



ETSU DEPARTMENT OF ART & DESIGN

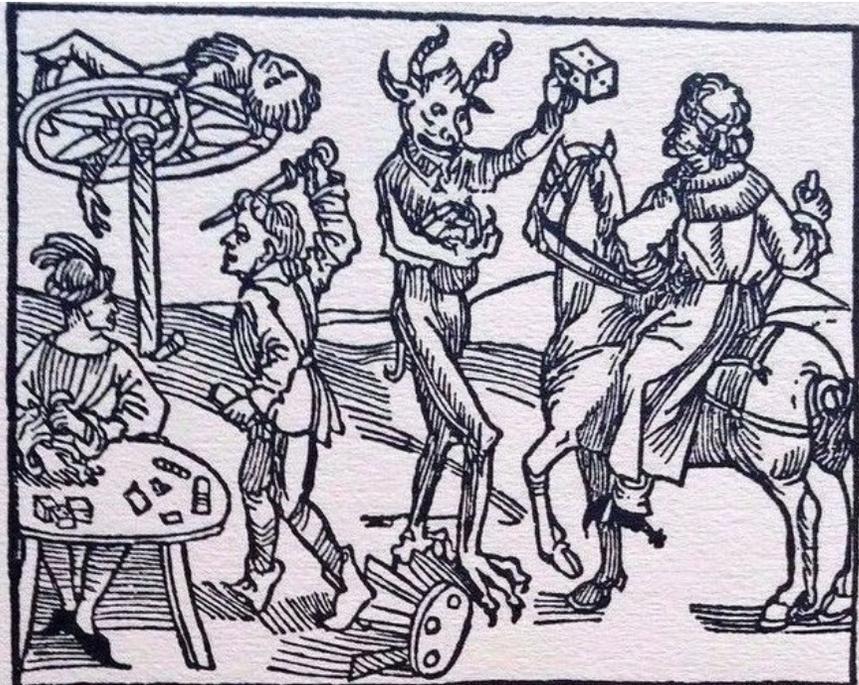
4D Design

Narrative vs. Non-Narrative, Sequence, Causality, Duration

Narrative vs Non-Narrative

The main difference between the narrative and non-narrative is the organization. Narrative unfolds as a story. In many stories, events are told out of order (for example, through flashbacks), but underneath the surface there is a plot in which events are tied together chronologically. In non-narrative forms of text, film and video, the structure might not be chronological. Instead, it can be organized in a number of ways, such as:

- cause and effect
- main idea and supporting details
- alphabetical order; e.g., dictionary or encyclopedia



What is a Linear Narrative ???

- A narrative is a story that includes plot, characters, setting, climax and resolution. Linear narratives present stories in a logical manner by telling what happens from one point in time to the next without using flashbacks or flash-forwards and then returning to the present.



