

Chapter 18

Compositional Dynamics, Section 6

The interaction of dynamic forms within a composition plays an important role in establishing its emotional tone. The *dynamic orientation* of its forms can evoke a wide range of feelings, from serenity to wild excitement and action. In this section of the *Outline* we are going to determine how these forces are at work within our image by identifying the *dominant* (most prominent), the *subdominant* (middle prominence), and *subordinate* (least prominent) *dynamic orientation* of the elements in the design. We will be working to establish the basic **Dynamic Contours** within the image.

Objectives:

Identify the dominant, subdominant, subordinate dynamics (diagonal, vertical, horizontal) and their importance to the composition

Image Links:

Figure 4.4 <http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/3977/simon-bening-the-arrest-of-christ-flemish-about-1525-1530/>[Public domain], Simon Bening via The J. Paul Getty Museum

Figure 4.5 <http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/435809> Public domain], Pieter Bruegel via The Metropolitan Museum of Art