



Cinematic Language 2: Composition



Composition - Definition

- The word Composition comes from the latin word “componere”, which means “to put together”.
- An arrangement of elements in a shot, which when seen as a whole convey intent and meaning.





Balance

- It's important to maintain a balance between the subject and its surrounding.
- Avoid overloading the image with unnecessary detail. Too much information makes it difficult to focus on what's important.











Positive and Negative Space

- Consider the relationship between positive space (the subject), and negative space (what's around the subject).
- What can be done to make the positive space stand out?



















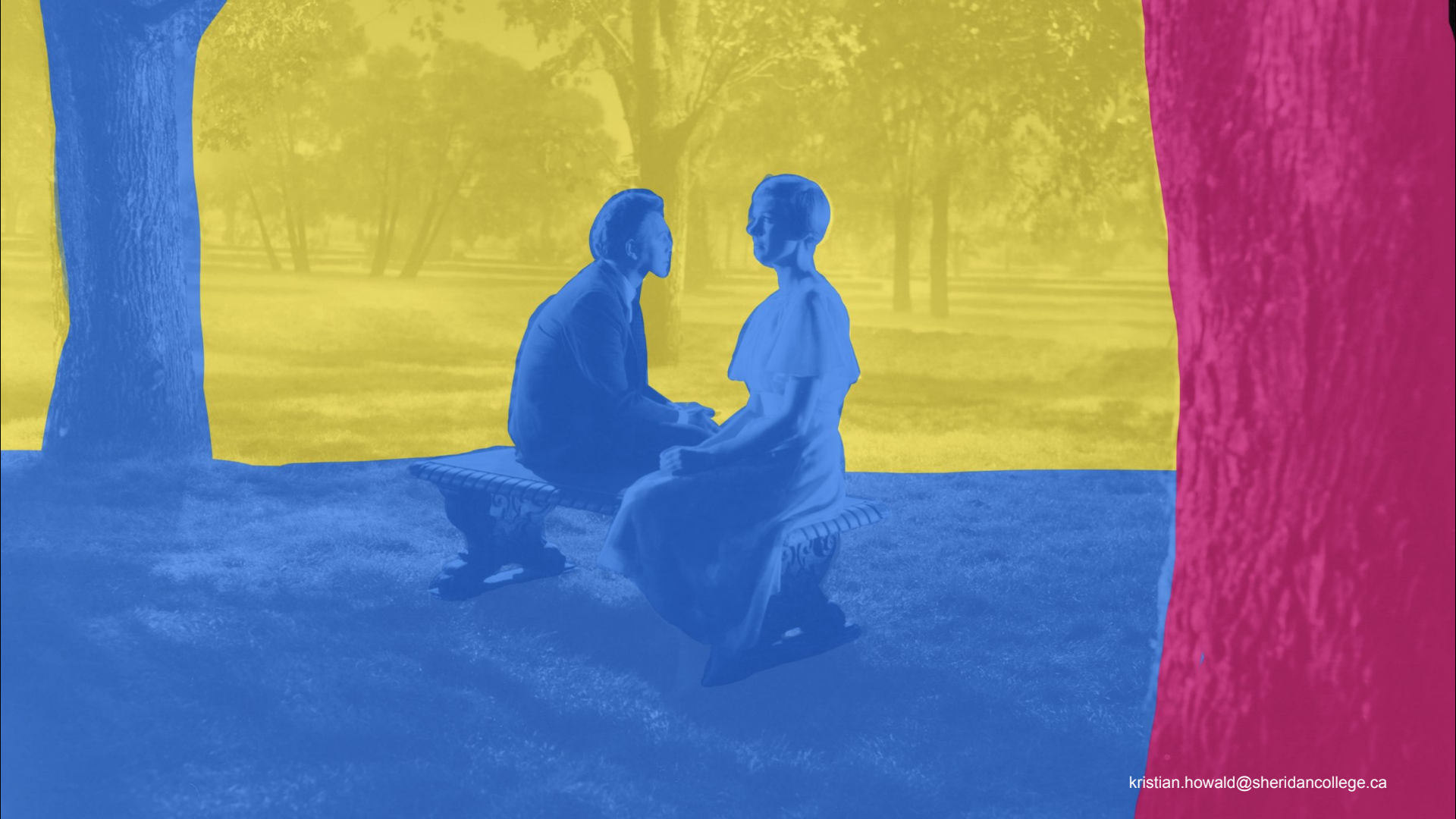






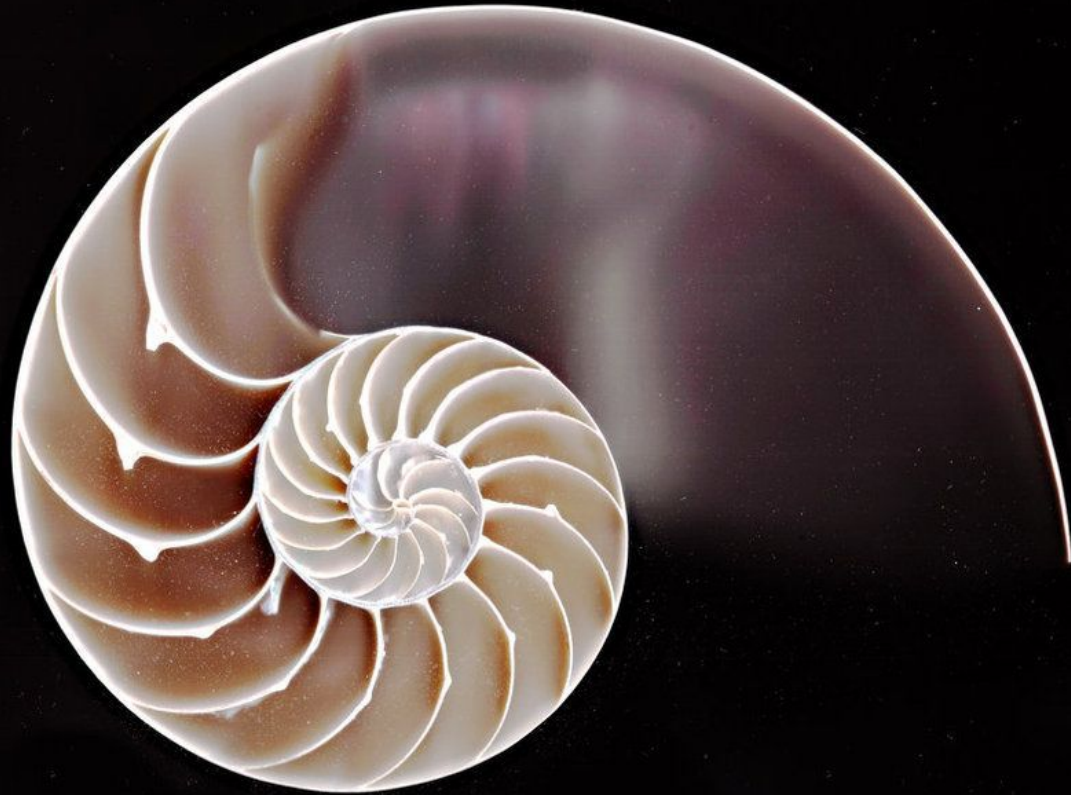










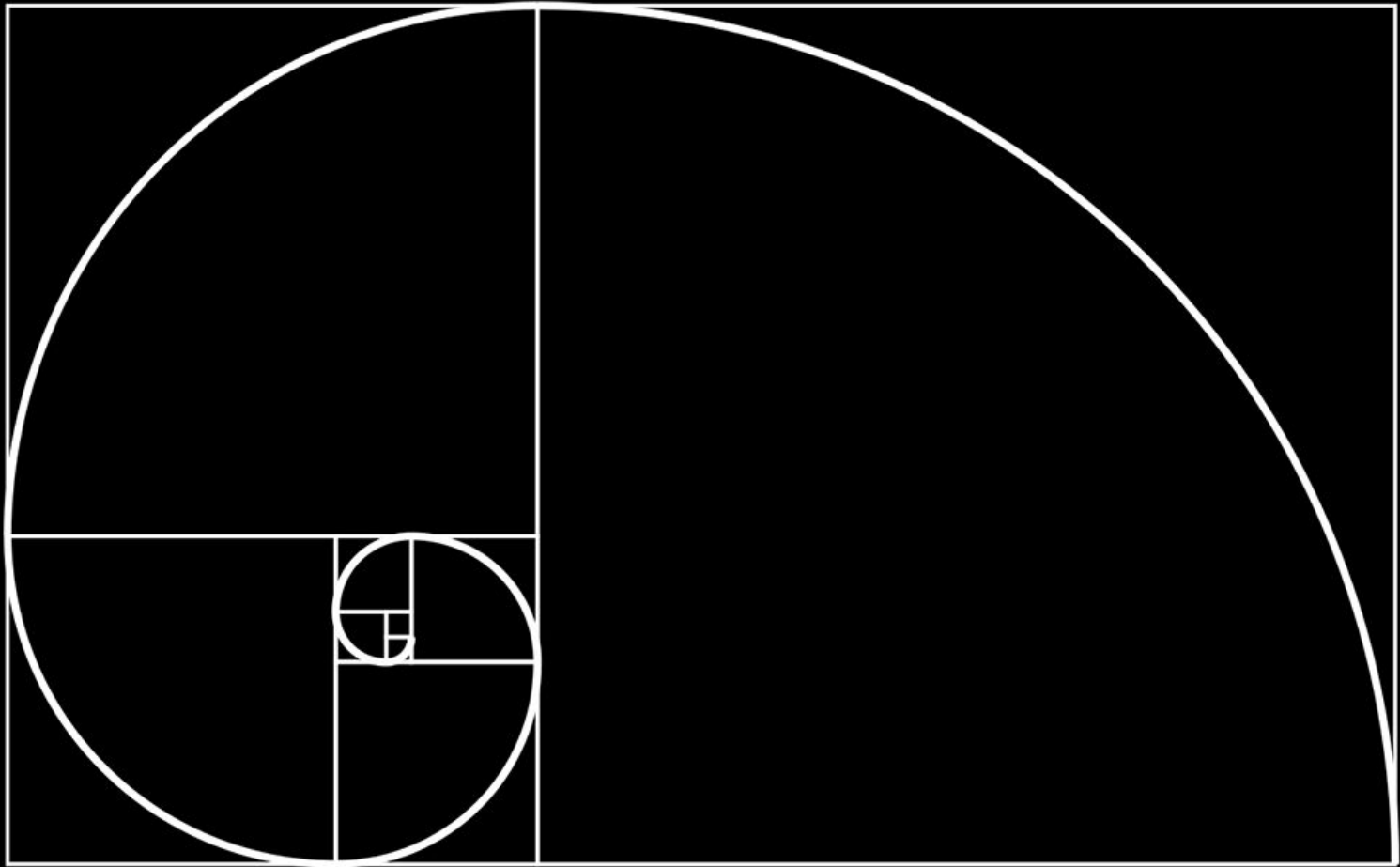


The Golden Ratio / The Golden Spiral

- A mathematical division of an image that draws the viewer's eye into the composition:

1+1+2+3+5+8+13+21

- A Fibonacci spiral can be drawn through each of these divided sections.





