

Multimodality

John Sutter johnssutter@gmail.com

"Everything is legible" (Henri Lefebre)

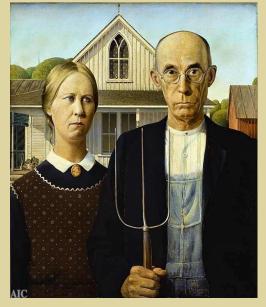
Aims

- Highlight the multimodal nature of communication and the cultural shift towards visual and mixed modes of communication
- Explore embodied and social aspects of meaningmaking (as opposed to cognitive transmission models)
- Explore how meaning can be conveyed in nonlinguistic modes of communication
- Provide examples of some non-linguistic 'grammars'

Paulo Freire talks about 'reading the world', and modern theorists have suggested that the idea of 'text' should be extended beyond the written word to include, for instance, movies, artworks, gestures, etc.

Freire, P. (1970) "The pedagogy of the oppressed" Penguin







.....and language itself is a multimodal system



"loud shirt" "bitter wind" "prickly laugh"

...a cultural shift from the 'linguistic' to the visual....

(Kress 2010 *Multimodality: A social semiotic approach to contemporary communication* Routledge)

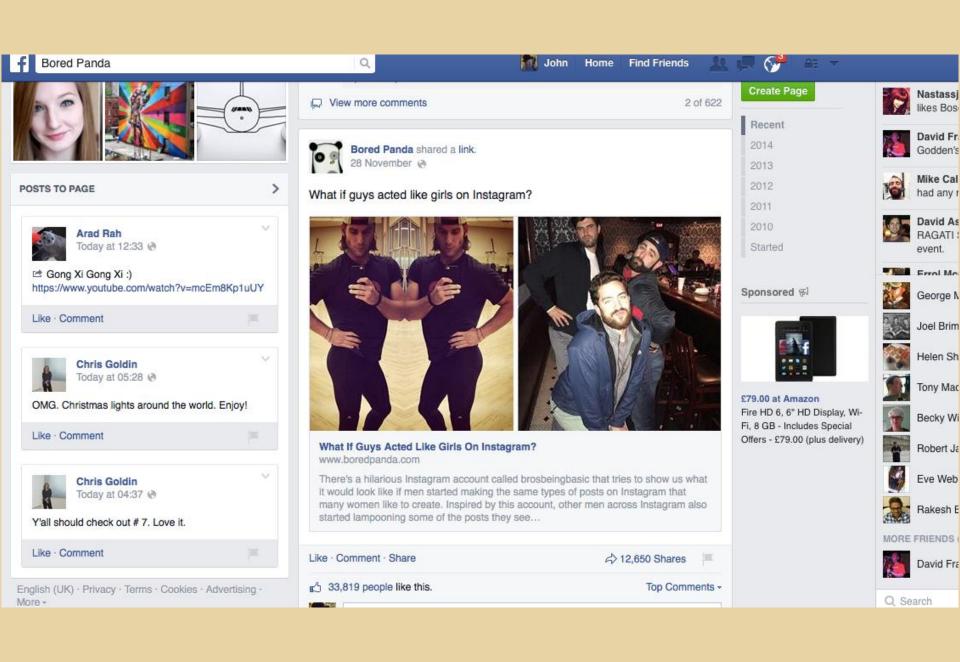








Other modes, e.g. music, the body and its movements, increasingly pushing to the centre of public communication.....



