

What is Art?



What is art

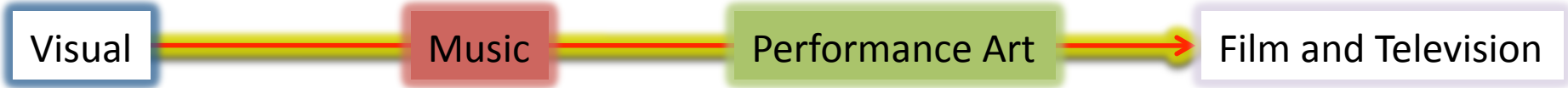
- The **expression** or application of **human creative skill and imagination**
- Typically in a **visual form** such as painting or **sculpture** producing works to be appreciated primarily for their **beauty** or emotional **power**

The overview: Timeline of Art history

Why do we create art?

A natural impulse to **express** and **imitate**
for this reason came the birth of
'Artistic Creation'

ART



[500,000 -300,000 BC]

- Pre-historic
- Ancient Art
- Early Christian & medieval Art [200 – 1300 AD]

•Renaissance

- Baroque and Rococo Art

[450 AD - 1450]

- Music in the middle Ages
- Gregorian Chant

•Renaissance

- Baroque Period
- Classical Period
- Romantic period

[525 BC]

- Greek & Roman theatre
- Medieval theatre
- Theatre of the Italian

Renaissance [1300-1600]

- Elizabeth Theatre
- Golden Age of Spain & France
- English Restoration Theatre
- Theatre in the 18th Century
- France, before the revolution

[1893-1903]

- Early Cinema
- Revolution of Hollywood Classical Cinema
- German expressionism
- French impressionism & Surrealism
- Soviet Montage
- Hollywood & Sound
- Italian Neo-realism
- French New Wave
- New Hollywood & Independent filmmaking

•19th century Art

•Early 20th Century Art

•Late 20th Century Art

•20th century Music

•Jazz

•American Musicals

•Rock

•Non-Western Music

•19th Century Theatre

•Late 19th Century Theatre

•Ibsen, Checkov, & theatre of Ideas

•Modern theatre

•Contemporary Theatre

**Is Art an imitation / representation of
reality ?**

OR

Is art an expression of Emotion?