Albrecht Durer

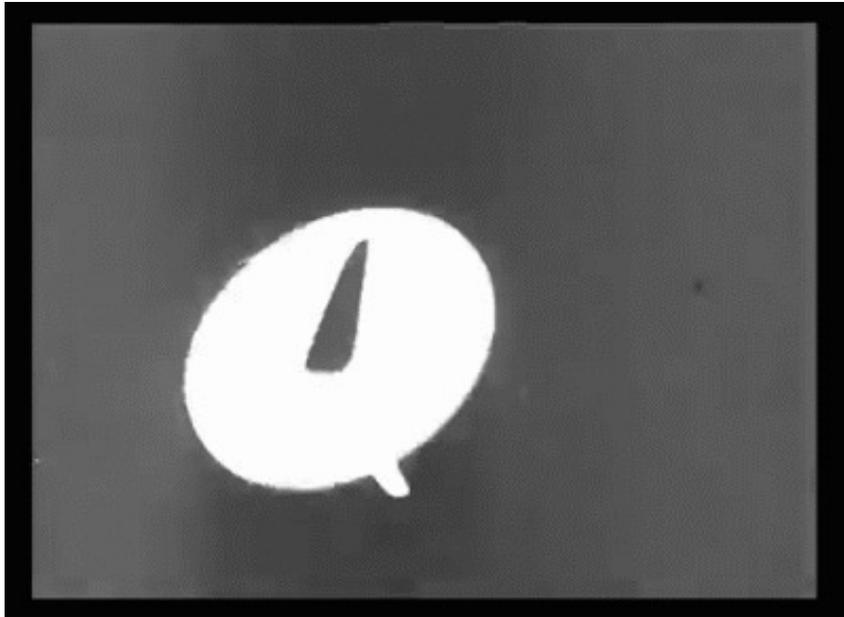
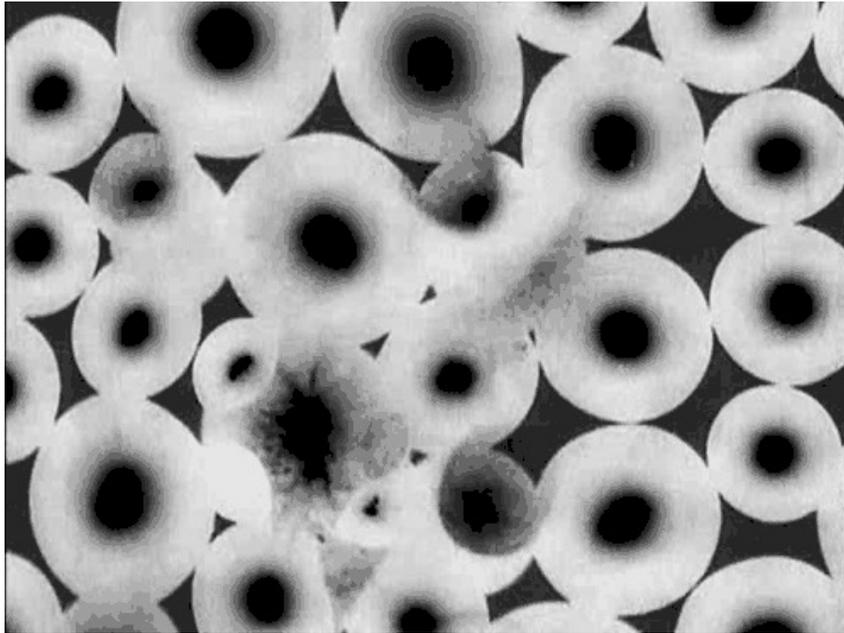
Wie der Würffel auff ist Kumen

Woodcut

1489



... the image presents an entire narrative sequence as a single pictorial representation, thus illustrating how a story or fabula can be completely re-presented by discourse or sjuzet. The story goes something like this: 1) The first "frame" of the sequence is the right-hand half of the image, in which a travelling knight is stopped by the devil, who holds up a die to tempt the knight to gamble; 2) the second "frame" is the bottom-left-hand corner of the image, where a quarrel breaks out at the gambling table; 3) the third "frame" is the top-left-hand corner of the image, where the knight is punished by death on the wheel. By having the entire sequence in a single two-dimensional space, the image comments on the fact that narrative, unlike life, is never a gamble but always stacks the deck towards some fulfilling structural closure."

