well-executed. Excellent attention to detail and use of materials.	Artwork is mostly neat and complete with good use of materials.	Artwork shows rushed areas or uneven craftsmanship.	Artwork appears incomplete or messy; materials were used carelessly.
Participation & Use of Time	Consistently on task, engaged, and helpful to others. Demonstrates leadership and focus each day.	Usually on task and uses time well to complete work.	Sometimes off task or distracted; needs reminders to stay focused.	Frequently off task; limited effort to complete work.

- How did you use proportion in your artwork?
(Explain what you made bigger or smaller and why.)
- What part of your drawing is exaggerated, and what effect does it create?
(Does it make your artwork funny, strange, powerful, or interesting?)
- How does changing proportion change the meaning or feeling of your artwork?
(Think about how the viewer reacts or what story your drawing tells.)
- What part of your project are you most proud of, and why?
(Describe what you did well or what you improved on during this project.)

Term	Definition	Example
Proportion	The size relationship between parts of a whole or between different objects in an artwork.	The head is in proportion to the body in a realistic portrait.
Scale	The overall size of an object in relation to another object or to the artwork itself.	A large shoe next to a tiny person shows a change in scale.
Exaggeration	Making something larger or smaller than normal to create emphasis or humor.	Drawing a cat that's bigger than a building exaggerates proportion.
Distortion	Altering the normal shape or proportion of something to express an idea or emotion.	A surreal artist might distort a person's body to create dreamlike imagery.
Balance	The visual distribution of weight in a composition so it feels stable.	Even if one object is huge, the drawing can still feel balanced.
Emphasis	Drawing attention to a specific part of an artwork through size, color, or placement.	A giant teacup becomes the point of emphasis because of its size.
Surrealism	An art style that combines real and imaginary elements in unexpected ways.	A clock melting over a branch is an example of surrealism.
Composition	The arrangement of visual elements in an artwork.	The artist planned where to place the giant and tiny objects in the scene.
Focal Point	The main area of interest in an artwork that draws the viewer's eye.	The oversized goldfish is the focal point of the drawing.
Contrast	The difference between elements such as size, color, or value.	A small person next to a giant object creates size contrast.



Out of Proportion Project – Essential Questions

◆ **Concept & Understanding**

1. How does changing proportion in an artwork affect how the viewer sees or feels about the subject?
2. Why do artists sometimes choose to exaggerate or distort proportions instead of keeping them realistic?
3. What makes an artwork feel balanced even when proportions are intentionally unrealistic?
4. How can artists use scale to create emphasis or communicate an idea?
5. In what ways can exaggeration or distortion make an artwork more expressive or imaginative?

◆ **Creative Process**

6. How can proportion help you tell a story or express a mood in your artwork?
7. What choices must an artist make to keep a composition visually interesting when changing proportion?
8. How do thumbnails and sketches help artists plan proportion and scale before starting a final piece?
9. What happens when proportion and balance work together in a design?
10. How can proportion be used to surprise or challenge the viewer's expectations?

◆ **Reflection & Critique**

11. What message or emotion does your artwork communicate through its exaggerated proportions?
12. How did you decide what parts of your drawing to enlarge or shrink?
13. What do you notice about how proportion is used differently in realism versus surrealism?
14. How do other artists use proportion to make their work stand out?
15. How has this project changed the way you think about size and space in art?

 Out of Proportion Project
Principle of Art: Proportion
Course: 2D Studio Art 2 (Grades 6–8)

 Florida Visual Art Standards Alignment

Cognition & Reflection

VA.68.C.1.2

Use critical-thinking skills to identify connections between the elements of art and principles of design in personal artworks.

VA.68.C.2.2

Evaluate artwork objectively using criteria based on the elements of art and principles of design.

Organizational Structure

VA.68.O.1.3

Incorporate principles of design to construct personal artworks that reflect ideas, feelings, and experiences.

VA.68.O.3.1

Use two-dimensional or three-dimensional elements to achieve balance in personal works of art.