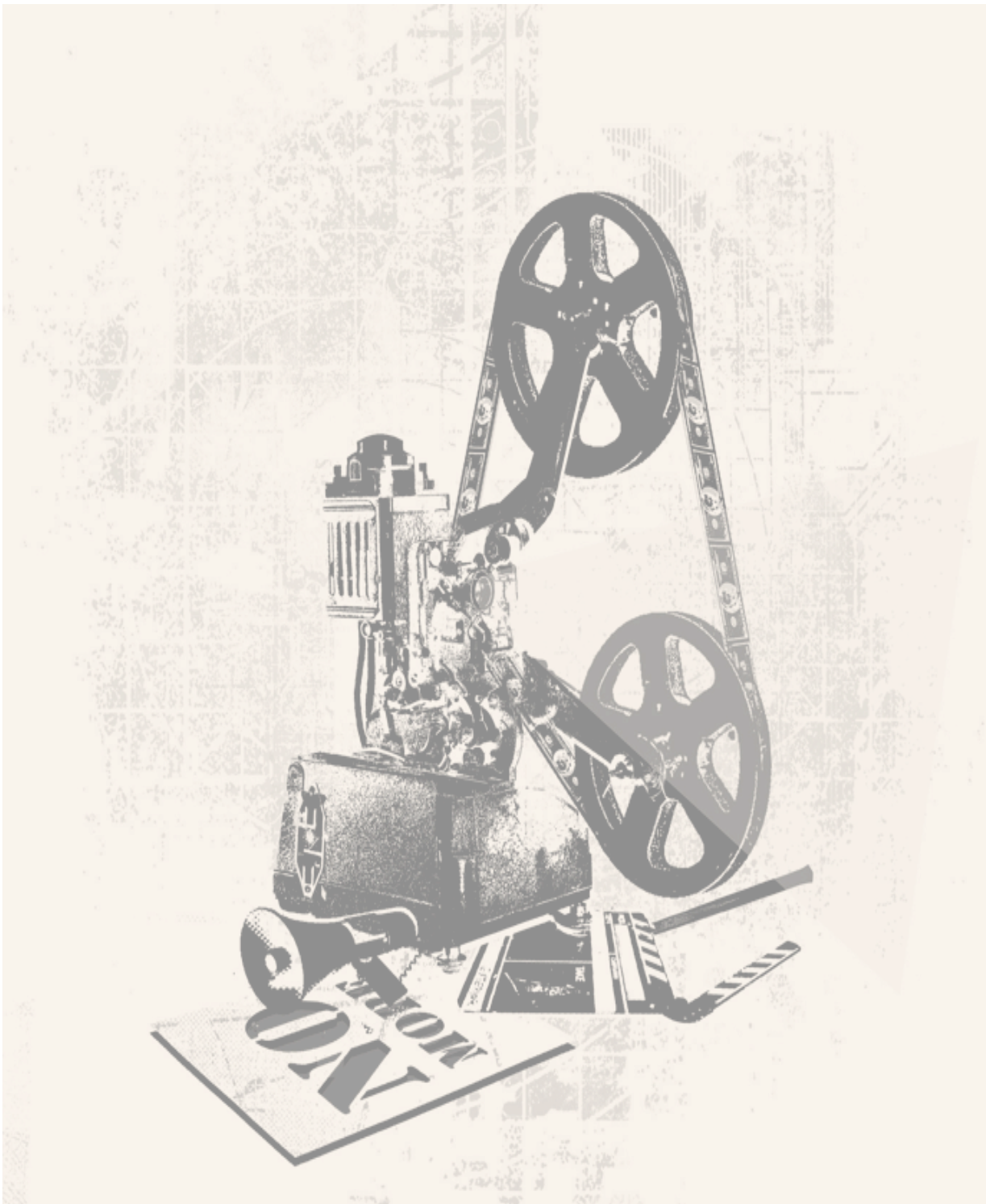
Representation
or
Imitation of reality

Expression of emotions

ART

REALITY

FANTASY

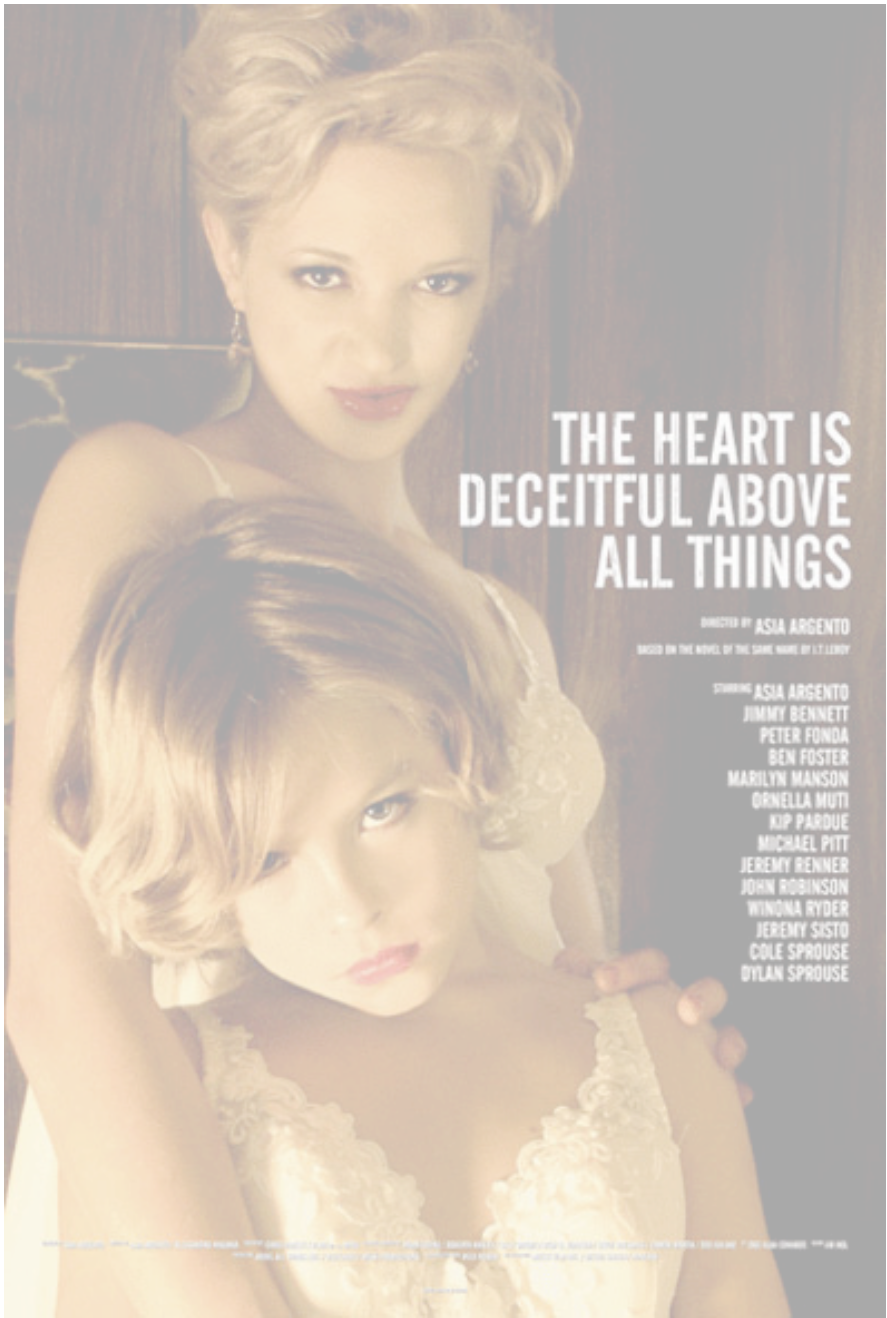