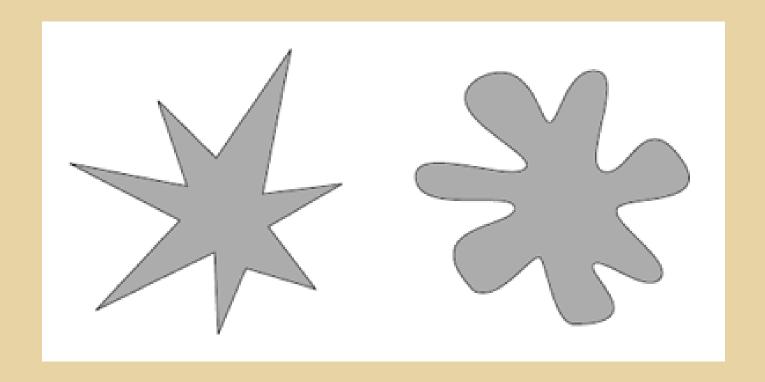
#2 The Photoshopped Gym Selfie Shot



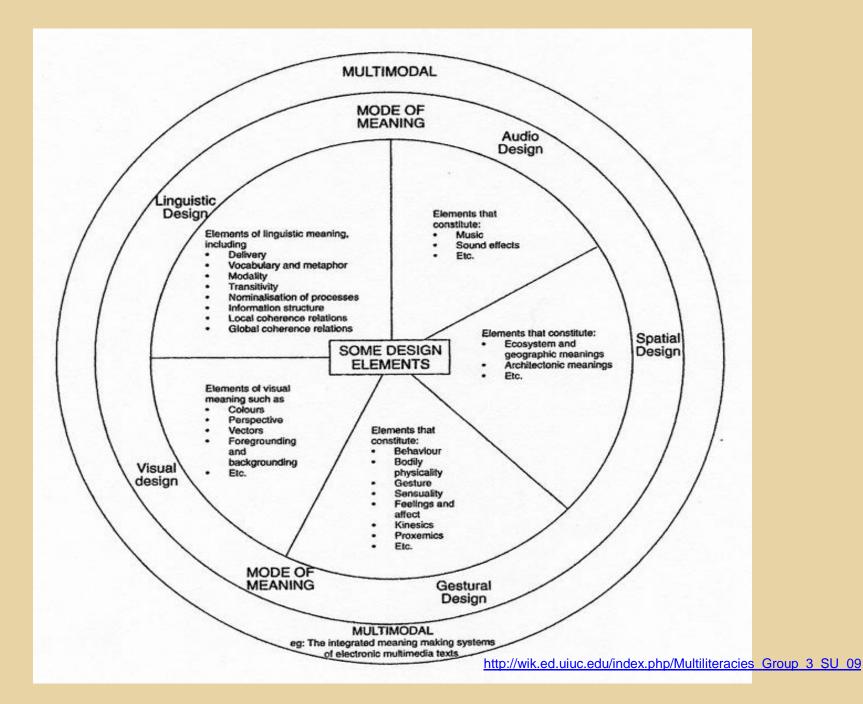
At the gym, people look at me funny for squatting in just tights but I don't even care!! get much better range of motion and my #legday gains are really starting to show.

"human semiosis rests, first and foremost, on the facts of biology and physiology"

Gunther Kress, in Cope and Kalantzis 2000 *Multiliteracies: Literacy learning and the design of social futures* Routledge



Which shape is Bouba? Which shape is Kiki?