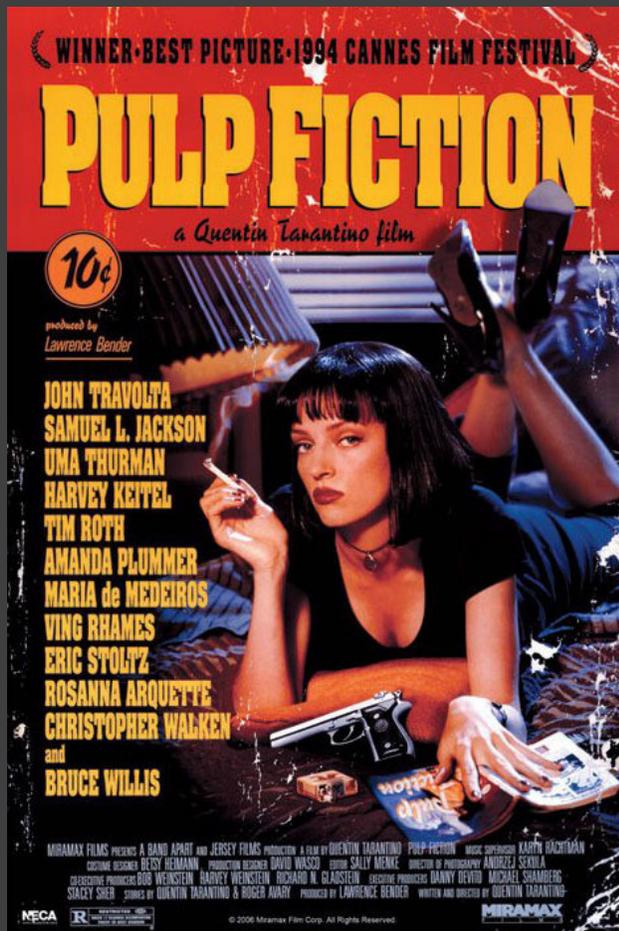


What is a Non-Linear Narrative ???

Non-Linear is a narrative technique, where events are portrayed, for example, out of chronological order or in other ways where the narrative does not follow the direct causality pattern of the events featured, such as parallel distinctive plot lines, dream immersions or narrating another story inside the main plot-line. It is often used to mimic the structure and recall of human memory, but has been applied for other reasons as well.

Watch, Man Ray's [Le Retour à la Raison \(The Return to Reason\)](#)

In Paris, in the 1920s, Man Ray began experimenting with photograms, pictures made by placing objects on photosensitive paper and exposing it to light. In these works, which he called "rayographs," after himself, light is both the subject and medium. In *Le Retour à la raison (Return to Reason)*, the artist extended the rayograph technique to moving images—he sprinkled salt and pepper onto one piece of film and pins onto another and added sequences of night shots at a fairground and a segment showing a paper mobile dancing with its own shadow. The final sequence of the film introduces Man Ray's legendary model Alice Prin—also known as Kiki of Montparnasse—naked, her body illuminated in stripes of light.



Pulp Fiction

Directed by: Quentin Tarantino
1994

Clip: [“Uncomfortable Silence”](#)

Faced with life's cruel irony, the unpredictable stories of a well-dressed pair of low-level hitmen; a gangster's statuesque moll, and a double-crossing prizefighter become inextricably intertwined, as the small-time crooks, Honey Bunny and Pumpkin, summon up the courage to hold up their favourite L.A. diner. Entrusted with retrieving a glow-emitting leather suitcase which belongs to their boss--the powerful crime kingpin, Marsellus--instead, the dark-suited gunmen, Vincent Vega and Jules Winnfield, end up with a bloody mess. Fortunately--with men like Mr Wolf always around to handle a crisis--there's time to cool off in a long twist contest, while at the same time, the proud champion boxer, Butch, makes the decision of a lifetime.

—[Nick Riganas](#)



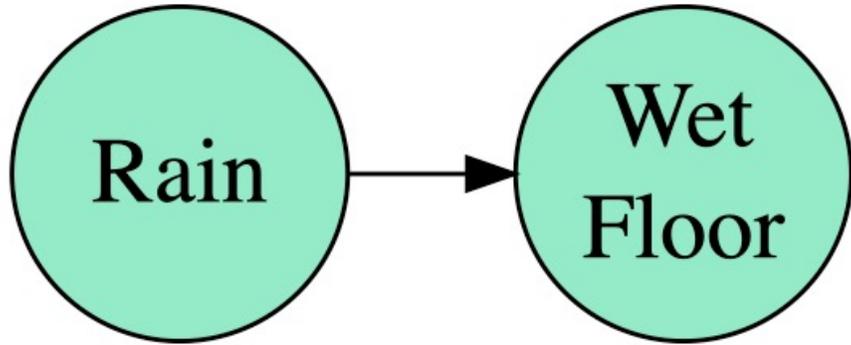
What is Duration???