Film As Art

But what kind of
art?

- High art?
- Popular art?
- Mass Art?



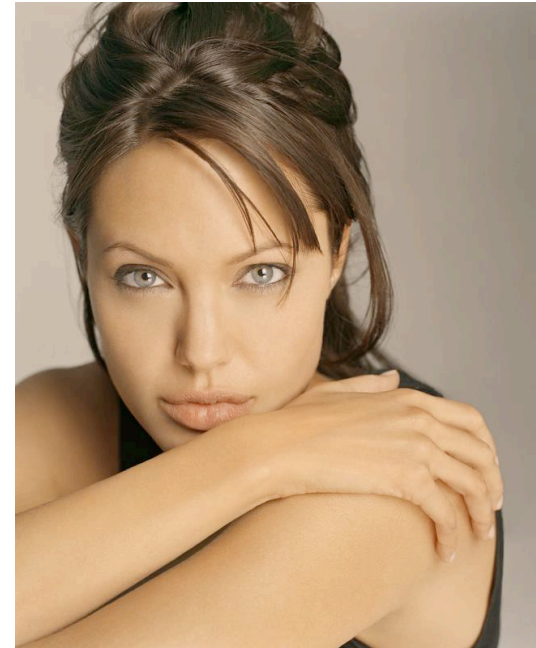


DIFFERENT CONCEPTIONS IN CINEMA'S ARTISTIC DIMENSIONS...

