



FEBRUARY 2020 – STUDYING COMPOSITION: Armatures: Radiating Lines

“You are the leader; you are in control. It is your job to guide your viewers along a visual path to the center of interest and then around and around through your [painting]. If you don’t, they will become lost, confused, bored, or worse—escape from the scene.”¹

INTRO TO LEADING LINES

Leading lines are a fantastic tool. When you first become aware of leading lines, you’ll be amazed at how many you see all around you every day. They are the lines in a painting that **lead the viewer’s eye to the**

Most often the leading lines will start in the foreground and disappear into the background. They might even converge to a point of infinity in the background. This creates a sense of movement through the image as the viewer’s eye journeys throughout.

RADIATING LINES

☞ “An obvious example of radiating lines is a one-point perspective, where everything in the picture converges on one point.”² Normally, the “one point” on a one-point perspective can be found anywhere on the horizon line, although you will find that paintings of multiple hills, (such as San Francisco) have multiple points of converging lines.

“The problem with [one point perspectives] is that you may get our attention to that point so fast that we have no time to linger and meander around your painting. Give us the chance to enjoy the journey you’re creating in your painting. You can use radiating lines to pull us in, **and opposing weaker lines** (as in the field-below- in the foreground) to slow us down.”²

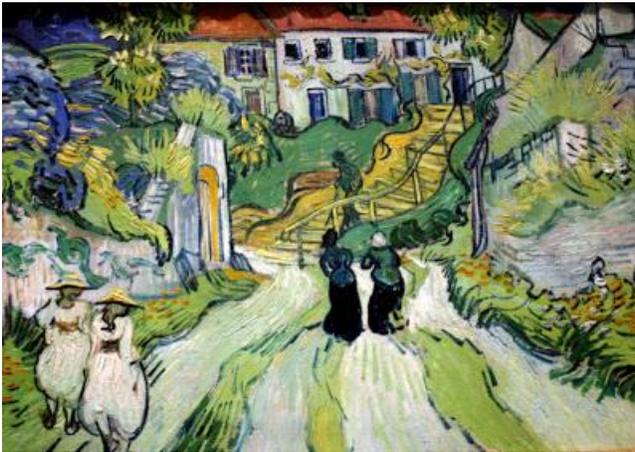


1. Painting Better Landscapes, Margaret Kessler, pg 42
2. Mastering Composition, Ian Roberts, pg 21



ART CHALLENGE 2020

OTHER EXAMPLES - Note that radiating lines do not have to be straight.



Van Gogh

John Salminen



Joyce Hicks.



Have fun with this one!

*Cheers,
Barbara Sparks
Barbara@blsparks.com*

1. Painting Better Landscapes, Margaret Kessler, pg 42
2. Mastering Composition, Ian Roberts, pg 21