Positive Negative Space Reversal

DOCUMENT PREPARATION

go to File > New and open a new document. type your name, last name and first initial, and "posneg" in the New Document dialogue window, Ex: "lastnameposneg" verify the following Artboard set up; Size: letter- width 13" x height 14" Unit: inches Orientation: vertical Color mode: RGB color Select OK or press Return with the document open go to Illustrator > Preferences > General deselect "use precise cursors" select "show tool tips" in the preferences window click on the drop down menu and select > Guides and Grids in "gridline every:" type 1 in "subdivisions:" type 4 Select OK or press Return go to View > Show Rulers set ruler origin to 0,0 by dragging the two dashed lines from the little white square in the upper left corner of the document window to the upper left corner of the Artboard. go to View > Show Grid go to View > Snap to Grid go to Window > Info to make sure the info window is visible In the Toolbox window look for the Rectangle Tool and Draw a 4" x 4" square holding the shift key before releasing the mouse. It will constrain the rectangle to a square. When the square is 4" x 4" on the Width: and Height: of the Info window, release the mouse. Place the square 2" in from the left and 2" from the top. Leave a 1" space and draw another 4" x 4" square and set it 1" horizontally and to the right of the previous one and 2" in from the right edge of the Artboard. Deselect All. Drag Select the first two squares and Drag Copy by holding the Option key as you drag out to duplicate the designs. Place them 1" below the top two squares and release the mouse while holding the Option key and the Shift key to keep them aligned. After placing four squares in two columns and two rows place your printed name, not larger than half an inch, in the bottom right, 2" from the edge in the middle. Once the layout is completed go to File > Save and save it. make sure you have your folder or the desktop selected before you click or press Return.

DESIGN ASSIGNMENT Positive Negative Space Reversal

Make two designs in a square format with six geometric shapes, three in each square. The designs will balance positive and negative space so that shapes are perceived as on the same plane and in tension. The Figure/Ground relationship will appear reversible. By balancing the dominance of the positive and negative spaces, an ambivalent spatial tension is created in which neither figure nor ground is dominant making for a unified picture plane. One set of two will be black shapes on a white ground and the other will be white shapes on a black ground. Both sets are to be visually ambivalent and all four will be mounted on one panel. go to File > Open and select "lastnameposneg" and click Open if you don't have the document already open. With the document open go to the Toolbox and select the Hand Tool. Click and drag the Artboard with the 4" x 4" formats to the side so you can work outside the Artboard.

go to View and deselect Snap To Grid.

To draw the shapes first make sure the Fill and Stroke indicators in the Toolbox are both black. Draw six black shapes, a square, triangle, circle, oval, rectangle, and a hexagon. All should be around 1.5" to 2" wide.

Square	Rectangle Tool while pressing the Shift key
Rectangle	Rectangle Tool
Circle	Ellipse Tool while pressing the Shift key
Oval	Ellipse Tool
Hexagon	Polygon Tool use the up/down arrows to add or subtract sides to the polygon without releasing the mouse. When it has six sides and the appropriate size, release the mouse.
Triangle	Polygon Tool reduce the sides of the polygon to three sides with the up/down arrows while holding the mouse. Drag to change scale then release mouse.

Move the shapes with the Selection Tool.

Put three of the shapes into one 4" x 4" format and the other three into the second format. You can arrange them into any order you like but the compositions must be interesting and meet the following criteria.

DESIGN CRITERIA

Within each format the shapes cannot visually float. Even if it's just at a point, they need to touch what's next to them. The shapes must touch but they cannot overlap or visually merge with each other or with the picture frame. The whole must seem as if under pressure from all sides of the frame. Against the frame or each other the shapes must keep their distinctiveness. They cannot extend beyond the frame or merge with the frame. For the shape to keep its distinctiveness even when against the side of the frame or another shape, there must be space between them and only touching at one point without merging. Tilt them if necessary. They must have the appearance of immobility and as if with a little more pressure from the frame the shapes would collapse. Make decisions about placement, orientation, scale, implied movement, and direction.

To see the objects better use the Zoom Tool or the Scale View at the bottom left of the document window.

You can manipulate the shapes with one of the following ways. To reshape and arrange the shapes you can use the Transformation tools available through the Selection Tool, or select the shape and go to Object > Transform > and chose a tool, or use the Transformation Tools available in the Toolbox.

The Rotate Tool, The Scale Tool, The Free Transform Tool

Complete the two 4" x 4" compositions of black shapes on a white ground. Save what you have before continuing. You will now reverse the color in the negative and positive shapes in copies of the first two designs.

With the Direct Selection Tool select the new black shapes one by one by direct selecting while pressing the Shift key. When all the positive shapes are selected go to the Toolbox and change the Fill and Stroke color from black to white

click on the Fill tool and go to Widow > Color, to make sure the Color Widow is open.

in the color window select the small white square in the bottom right,

notice that the arrow cursor changes to a small dropper.

click on the Stroke tool and change the color to white by selecting the small white square

in the bottom right of the color window.

Chose the Direct Selection Tool and select the background shape in the square format and change the color to black by selecting the small black square in the bottom right of the color window. Click outside the objects and deselect all.

If there is no background shape when you Direct Select inside one of the design squares you can make one and place it behind the shape by going to Object > Arrange > Send to Back and aligning it.

Visually verify that all the designs meet the assignment criteria. Pay particular attention to the role of the Stroke in changing the relationship between shapes and with the frame.

Once finished, verify the document name as "lastnameposneg" and go to File > Save Close or click the red button at the top left of the document.