THE GOLDEN RATIO





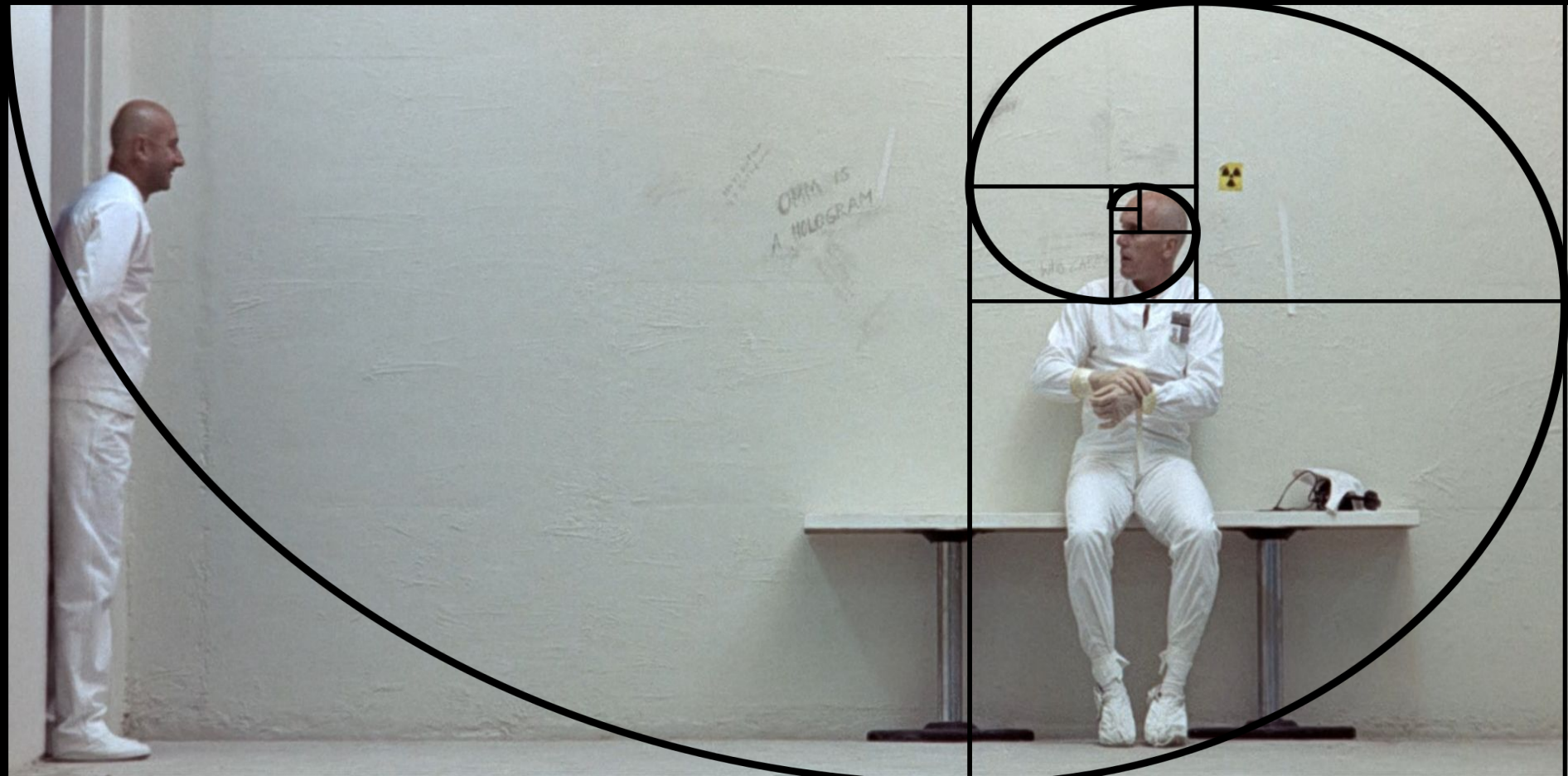




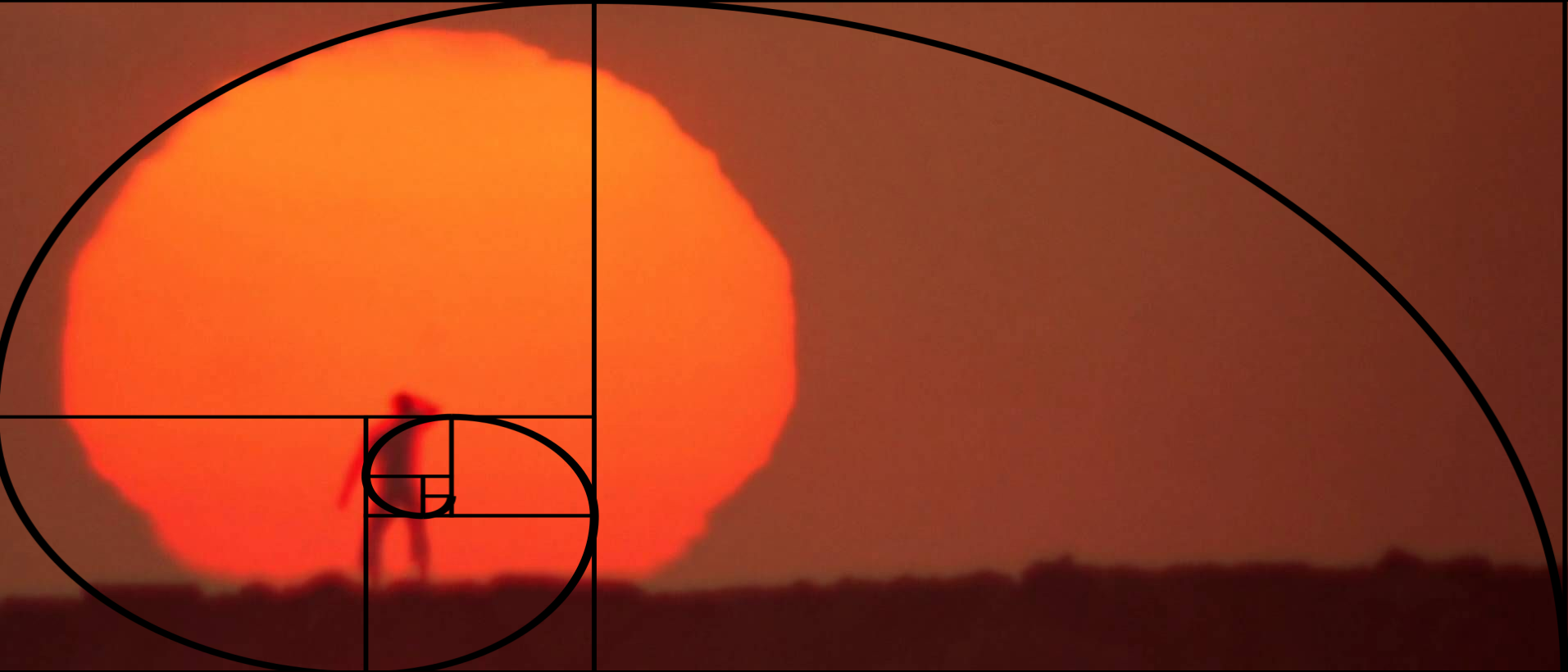




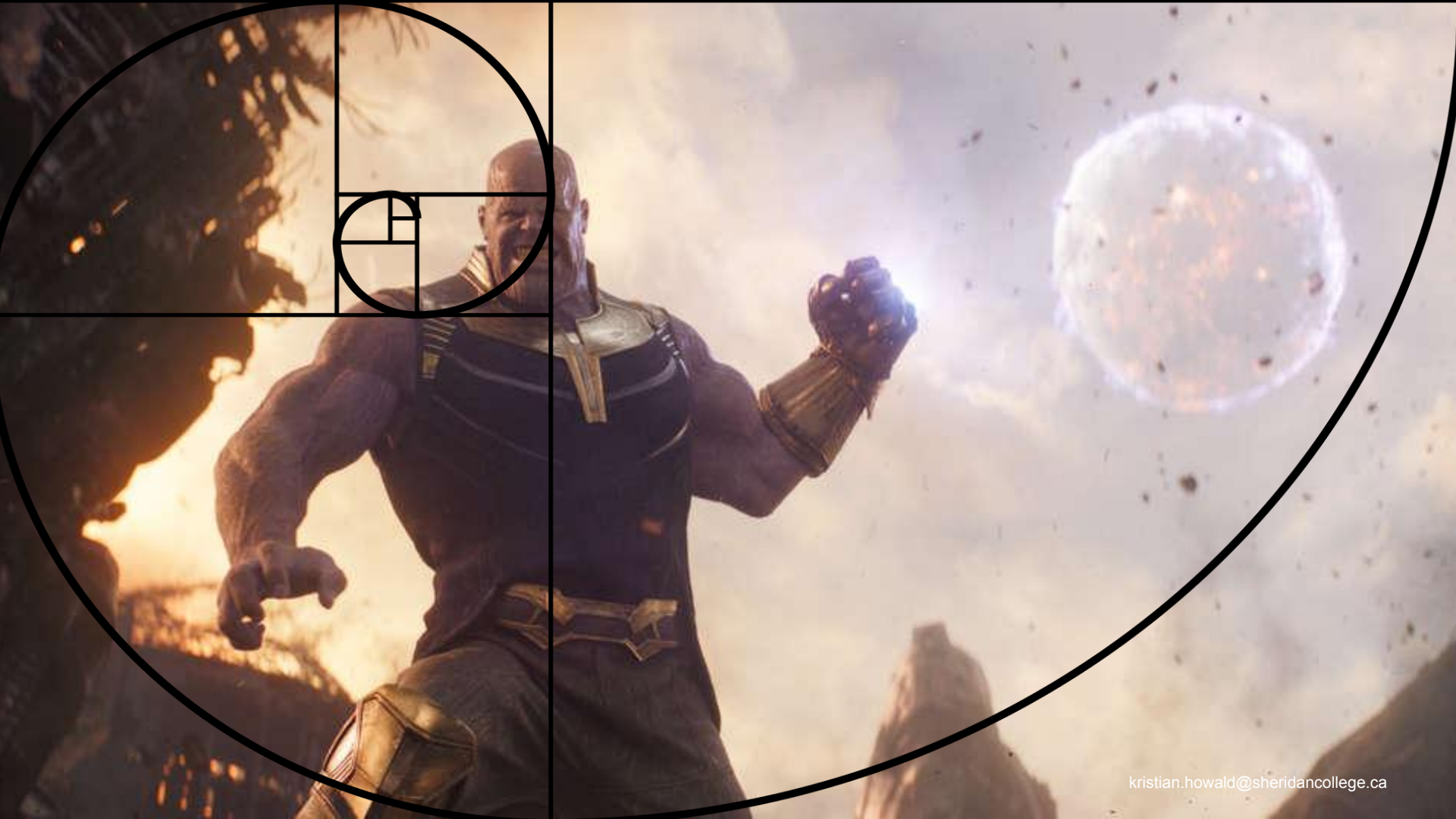








