

Ways Of Perceiving

Spatial organisation refers to how space is utilised within a certain area, there are many different ways in which space can be used to give an event or exhibit a desired effect. I will be discussing Baroque spatial organisation which was founded in Rome during the early 17th century. Baroque refers to an art movement which dominated and influenced European art throughout the entire century (Fokker,1938). I will be applying this style to a music concert; I have chosen to write about this because the use of spatial organisation in Baroque art forms can complement my choice of setting as it helps me utilise space in my drawing in a way that creates a wider background than would be possible in other art styles. This piece of text will outline the image of my music concert, how Baroque artists use spatial organisation and how the style has helped influence the creation of my setting.

Baroque spatial organisation attempts to give the illusion on continuous and homogenous space; In my map layout I have chosen to draw from the perspective of behind the band on the stage using this art style. This allows me to give the illusion of a continuous space forming in the background as opposed to limited space in the background in exchange for detailed characters. This style can create the effect that the venue appears larger and the figures representing the fans in the background appear more frequently because the figures representing the band are at the forefront of the drawing.

Zupnick (1959) explains how Baroque pieces offer limited highlighting on figures in the drawing, a style commonly used in renaissance painting in exchange for complex, detailed and continuous backgrounds. Zupnick (1959) goes on to explain that this illusion is achieved by placing the centrepiece closer to the front, so the backgrounds appear larger and more vast. This can be seen in Bernini's placement of the curving colonnade in front of St Peter's cathedral to create the illusion that the cathedral is bigger. I can utilise this example in my setting by placing a large object such as a drum kit in the front and centre of my drawing to create the illusion that the background appears larger.



Another example of this is Antonio and Piero del Pollaiuolo's Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian as the figures are in the forefront of the painting which makes the background appear vaster. This use of Baroque spatial organisation will help me organise the figures in the

front of my drawing in a way that will make the horizon appear to be more expansive.



Another Baroque art piece that can influence my work is Paolo de Matteis' *Triumph of the Immaculate* which is a piece that contains numerous figures in both the forefront and the background. The artist utilises the space between the characters in the front and the back to create the impression that there are an infinite number of characters. This can influence my work of art as within a music concert there must be the band members and the audience to account for but by drawing inspiration from Matteis' work I can place the band members at the front of the drawing to make the viewer believe the number of fans is infinite and improve the depth of the drawing as a whole. In addition to that, Matteis' methods of organising the space in his drawing can help me add additional elements to my setting such as a food and drink stand, merchandise sellers and toilets as well by placing them towards the back to improve the atmosphere.



Figure 3

Pieter de Hooch's *Woman with a Child in a Pantry* utilises the Baroque style in a way that allows for the viewer to feel like they are gazing upon a three-dimensional image of an indoor setting. This is because the positioning of the woman and the child in the front of the image and the hallway protruding backwards create the effect that the figures are standing in a room with a hallway leading out of it. Furthermore, Hooch uses the colours in the left-hand side in a darker fashion than on the right to add to the illusion of the three-dimensional view. The colour contrast is utilised to give the viewer the impression that the room on the right is a different room than the one in the front of the picture which adds another dimension to the painting. By utilising the Baroque style of spatial organisation in the same way as Hooch I can convey to the viewer the impression of a three-dimensional indoor venue. I can also organise the colour schemes in different sections of my setting to signify which areas are of important to the spectator and to add a three dimensional visual atmosphere.



Figure 4

The final way Baroque artists utilise the space in their pieces is by contrasting dark and light colours to signify the object is either in the front or back of the image or the figure is of significance. This allows the viewer to determine where their attention should be drawn to so baroque artists use this to place brightly coloured figures in the front to add further detail and depth to the background. Wolfflin, Ballange & Teyssedre (1967) describe this concept as one of the 3 distinctive characteristics of the Baroque era as the use of lighting and shading adds to the three-dimensional illusion that is commonly found mostly in Baroque artworks. For example, Nicolas Poussin's "The Exposition of Moses" uses this technique to signify a few of the figures as significant as they are in bright clothing whereas the other characters are pictured in dark colours. Furthermore, Poussin uses dark colours for the scenery in the lower half of the image and brighter colours in the top half to further emphasise the illusion that the brighter objects are further away than the darker ones. I can utilise this practice by using brighter colours for the stage area and the band members in the setting to draw the viewers' attention to

