**Project 2: Graphic Density**

**Value: 50 pts**

**Objective: This project will explore shape, repetition, rhythm, gradation, unity, and practice craftsmanship.** In this project you will be completing a study to explore graphic density, shape, gradation, and implied movement.

Materials: Bristol board, solid colored or black paper, sketchbook, x-acto knife, metal ruler, pencil, cutting mat.

1.75”

**20% 40% 60% 80%**

1” x 5” 2” x 5” 3” x 5” 4” x 5”

Black paper black paper black paper black paper

1”

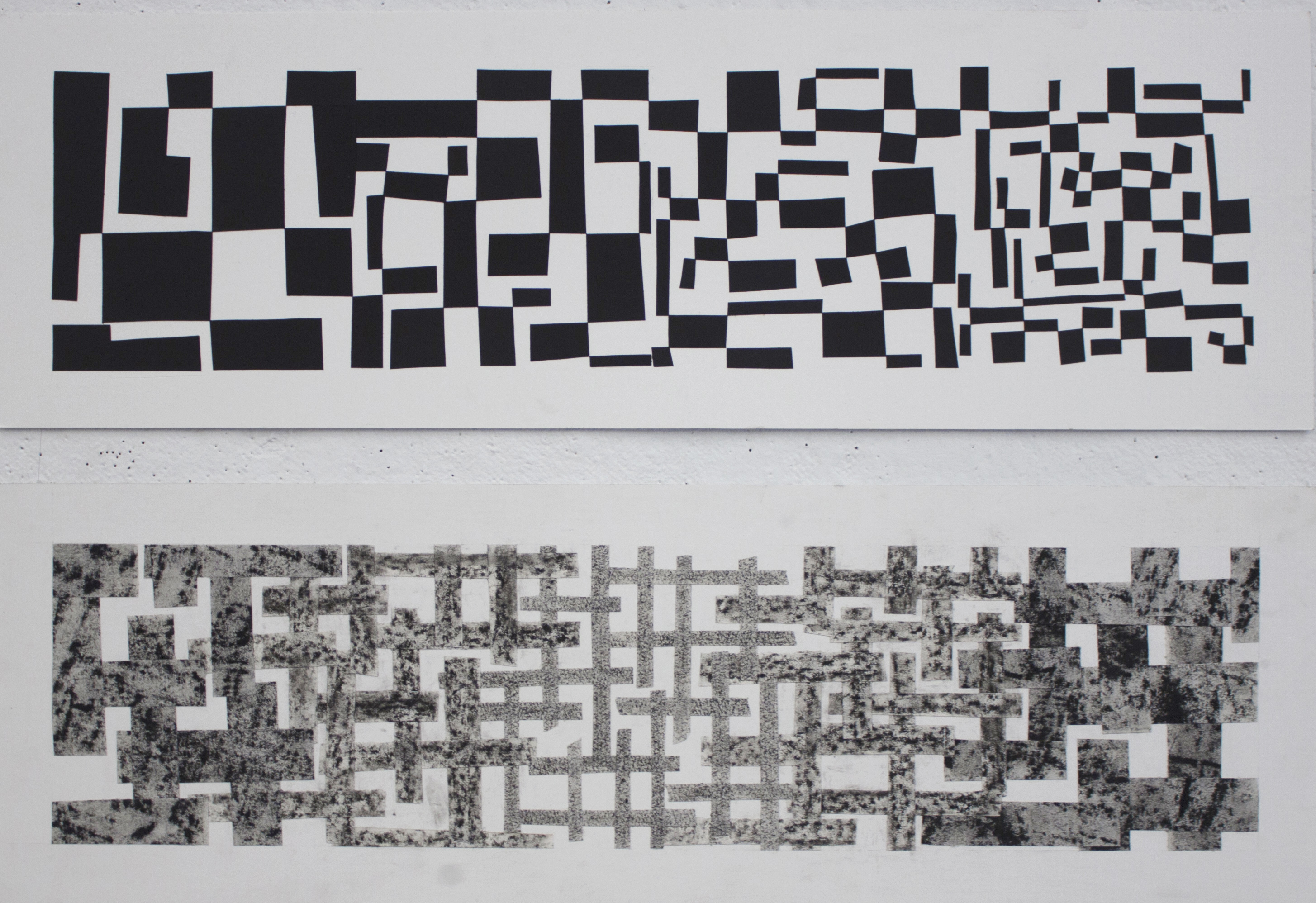
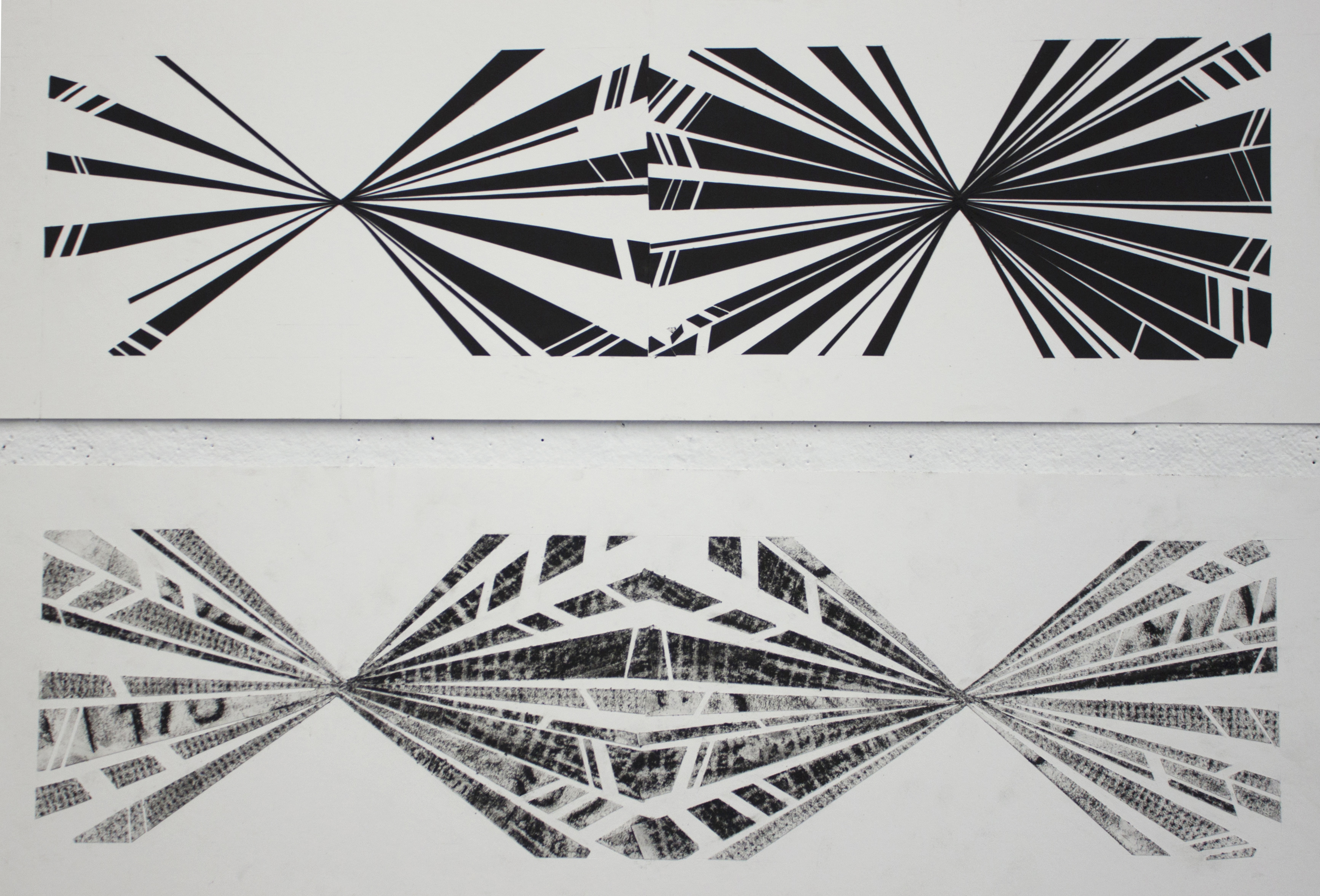
1”