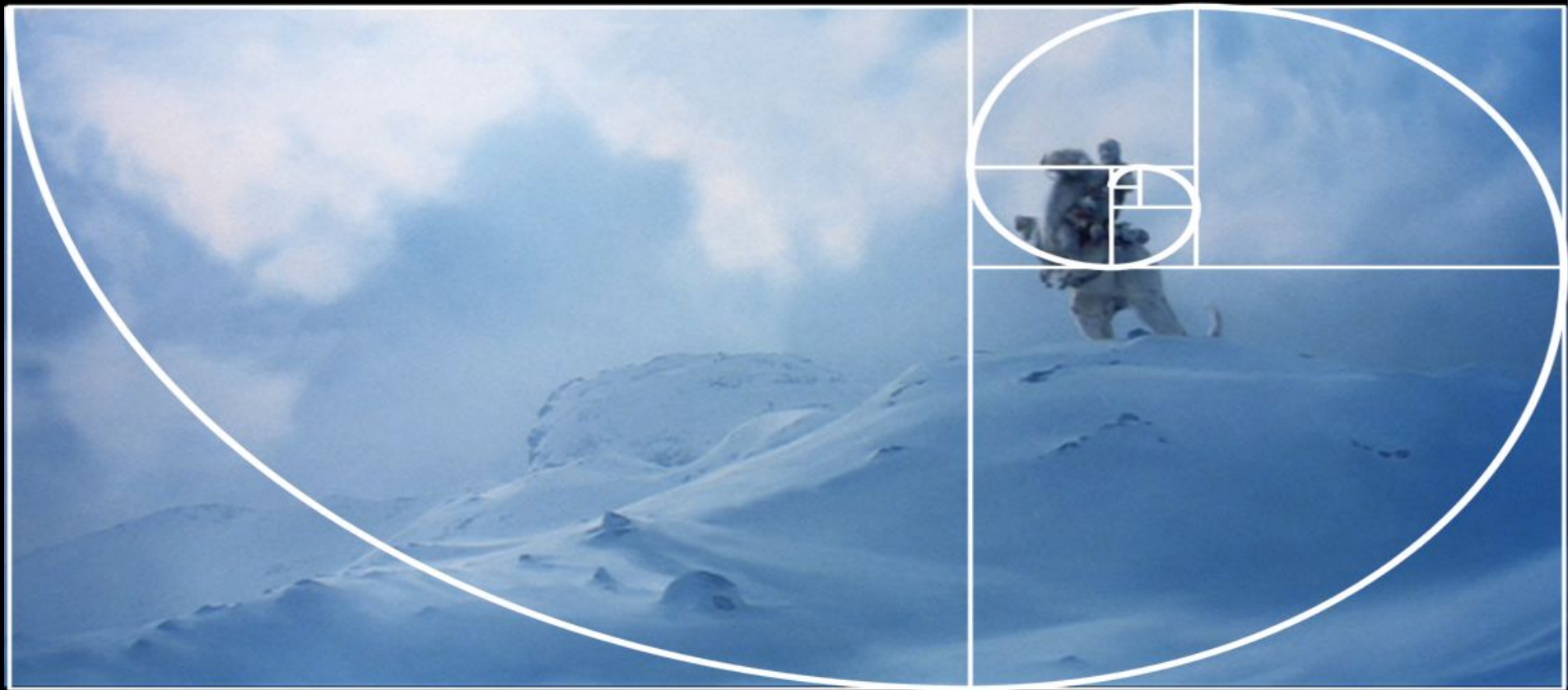


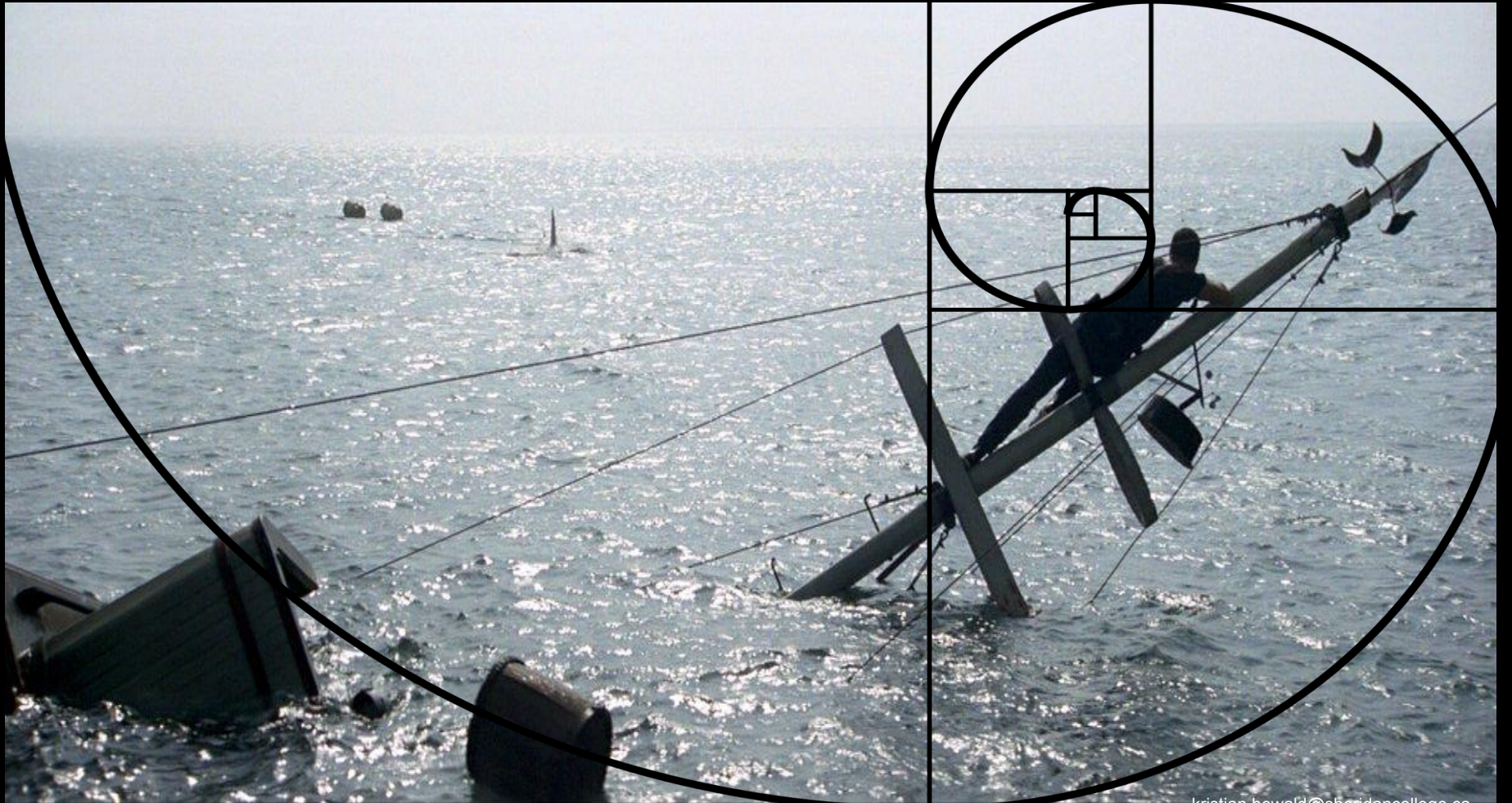






