

## Creating the Illusion of Depth

There are six techniques that artists use to create the illusion of depth on a flat two-dimensional surface. Many times, an artist will use several of these techniques all at once. For that matter, you have probably used some of these techniques yourself and not even realized it! These are methods of drawing that simply make your artwork look “right”. They are as follows:

- **OVERLAPPING** – OVERLAPPING IS WHEN ONE SHAPE COVERS PART OF ANOTHER SHAPE. THE SHAPE THAT IS COVERING THE OTHER ONE WILL APPEAR TO BE CLOSER TO YOU



- **SIZE** – WHEN YOU DRAW DISTANT OBJECTS SMALL, AND OBJECTS THAT ARE CLOSE TO YOU LARGE, YOU WILL CREATE THE FEELING OF DEPTH THAT GOES BACK INTO SPACE



- **FOCUS** – FOCUS HAS TO DO WITH THE AMOUNT OF DETAIL YOU INCLUDE IN YOUR DRAWINGS. YOU CAN'T SEE DETAILS IN ITEMS THAT ARE FAR AWAY, SO THEY SHOULD APPEAR A BIT OUT OF FOCUS. CLOSER OBJECTS WILL HAVE MANY MORE DETAILS THAN FARTHER ONES



- **PLACEMENT** – ITEMS THAT ARE CLOSE TO YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE DRAWN LOW ON THE PAGE. THIS IS CALLED THE **FOREGROUND**. THE CENTER OF THE PAGE IS THE **MIDDLEGROUND**, WHERE THE SUBJECT IS USUALLY FOUND. THE TOP OF THE PAGE IS THE **BACKGROUND**. DISTANT OBJECTS BELONG IN THE BACKGROUND



- **ATMOSPHERIC PERSPECTIVE** – THE ATMOSPHERE, OR AIR AROUND US, HAS THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THE LOOK OF COLORS. THE COLOR OF OBJECTS THAT ARE CLOSE TO US IS VERY PURE OR REAL BECAUSE VERY LITTLE AIR SPACE IS BETWEEN THAT OBJECT AND OUR EYES. WHEN YOU MOVE AN OBJECT FARTHER AWAY, YOU ARE LOOKING THROUGH AIR THAT MAY BE CLOUDED OR POLLUTED WITH MANY THINGS. EVEN INSECTS OR DIRT BLOWING IN THE WIND CAN GET IN OUR LINE OF SIGHT. THEREFORE, OBJECTS THAT ARE FAR AWAY SHOULD BE DULL, OR PERHAPS LIGHTER IN COLOR, SAVE THE BRIGHT, BOLD COLORS FOR THE FOREGROUND



- **LINEAR PERSPECTIVE** – LINEAR PERSPECTIVE IS THE FINAL WAY TO CREATE DEPTH. IT IS A WAY OF SLANTING THE HORIZONTAL LINES OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER OBJECTS SO THAT THEY APPEAR TO COME TOGETHER AT A COMMON PLACE KNOWN AS THE **VANISHING POINT**. THE VANISHING POINT IS ALWAYS ON THE **HORIZON LINE**, WHICH IS WHERE THE GROUND AND THE SKY SEEM TO MEET