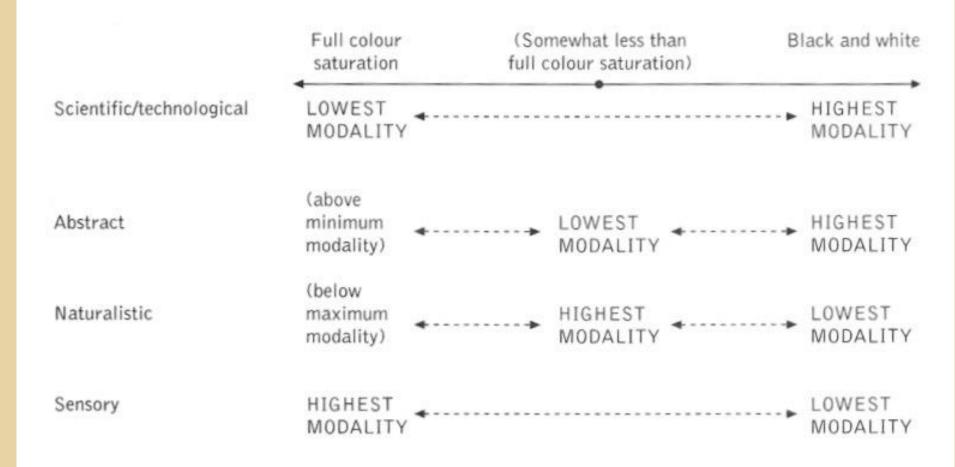
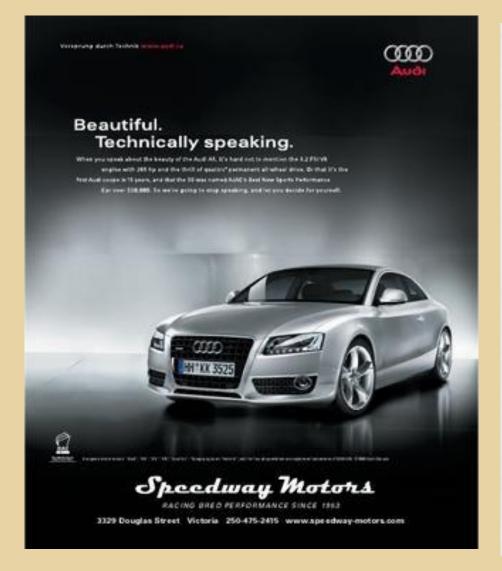
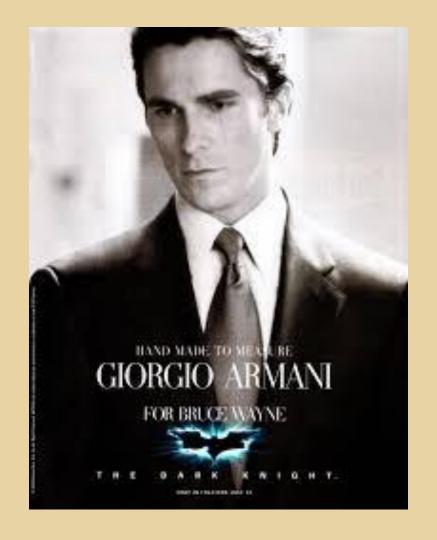


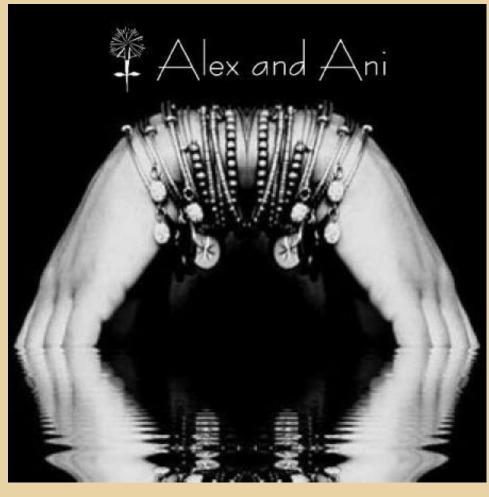
Fig 5.5 Modality values of colour saturation in four coding orientations

from "Reading Images: the grammar of visual design" Kress, G and Van Leeuwen, T 1996 Routledge









Abstract

(above minimum modality)

LOWEST MODALITY

HIGHEST MODALITY



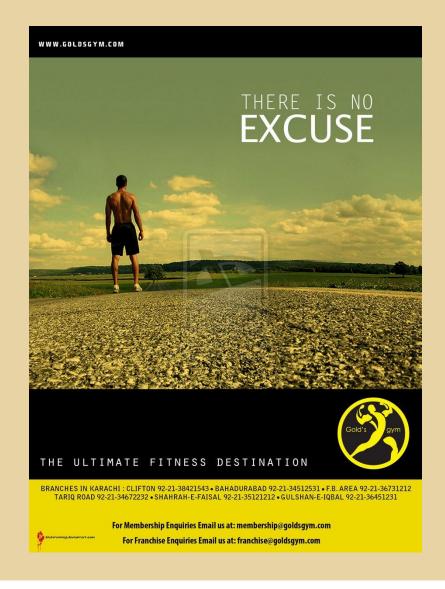
Naturalistic

(below maximum modality)





