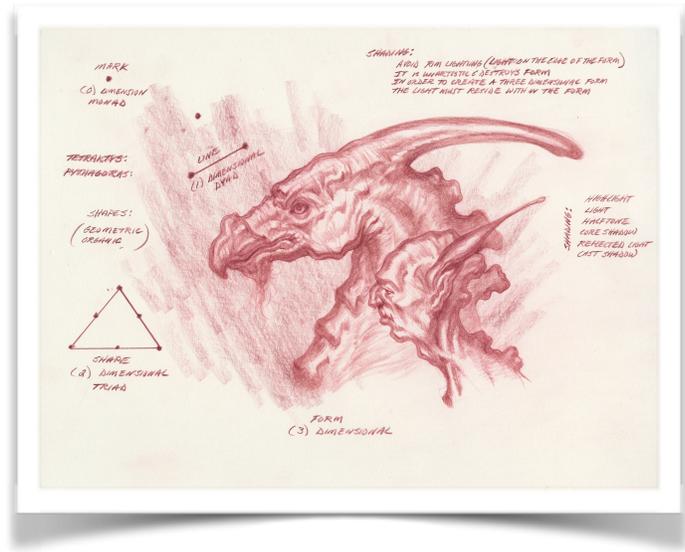
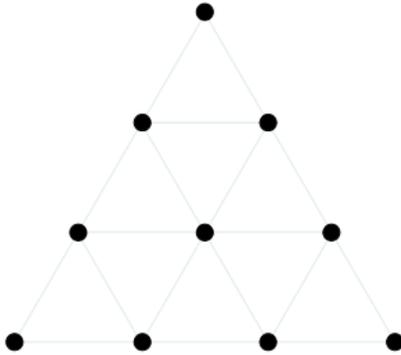


MICHAEL HENSLEY

ARTISTIC ANATOMY ELEMENTS OF DRAWING

TETRAKTYS

A Mystical Concept of Drawing: Point/Mark, Line, Shape, Form



Pythagoras: (c. 570 BC–c. 495 BC): First man to call himself a philosopher (seeker of wisdom, lover of knowledge), he was also known as a mystic and mathematician. Pythagorean Brotherhood/Sect: Secret Religious Society)

The Tetraktys (Dekad or tetrad), is a triangular figure consisting of ten points arranged in four rows: there are one, two, three, and four points in each row, which is the geometrical representation of the fourth triangular number. Additionally, the Tetraktys symbolizes the four elements — fire, air, water, and earth. As a mystical symbol, it was very important to the secret worship of the Pythagoreans.

Dekad: The four rows add up to ten, which was unity of a higher order (The Dekad)

The first four numbers symbolize the harmony of the spheres and the Cosmos as:

- (Monad) Unity
- (Dyad) Power - Limit/Unlimited
- (Triad) Harmony
- (Tetrad) Cosmos

The Tetraktys as it relates to the drawing process:

- (Monad): The first row represented zero-dimensions (a point: Point)
- (Dyad): The second row represented one-dimension (a line of two points: Line)
- (Triad): The third row represented two-dimensions (a plane defined by a triangle of three points: Plane/Shape)
- (Tetrad): The fourth row represented three-dimensions (a tetrahedron defined by four points: Form/Pyramid)

Point: Dot: Mark: (zero dimension) The point is the first and simplest element of visual design. By definition we can't actually draw a point, since to see one would require it to have dimensions. Therefore what we see when we remove our point is a dot/mark.

Even if there is only one dot/mark, on a surface our brain is designed to will meaning for it, it seeks some kind of relationship or order, if only to use it as a point of orientation in relation to the outline of the surface. If there are two points, the eye will make a connection and "see" a line. If there are three points, it is unavoidable to interpret them as a triangle; the mind supplies the connections.

Line: (one dimensional) A continuous mark made on a surface by a moving point. Marks that span a distance between two points.

Shape: (two dimensional) A two dimensional area that is defined in some way (geometric and or organic) Shapes are two-dimensional (flat/planes)

Form: (three dimensional)

A three dimensional shape: A three-dimensional object: a defined volume of space.