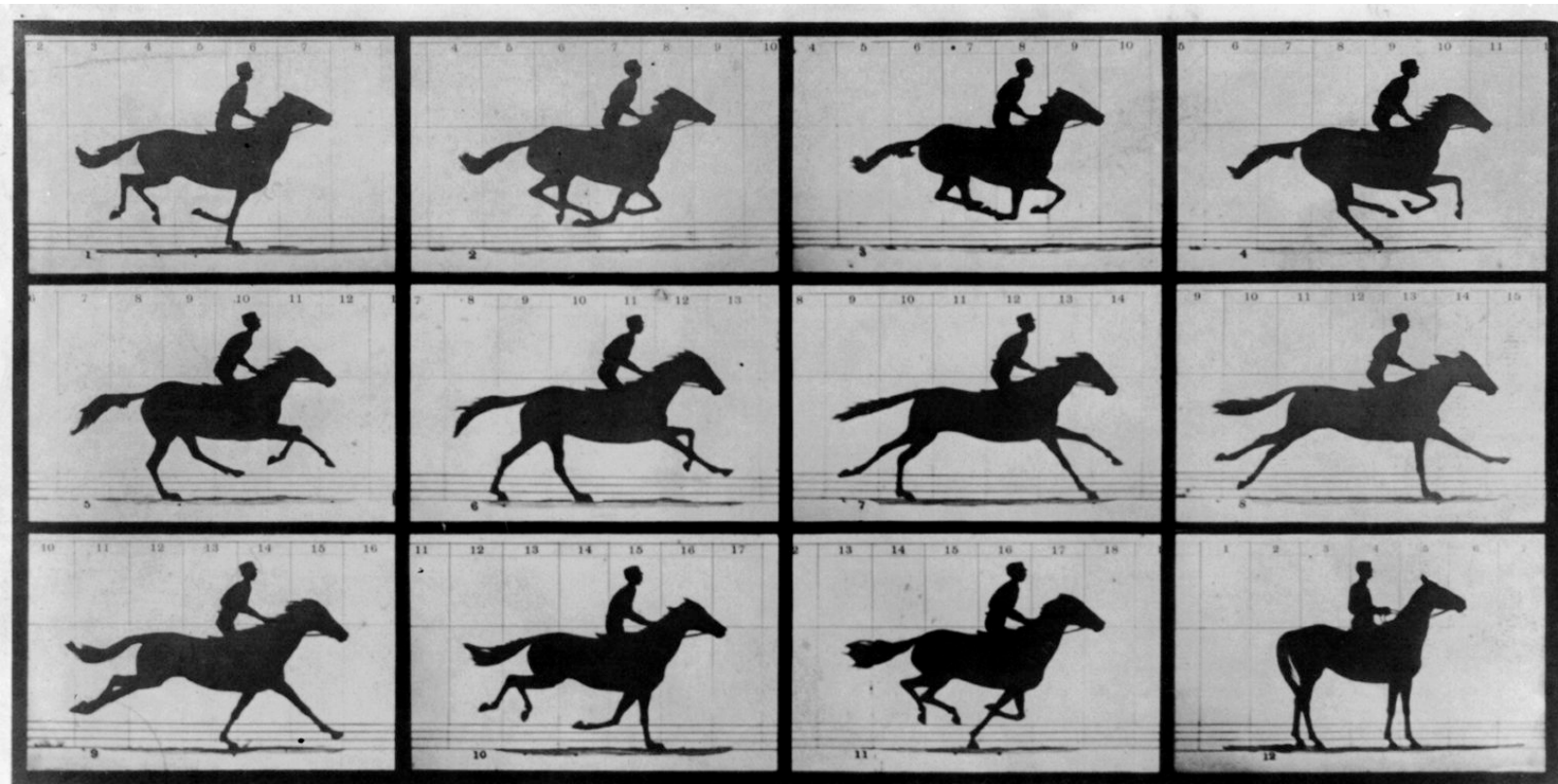
- Film is a **photographic** art.
 - By recording the world in all its immediacy, it gives audiences slices of **actual space and true duration**
 - Choice of camera techniques allow audiences to be in touch with **reality** and inviting audiences to notice **details** that we usually overlook in everyday life

- Film is a **narrative** art.
 - Narrative is often segregated into **genres**
 - Most genres display **typical characters and plot patterns.**

- Film is a **performing** art.
 - Films may be stories, but they're not exactly told: they're *enacted*
 - Superstars usually are trained actors and they are the '**audience grabber**'
 - Inevitably there are performance techniques used when actors performs.
 - Some superstars weren't photogenic by ordinary standards but their almost **clinical narcissism and exhibitionism**, captured by the camera, made them as mesmerizing as any matinee idols.



