

Science Fiction & Fantasy Art

Observe here the soft distribution of colour when a source of heat and light is placed in dark surroundings. Notice in the 18th Century painting on the top right by Joseph Wright of Derby, an artist who embraced and recorded the onset of the industrial revolution, the composure of the figures and their placid yet serious facial expressions as heat illuminates them. Compare this with the other two pictures both by the Hildebrandt brothers, the team who produced the original “Star Wars” poster. There are great similarities and an understanding of how colour is posited against shadow under certain lighting conditions. Using a secondary source of light or in the lower picture a blanket of moonlight outdoors at night, the artists have utilised swathes of purple and blue to their advantage.

This gives an excellent dramatic effect; one used frequently in advertising, photography and of course, science fiction and fantasy illustration.

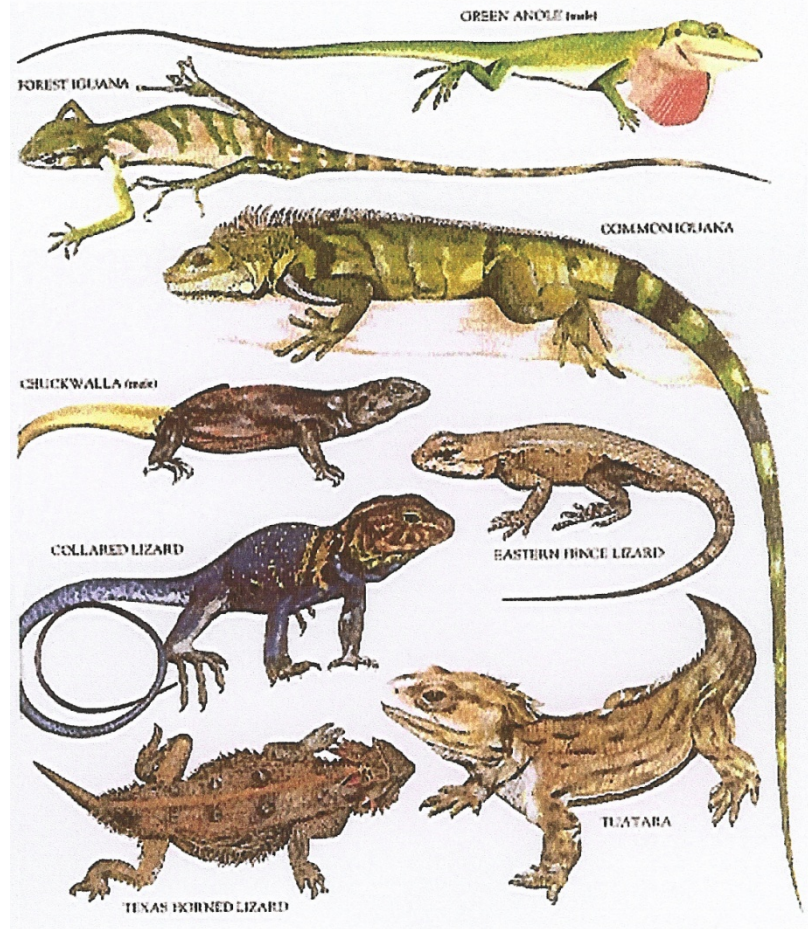


Look closely at colours and their use at different points in the history of art. Compare examples through the centuries with one another. Think about what is pleasing to the eye and what is less so.

Consider the effectiveness of colour juxtapositions that suggest majesty, sorrow, drama, horror and power. This will be beneficial when you come to submit exercises later.

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Here are some real lizards:



and here is a fantasy version:



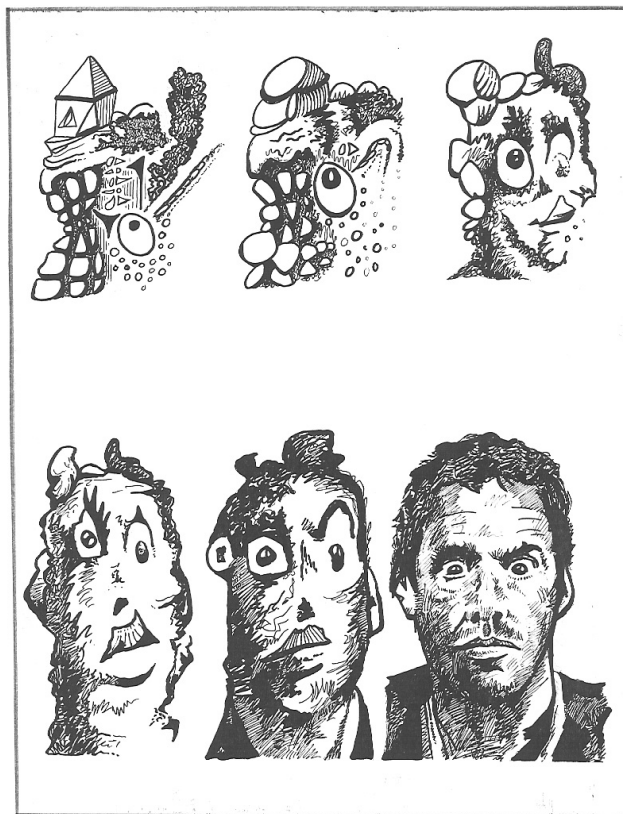
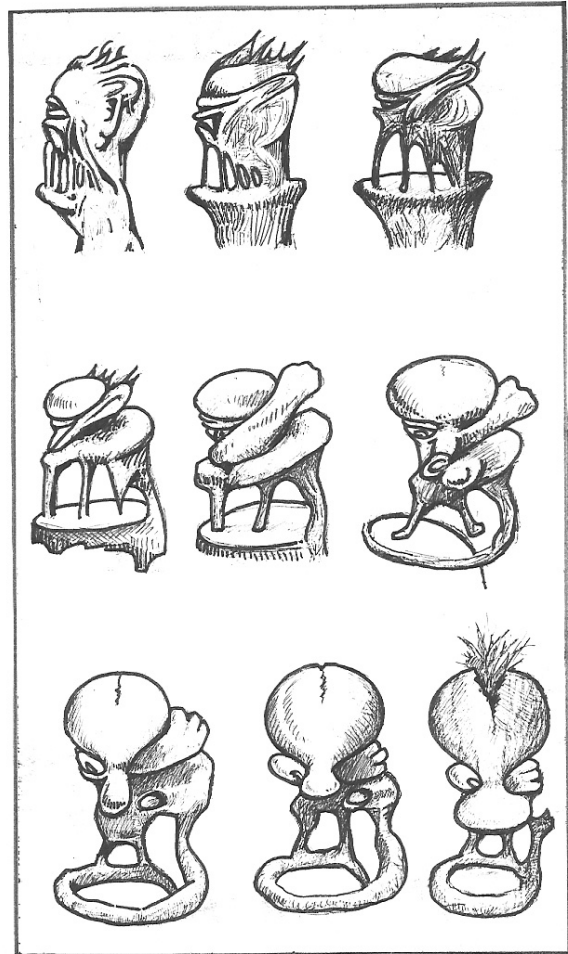
When you are short of inspiration head for the Zoo, the Natural History section of your local library or the wildlife channels on your TV!

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A common narrative theme in sci fi, fantasy and horror stories is the transformation or 'morphing' sequence.

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Here are two examples of shape-changing or 'morphing'. The first is based totally on products of the imagination.



The second sequence alters by degree from a doodle to a portrait.