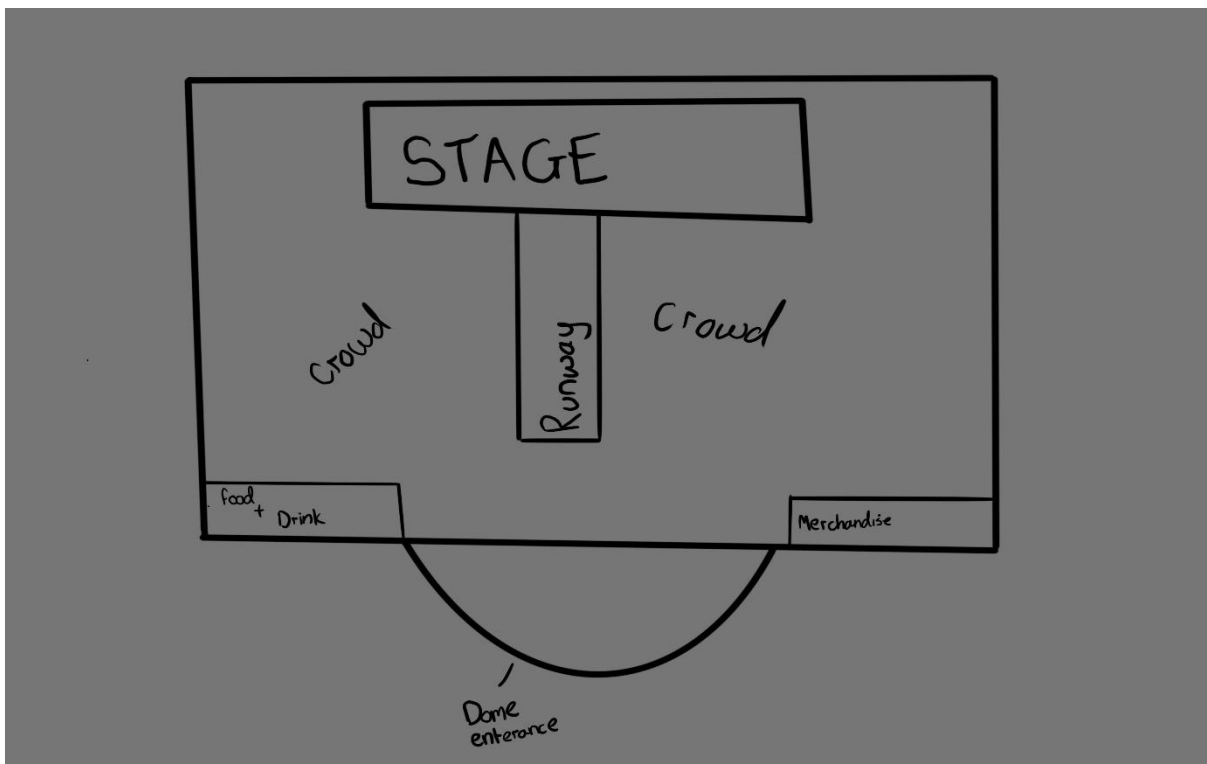
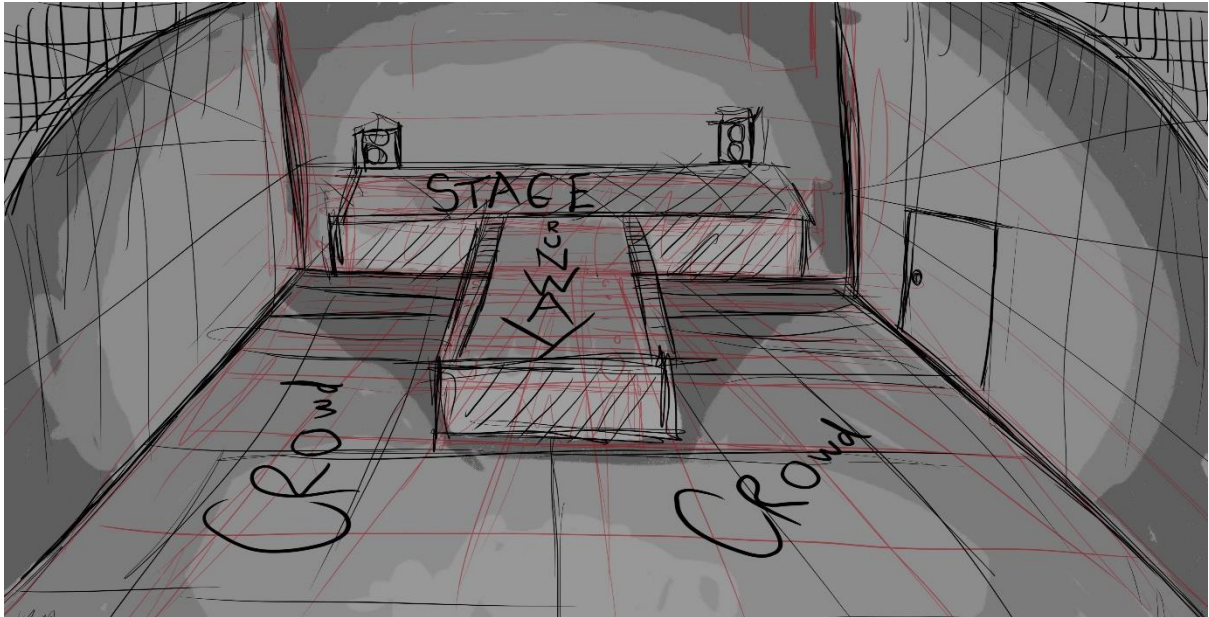
these areas. This will be contrasted with darker colours in the background to make the background appear to have more depth to it.