- Film is a **pictorial** art.
 - Cinema was essentially *moving pictures*.
 - It was a visual art that unfolded in time, so a movie was neither quite the same as a painting (**frozen in time**) or as a stage play (**not pictures but three-dimensional reality**)
 - Cinema captures action unfolded in the frame in ways that dynamized space
 - Through **film editing**, it enables to join one strip of pictures to another, and we have a unique pictorial art form.
 - The theorists of the silent era, gave us a **vocabulary and an orientation to studying visual style**, but their legacy hasn't been fully developed.



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MORSE'S Gallery, 417 Montgomery St., San Francisco.

THE HORSE IN MOTION.

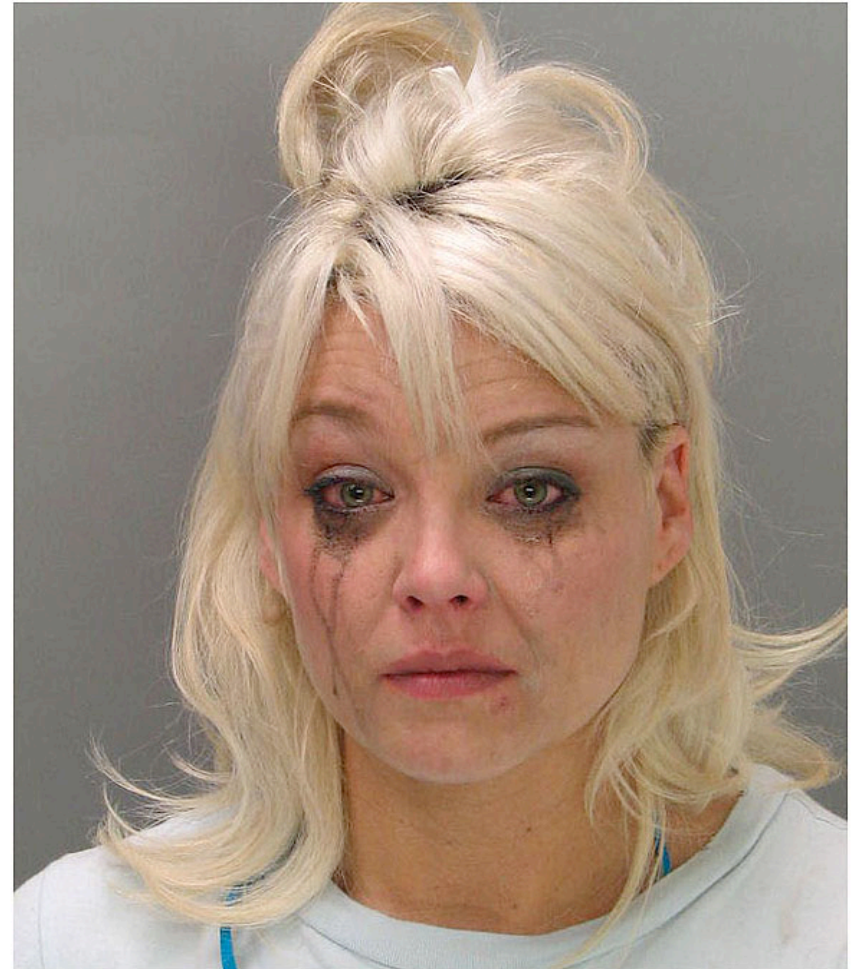
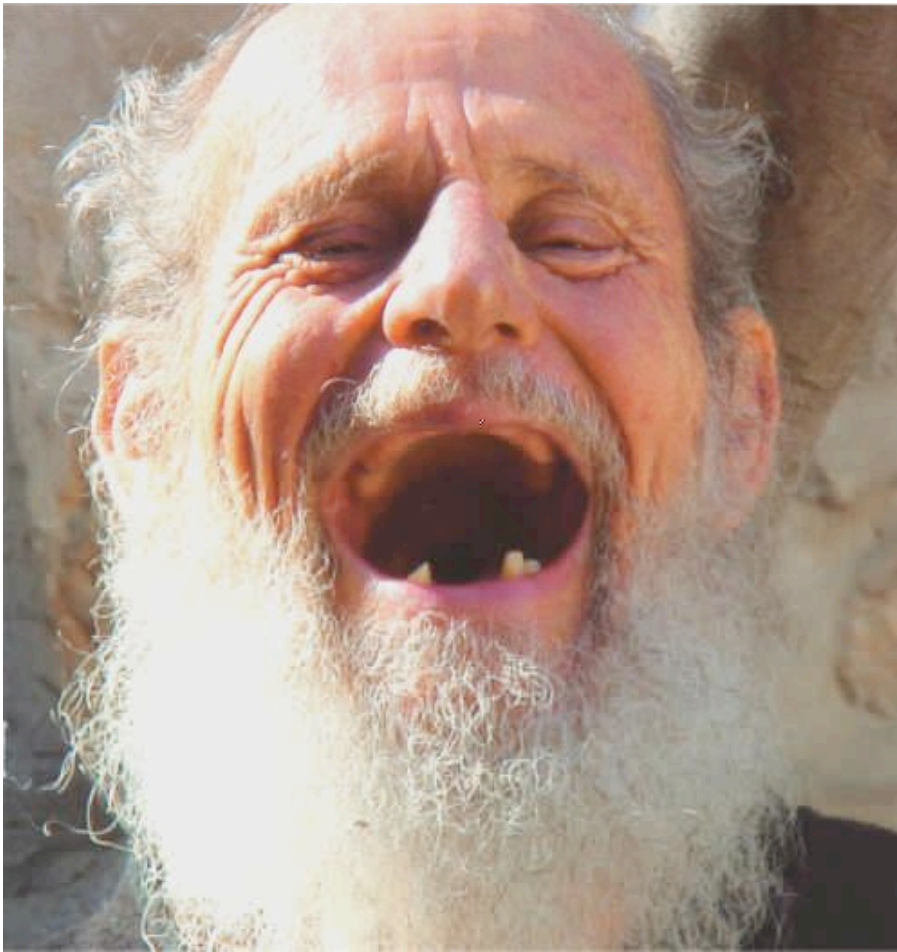
Illustrated by
MUYBRIDGE.