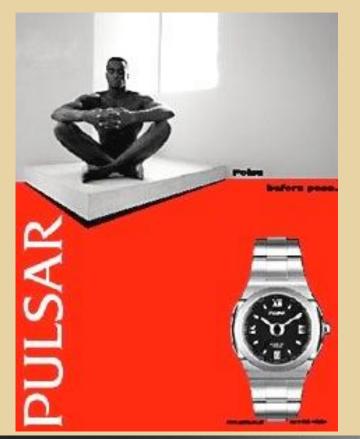




Sensory





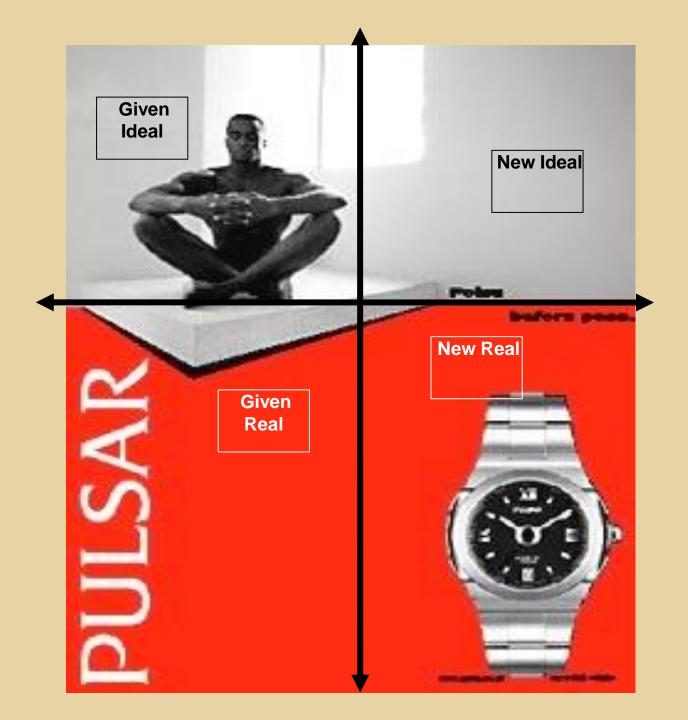


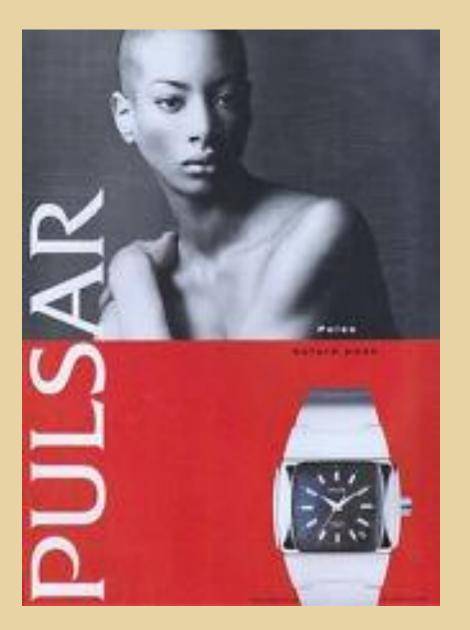
	Full colour saturation	(Somewhat less than full colour saturation)		-	Black and white	
Scientific/technological	LOWEST MODALITY			HIGHEST MODALITY		
Abstract	(above minimum modality)		LOWEST MODALITY	•	HIGHEST MODALITY	
Naturalistic	(below maximum modality)		HIGHEST MODALITY	4 ······	LOWEST MODALITY	
Sensory	HIGHEST MODALITY	4			LOWEST MODALITY	

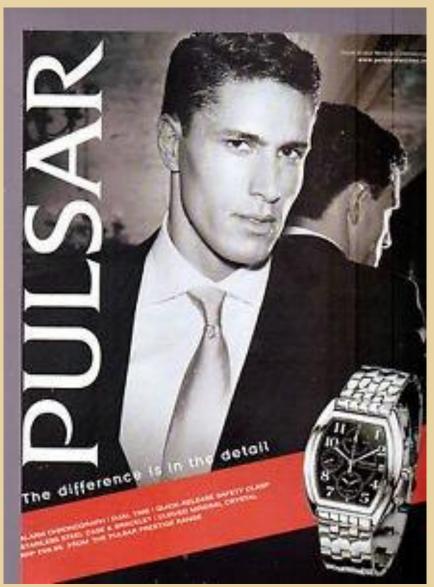
Fig 5.5 Modality values of colour saturation in four coding orientations