Skills, Techniques, & Processes

VA.68.S.1.3

Demonstrate use of the elements of art and principles of design to communicate ideas effectively in personal artworks.

VA.68.S.3.3

Demonstrate understanding of organizational principles for creating compositions.

Innovation, Technology, & the Future

VA.68.F.1.1

Use nontraditional thinking and various techniques to create imaginative solutions in art.

Accommodations (Support & Scaffolds)

These strategies help all students access and succeed in the project while meeting the same learning objective.

Instructional Support

- Provide visual examples of exaggerated proportion (art prints, teacher samples, or student exemplars).
- Model how to enlarge or shrink an object in a drawing using basic shape breakdown (circles, rectangles, ovals).
- Use guided drawing prompts or step-by-step starter images for students who struggle with composition.
- Allow students to trace basic outlines of reference images before exaggerating proportion to reduce frustration.
- Display key vocabulary (proportion, scale, balance, exaggeration, distortion) on a visual anchor chart.

Process Support

- Offer check-ins at each stage: thumbnail sketches, layout, proportion check, final outline, and color.
- Give sentence starters for brainstorming or reflection (e.g., “I made the ____ bigger to show...”).
- Allow additional time or reduced background expectations for students with fine-motor or focus challenges.
- Use peer partners or small groups for brainstorming ideas to spark imagination.
- Provide colored pencils or templates for students who need clear visual guidance.

Extensions (Challenge & Enrichment)

These options stretch advanced learners or early finishers to explore deeper concepts and creativity.

Creative Extensions

- Create a series of three mini artworks showing different exaggerations of the same subject.
- Add surreal details (floating objects, dreamlike backgrounds, unexpected combinations).
- Incorporate multiple principles of design — such as contrast and balance — into one exaggerated composition.
- Turn the project into a narrative sequence (before and after the exaggeration).
- Use mixed media (ink, collage, watercolor, or digital art) to enhance texture and emphasis.

Cross Contour Resources

Prompt Options and Brainstorm - Out of Proportion Project

Name: _____ Date: _____ Per: _____

■ Out of Proportion Project – Theme & Prompt Sheet

Theme: A World Out of Proportion Imagine a world where size doesn't follow the rules. Objects, animals, or people can be enormous, tiny, or strangely mismatched. Use exaggeration and distortion to create a fun, imaginative drawing that plays with the Principle of Art: **Proportion**.

Prompt Options

1. Tiny You, Giant World – Draw yourself exploring a world where everything is gigantic (like pencils taller than trees or teacups you can swim in).
2. Everyday Giants – Choose an ordinary object and make it enormous—like a sneaker the size of a building or a goldfish floating over a city.
3. Mix and Match Proportion – Combine two unrelated objects or animals but change their sizes—like a butterfly bigger than a car or a cat sitting on a tiny house.
4. The Opposite World – What if all big things were small and all small things were huge? Draw that reversed world!
5. Surreal Dream Scene – Create a dreamlike environment where people, objects, or creatures have strange proportions that change how the scene feels.
6. Pet Takeover – Imagine your pet (or favorite animal) suddenly grew to the size of a building—what would happen in your world?

"In art, proportion isn't about perfection—it's about perspective. When size changes, meaning changes too."

■ Brainstorm Your Ideas

Choose one prompt to create. Write ideas below.

Idea #1	
Idea #2	
Idea #3	
Idea #4	

■ Thumbnail Sketches

In your sketchbook, make 4 small quick sketches (no details yet). Circle your favorite idea to turn into your final drawing.

+3

■ Preliminary Sketch

Now that you've finished your thumbnail sketches and chosen your favorite, it's time to create a **preliminary sketch**. Complete this drawing in your sketchbook using half of the page. This drawing should be larger and more detailed than your thumbnails, almost like a rough draft of your final.

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Thumbnail and Preliminary Sketches - Out of Proportion Project

Directions:

In your sketchbook, make 4 quick sketches to test your ideas. Keep them small and simple.