Figure 5

One of the main benefits to using Baroque methods of spatial organisation is my setting can appear to be more vivid and alive than would be possible with other methods such as Classical and Renaissance art styles. This is because Baroque focuses on creating detailed backgrounds and muted characters, whereas Classical and Renaissance forms of spatial organisation place emphasis on the characters in the drawing with little detail in the background. On the other hand, drawing inspiration from Baroque methods of spatial organisation limits me in the sense that I am unable to place much detail on characters as the figures will be less precise in exchange for a more in-depth setting.

To summarise, the setting I have created is a music concert, I have looked at perspective in order to create an importance- the band over the audience, as they should be the main focal point of this space. To add atmosphere to the scene I have decided to include a runway in the middle of the crowd area, I did this because it adds depth and perspective to the space and helps utilise the fact that this is a three-dimensional space. This is because from the perspective of the audience the singer is on the runway and the band is further away behind them and from the perspective of behind the stage the band members are all in various locations which contributes to the three-dimensional atmosphere. I studied Baroque methods of spatial organisation in order to help me understand how to make specific areas in a space stand out amongst others through the use of colour, tones and depth perception, this was useful to me when creating a music event as it was important that I made the band and stage area stand out greatly amongst the crowd and the rest of the space. The figures below are two maps that I have created to convey my venue idea and show how I shall utilise the space to create a concert setting. I have provided two different maps to show both a two dimensional and three dimensional view of the layout of the venue, so that the viewer has a more detailed idea on what this space is going to look like. The three dimensional map gives an idea of what it could look like to a person who would be physically standing within the space, while the 2D map is more to show how this space will be utilised by the stage equipment and where the crowd is going to be placed within this.



Images:

Figure 1

<https://www.hexapolis.com/2014/10/11/8-incredible-facts-about-st-peters-basilica/>

Figure 2

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/antonio-del-pollaiuolo-and-piero-del-pollaiuolo-the-martyrdom-of-saint-sebastian>

Figure 3

https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lenouvelesprit.com%2Fdonate&psig=AOvVaw2fAUOwf6pbaV-kw1Rkd_e4&ust=1589305828567000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAMQjB1qFwoTCNjy492vrOkCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAw

Figure 4

[http://hoocher.com/Pieter de Hooch/Pieter de Hooch.htm](http://hoocher.com/Pieter_de_Hooch/Pieter_de_Hooch.htm)

Figure 5

<https://bibleartists.wordpress.com/tag/poussin/>

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Wölfflin, H., Ballangé, G. and Teyssèdre, B., 1967. *Renaissance and baroque*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Zupnick, I. 1959. Concept of Space and Spatial Organization in Art. In *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* Vol. 18, No. 2. Pp215-221.