

Analysis One
Marcel Duchamp
Nude Descending a Staircase



Figure 1:<http://artelectronicmedia.com/artwork/nude-descending-a-staircase>

Interesting fact:

Nude Descending a Staircase was recreated with Duchamp. In April 1952, Duchamp was featured in a ten-page spread in Life Magazine titled "Dada's Daddy." Photographer Eliot Elisofon took the image using a bulb setting. Every time Duchamp took a step a flash triggered, creating the impression of Duchamp.

I will appropriate *Nude Descending a Staircase* using Elisofon's style, while still showing a strong connection to the original.

Duchamp, Marcel
Nude Descending a Staircase
Made in France, Europe
1912

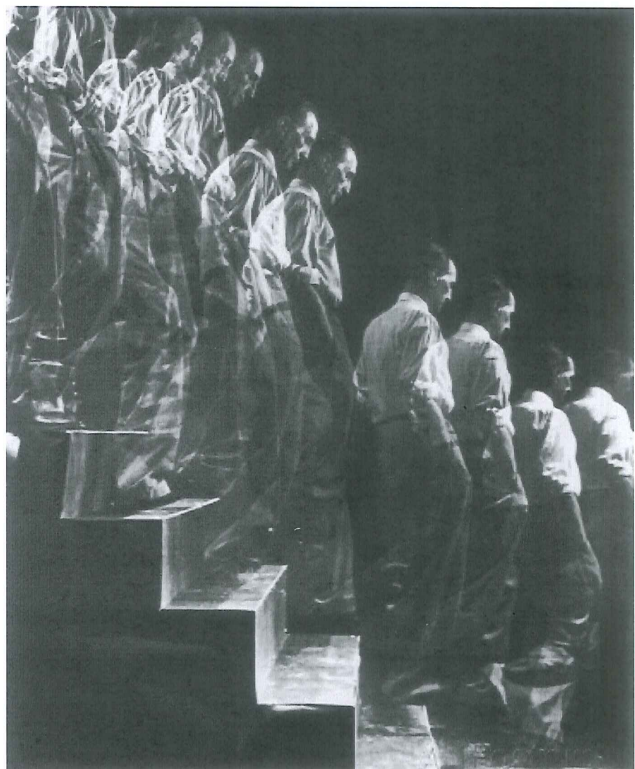
Oil on canvas
57 7/8 x 35 1/8 inches (147 x 89.2 cm) Framed: 59 3/4
x 36 3/4 x 2 inches (151.8 x 93.3 x 5.1 cm)
<http://www.philamuseum.org/collections/permanent/51449.html>

Nude Descending a Staircase is depicting movement of a woman walking down a flight of stairs. This is a clear representation of Futurism. Duchamp has used strong geometrical forms, which connect to cubism.

Duchamp has composed this piece using the rule of thirds. The face and neck are prominent, in the second section her stomach/thigh is seen, and in the third section are her lower legs.

Duchamp's clever use of thin repeated lines reflects the movement of limbs. Those few curve lines are genius in reflecting motion. The viewer's eye is drawn downwards to follow the movement. The only static elements are the stairs in the bottom left.

Light in this piece is strongest as the woman approaches the bottom of the stairs. Contrasting darker allows the lighter figure to be the focal point. Also, the colours are muted and almost monochromatic, which create harmony.



http://www.allposters.com.au/-sp/Marcel-Duchamp-Walking-down-Stairs-in-exposure-of-Famous-Painting-Nude-Descending-a-Staircase-posters_i3788063_.htm