Duration: This is the overall length of time in a work, or a portion of a work. This will apply to all 4D media, even if the work is never ending. Selecting the duration of your work is vital to its effectiveness and can help develop focus

Watch a clip of, Andy Warhol's, [Empire](#), (1964): 8 hours of film in 2 minutes

- *Empire* is an epic black-and-white silent film that consists of one stationary shot of the Empire State Building taken from the forty-fourth floor of the Time-Life Building in midtown Manhattan. Without characters or a traditional narrative, the work's aesthetic objective is to explore the passage of time.





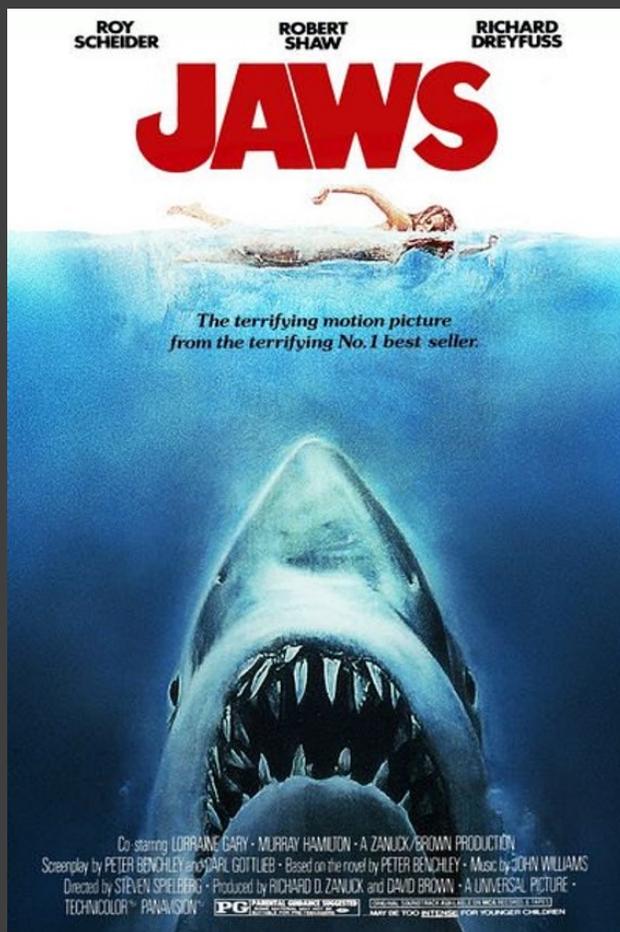
What is a CAUSALITY ???

- The principle that everything has a cause and effect.
- It is a key element of both narrative and non-narrative works.
- Causality implies expectations, and artists can use this sense of anticipation or suspense to establish any number of situations with expected or unexpected outcomes.

LUNG CANCER



SMOKING



Jaws

Directed by: Steven Spielberg
1975

["We are going to need a bigger boat"
Clip.](#)

In the film Jaws there is a clear cause and effect. Watch the famous "We are going to need a bigger boat." clip and consider the causal relationship.



What is Sequence???

A sequence is a series of scenes that form a distinct narrative unit, which is usually connected either by a unity of location or a unity of time.

Alfred Hitchcock's film [*Psycho*](#), (1960)

Hitchcock wasn't being grandiose in his assessment of *Psycho*. It really is his purest, most effective visual accomplishment. The Master of Suspense was an alumnus of the old school of silent-era directors that *lived* by the first rule of cinema: Show it, don't say it. They believed in the pre-eminence of visual storytelling – communicating emotion with only the moving picture – and understood that dialogue should be used as a supplement, to underline and augment the story being told with the images on the screen. – [John M. Heath](#)