1.75”

Begin with a 24” x 8.5” piece of paper. Divide each study into four 5” x 5” boxes, with 1” border on the short sides and 1.75” border on top and bottom. Draw the borders for each square extremely lightly in pencil, so they can be erased afterwards.

Your challenge is to display graphic density in a *linear progression* with geometric solid colored paper on white cardstock. Each square will be covered with a sequentially increasing amount of colored paper: 20% in square 1, 40% in square 2, 60% in square 3, and 80% in square 4. This coverage corresponds to a particular size of source black paper for each square- for the first box, start with a 1”x5” strip of black paper, the second 2”x5”, the third 3”x5”, and the fourth 4”x5”.

**Create gradation by focusing on** *repetition* of form. Working square by square, cut the correct amount of black or solid colored paper into any non-symbolic geometric simple shape (squares, triangles, rectangles, polygons) and place on the white surface to show a progression of graphic density. The shape must be repetitive, but need not be identical- for instance, if you use sharp triangular forms, you can vary the size, dimensions, and direction of the triangular form. If you use rectangles or polygons, you can vary them similarly. However, the first square must only use 1” x 5” worth of black paper, the second square 2” x 5”, and so on. The forms can not physically overlap (as that would hide some black paper and reduce the amount visible) but they may *appear* to overlap. Your primary goal in study 1 is to experiment- how can you utilize repetition to imply gradation? How can you vary shape sizes for visual interest? When does the shape lose its own identity and become part of the whole?

   
Study 1 Examples