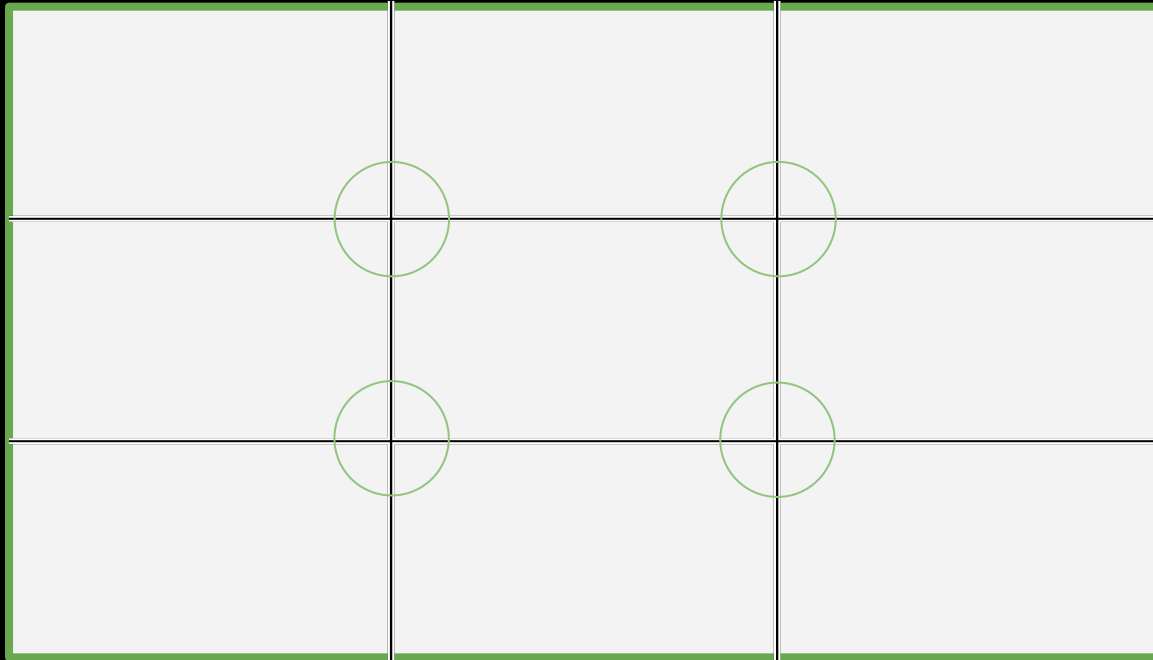








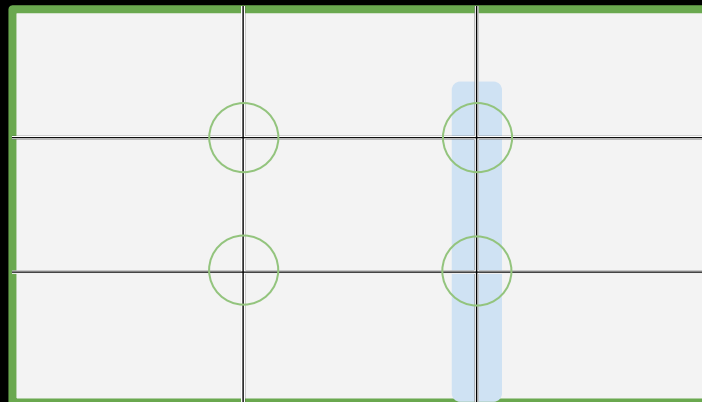
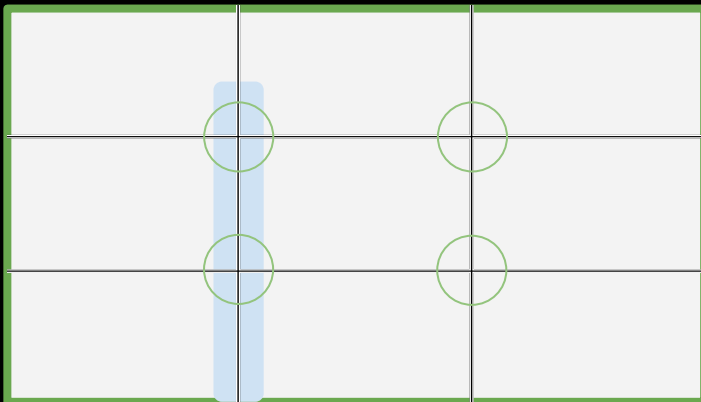
Rule of Thirds