AUTOMATIC ELECTRO-PHOTOGRAPH.

"SALLIE GARDNER," owned by LELAND STANFORD; running at a 1.40 gait over the Palo Alto track, 19th June, 1878.

The negatives of these photographs were made at intervals of twenty-seven inches of distance, and about the twenty-fifth part of a second of time; they illustrate consecutive positions assumed in each twenty-seven inches of progress during a single stride of the mare. The vertical lines were twenty-seven inches apart; the horizontal lines represent elevations of four inches each. The exposure of each negative was less than the two-thousandth part of a second.

- Film is an **audiovisual** art.
 - Film became a synthetic medium blending:
 - imagery
 - the spoken word
 - sound effects
 - musicinto something that was neither painting nor theatre nor illustrated radio.
 - For example: **Background music in action-pack movie sequences**, Some theoreticians called it as **“synchronization of senses.”**



CINEMA : AN *EMOTIONAL* ART

- Cinema aims at **arousing feelings**, but this idea can be found in all 5 dimensions.
- Each conception of film favors different *means/methods of stirring up emotion*.

For example:

- **The photographic approach** holds that **recording and revealing the world is the most effective way to move spectators**
- **The narrative approach** favors stories as the means to move the plot, which will **hypnotize audience** from the start till the very end of the film.
- **The performance-based approach** trusts that **we'll react empathetically to the emotional states** displayed by our fellow humans
- **The visual-art approach** says that cinema can **arouse feeling by manipulating pictures in time and space**, perhaps even pictures that don't show any people at all.
- **The Audio-visual-art approach** in which some theorist argued as method of ***synchronization of the senses was the most powerful form of emotional stimulation***, creating in the viewer an “ecstasy” comparable to intense and passionate feeling.

Poetic cinema

- Some directors of the silent era thought that they were making “**visual music**,” through their films and the means of execution used were mainly **pictorial**.
- Filmmakers are also attracted to the idea that music and poetry tend to be **suggestive** rather than **explicit**, **conveying powerful feelings** in elusive and **open-ended ways**
- Filmmakers in the pictorial-art camp uses these art-vocabulary for models of patterning :
 - meter, rhythm, motif development
 - imagery (metaphor and subjective states in lyric verse).