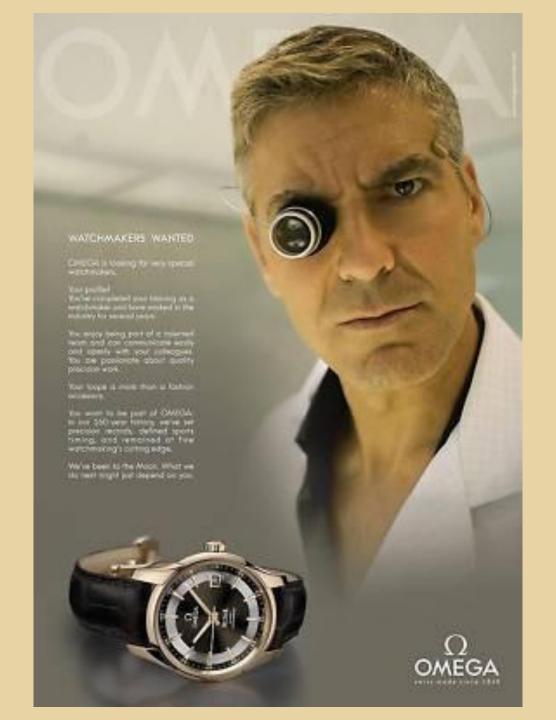


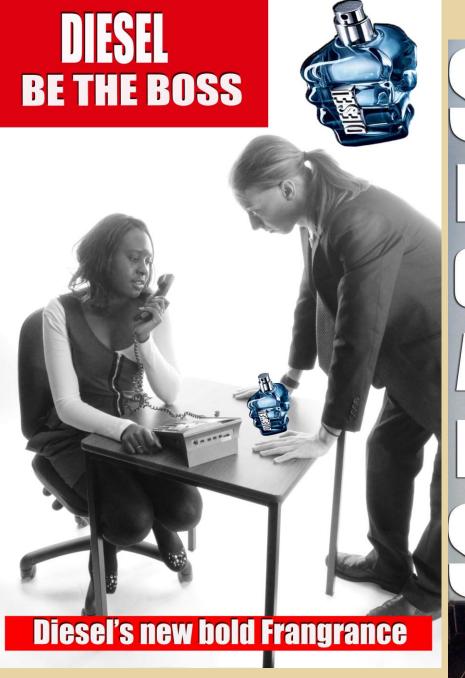


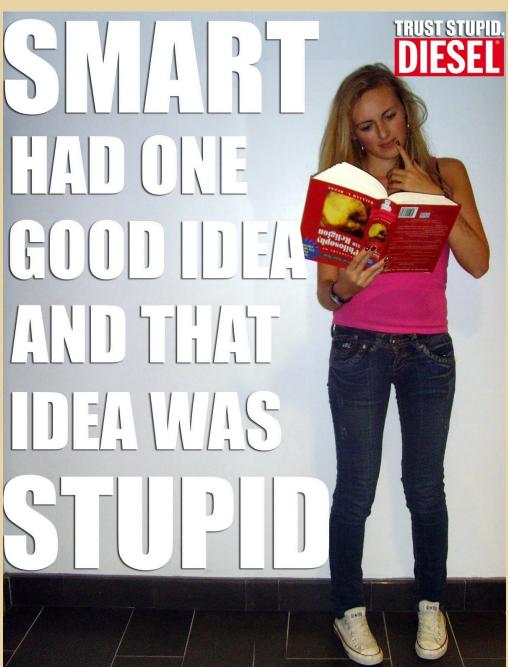












Artist's sketchbooks as multimodal communications

http://uca.onlineculture.co.uk/sketchbooks/



Gainsbourg Movie Trailer