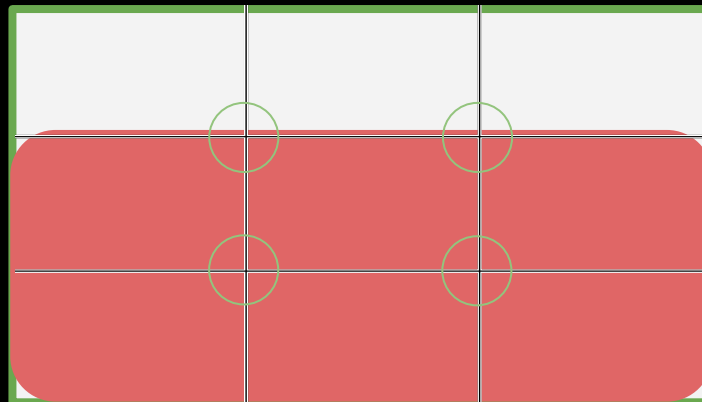
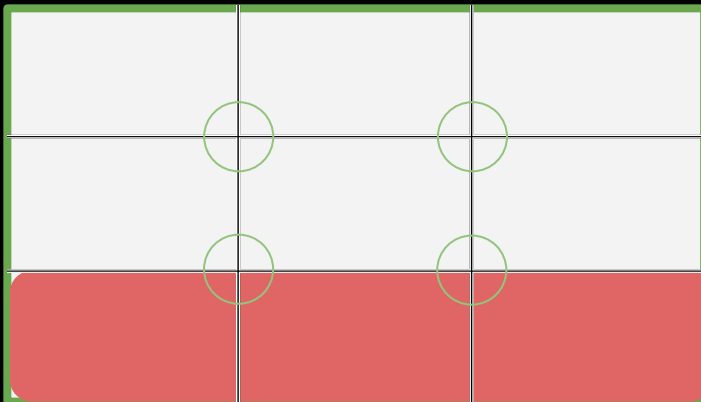
- Simplified version of the Golden Ratio.
- The image is divided up into **3 horizontal** sections, and **3 vertical** sections. You will usually end up with a **stronger** composition if you **place the interest** along one of the **intersecting points**.

