

Perspective Reflection

Instruments

While we've used several of the instruments in the images – string, frames, rulers, grids, mirrors – thus far in our experimenting, I am still not sure what each of the tools accomplishes. In theory, I understand the basic mathematical principles necessary to determine the necessary sizes for appropriate perspective, and yet it is still somehow beyond me to grasp how images are drawn with every point taking into account the concept of perspective. Additionally, I'm not clear on how the compass is used to assist in this process, though it makes sense to me that it must be useful.

I am intrigued not only by the process through which these feats were first accomplished, but also by the very realization that the process needed to be created.

How to know how to proceed in a time where he couldn't rely on physical proof, or a google search?

Galileo

The complexity of Galileo as a thinker, a learner and a strategist is of great interest to me. I am intrigued by his drive to learn, the confidence he must have had in his own ideas and the importance of them, even when they weren't accurate, and the strategy by which he pursued proof, published his work, and aspired to positions of great prestige. All the while maintaining responsibility for layers of family who relied on his support, both emotional and financial, and battling what seem to be chronic illnesses.

He seems to combine all of these facets of brilliance the same way his mind combined the many fields he explored and intertwined: arts, sciences, philosophy, and mathematics, all somehow appropriately connected by geometric lines in some sort of brilliant shining web of ideas.

Regarding our work:

It occurs to me to wonder if Galileo had in his mind something specific he was looking for, some goal or idea that guided his exploration based on the seemingly natural understanding he had of the world around him. His tendency towards observation may have fed this understanding, or it may have been that the understanding itself was innate, but whichever was true, it seems to have given his exploration a sense of direction that enabled his eventual success. I wonder at the day to day, minute to minute process, if his mind took detours and tangents and how far he followed them, and how much he learned Columbus-style, perhaps unexpectedly on the way to another destination.

I notice in my learning process that I am not sure I have yet developed the patience to move forward without some degree of certainty as to what I am hoping to discover. Even if that concept is misguided, having a destination on the way to which I might discover valuable detours is of great help to me. I wonder at Galileo's path in this way, and what destinations he had anticipated on his roadtrip to discovery, without having had people to pave the way before him. If he gathered a literature review of all of the existing potentially related resources, if he learned it at university. If his knowledge was limited to what he had happened to encounter, or if he sought it out. If the times demanded that only a certain amount of information was available at all. How the limits of available information hindered - and perhaps helped - his process of discovery.

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