



DRAWING 13 Mail Art (s)

Duration

5-7 class periods

Subject

On the envelope provided you will complete one ink drawing of an “**event real or imagined**” to be sent through the mail. The composition of the *event* depicted must utilize the Golden Rectangle in it’s organization.

Technique

Create a Golden Rectangle to set up your composition. Begin by drawing a square with 4 equal sides. Divide the square in half vertically. For example; A four inch square would be bisected at the two inch point by a vertical line. Now draw a diagonal line from the base bisection point to the upper right corner of the square. Take this diagonal line and drop or swing it down until it is even with the base of the square. This will form the golden section. Now draw in the rest of the rectangle.

Materials

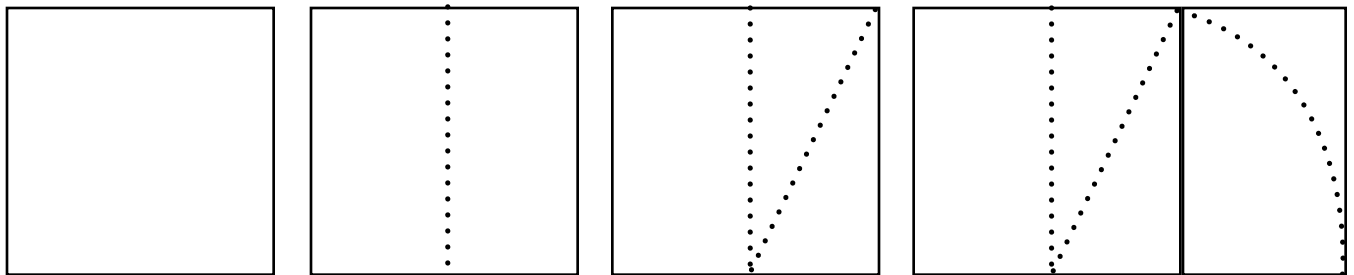
Combination graphite pencils and India ink on 9 x 11 manilla paper mailing envelope.

Aims

Composing a picture is a complex endeavor or undertaking. It is helpful to understand what structures lay underneath the shape of the rectangle and why artists use it in the first place. Artists have copied from nature for thousands of years. However what artists call *divine proportion* is even older. The golden rectangle is formed by a naturally occurring ratio of 1:1.6180... This ratio is named Phi. We see this relationship in nature and the human body. For example; The ratio of the length of the forearm to the hand is 1.618 to 1, so is the width of your hand to the thumb, and so on and so forth. By organizing our compositions around this ratio they more closely resemble the structure of the natural world and the beauty and order with in it.



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Directions

- 1_ Collect one Manilla Mailing Envelope as provided. Gather *source* images that related to elements in your composition. Source images can be used for visual inspiration but must be changed so that you are not infringing on copyrights.
- 2_ **You must create a image of an “event” real or imagined.** This must take place in a definable space. Use over lapping, size change, and detail to help create a sense of foreground middle ground and background.
- 3_ Begin by creating three thumbnail drawings to help layout out the best possible composition. The placement of objects within the picture should be arranged to incorporate the golden ratio. Use the figure above to help draw out a golden rectangle. Place elements of importance inline with the divisions or “eyes” formed by intersections of lines created by the golden ratio.
- 4_ In your design **you must include an address to a person or place** that the artwork can be mailed to. **This must be located somewhere that close to the center** of the envelope. You must also leave enough room for the stamps in the upper right hand corner.
- 5_ Sketch out your design using an h or hb pencil. Once the composition is set use a combination speed ball dip pens with india ink and permanent markers to ink in design.
- 6_ Once you have inked in your design you may add color by using watercolors.