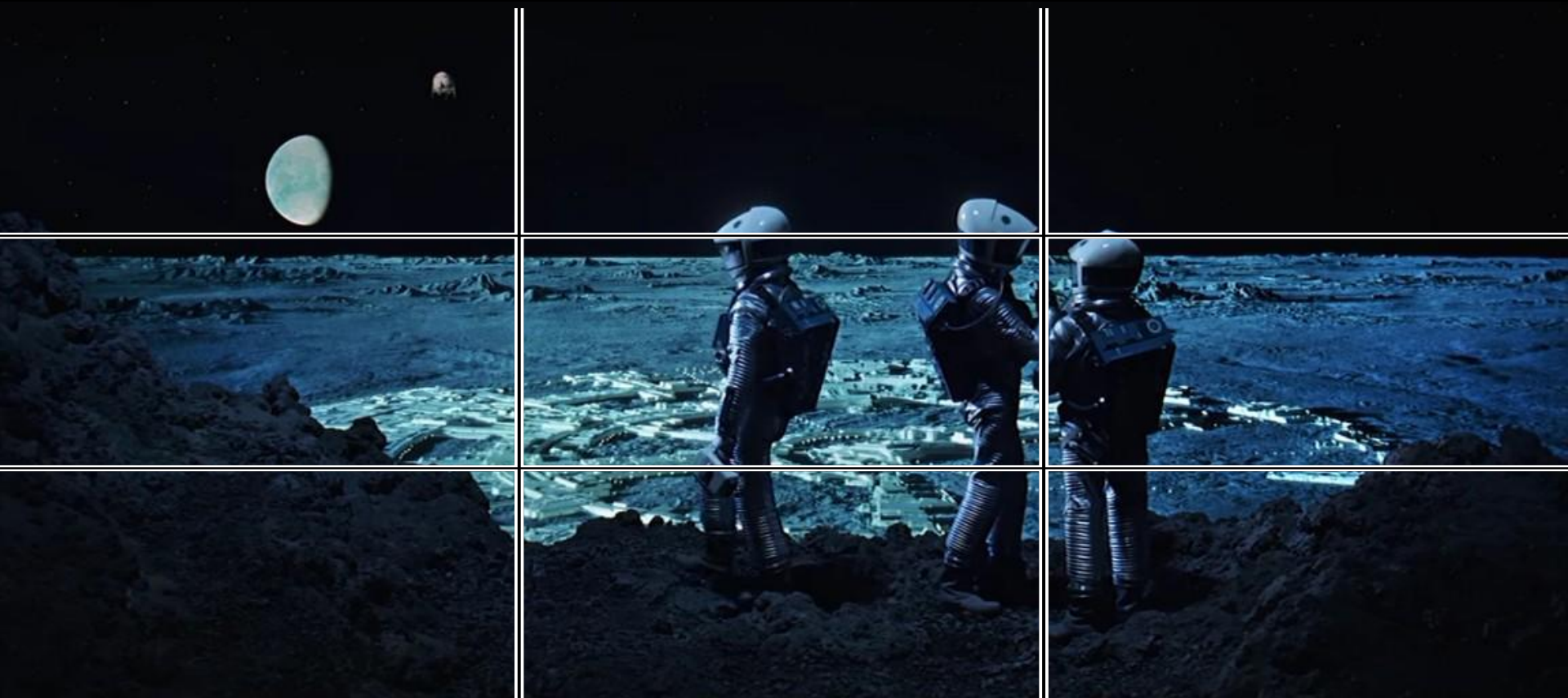
Rule of Thirds

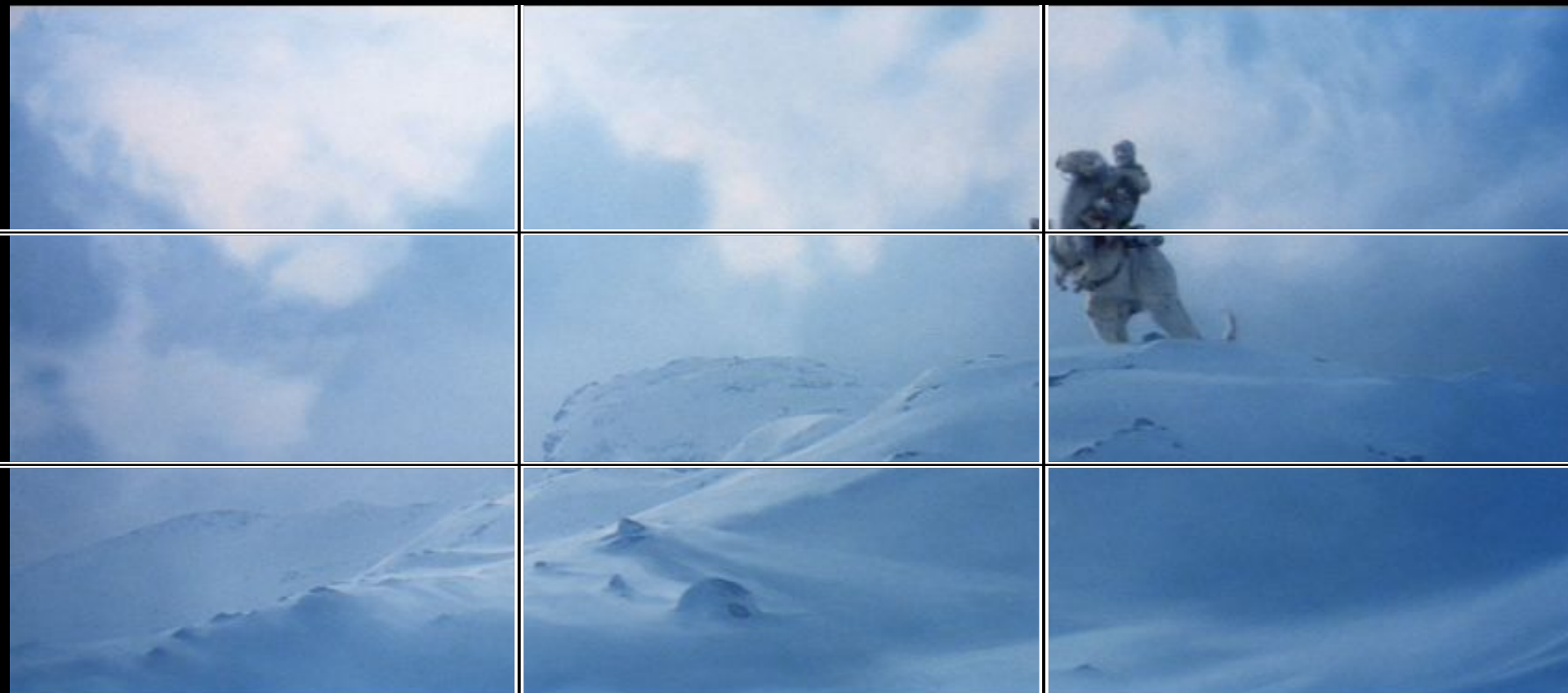
Characters or
Objects

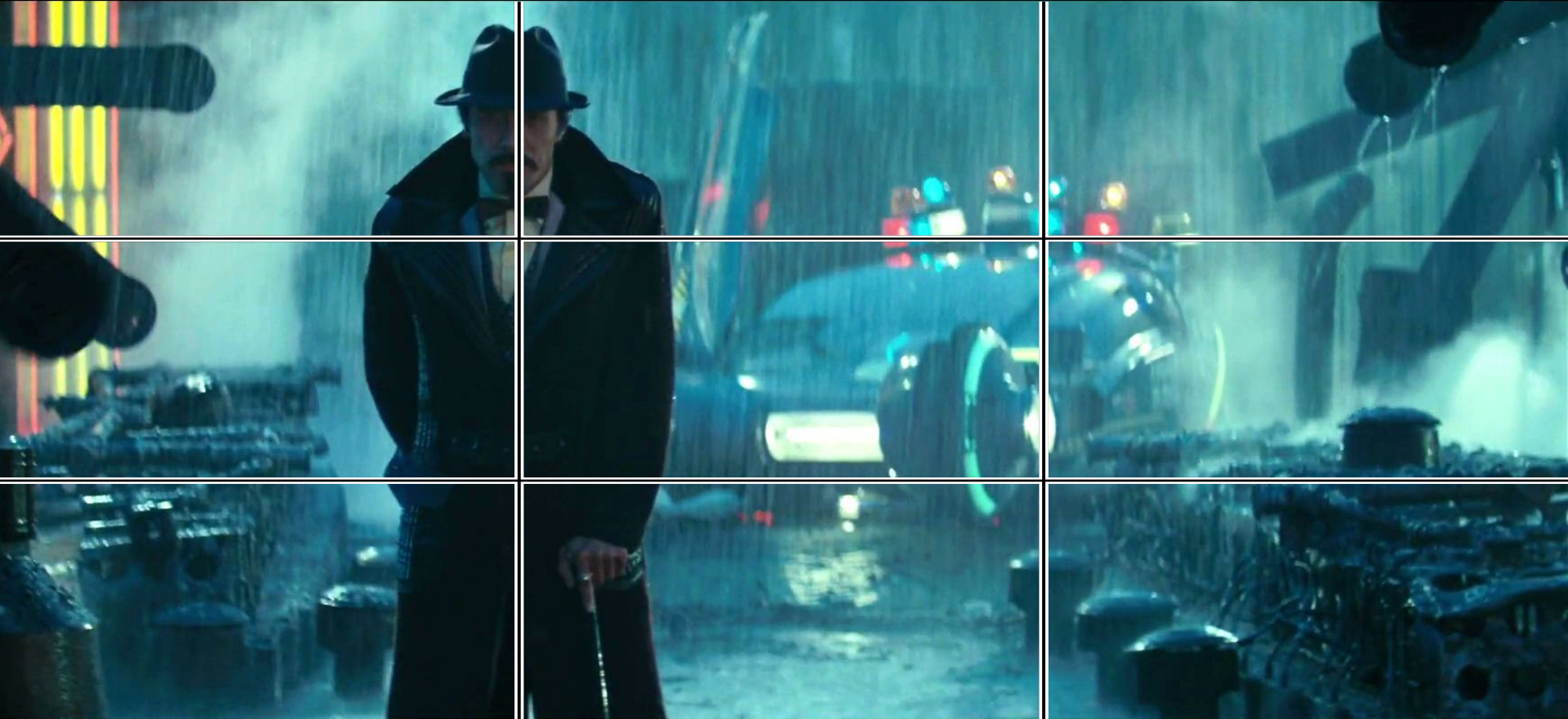


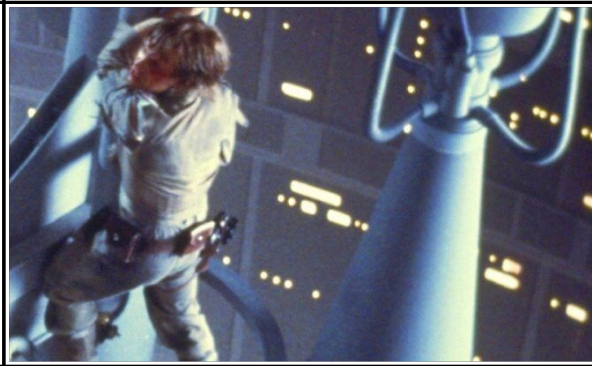
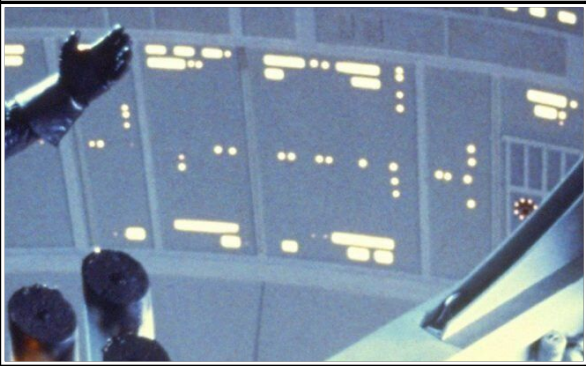
Horizon Lines

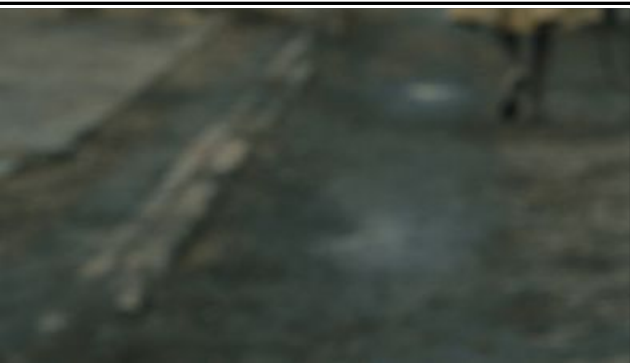




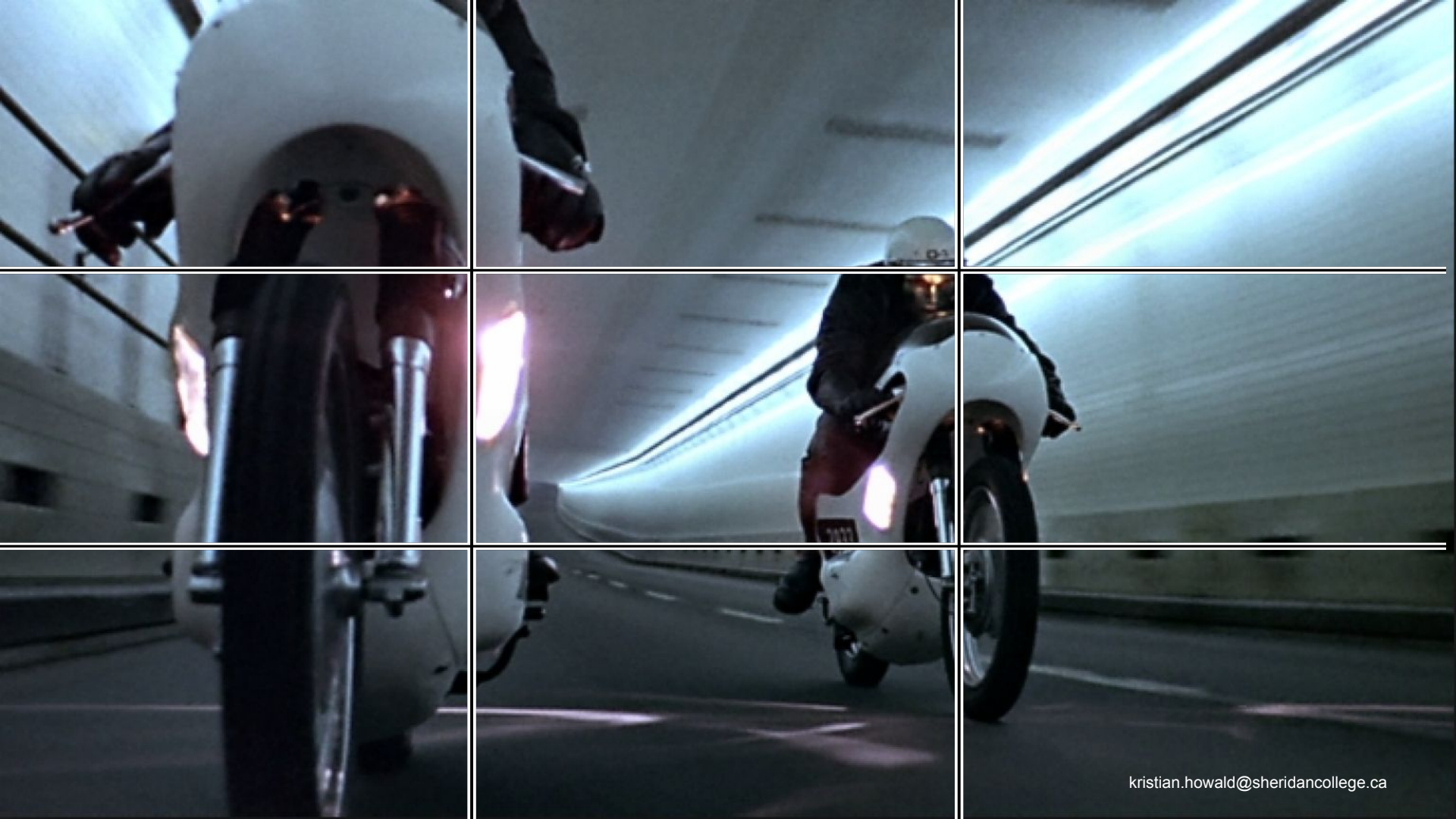






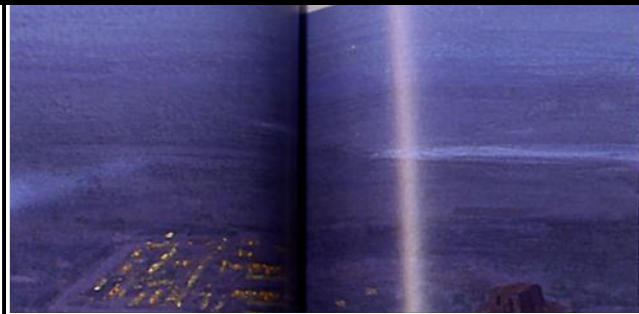
















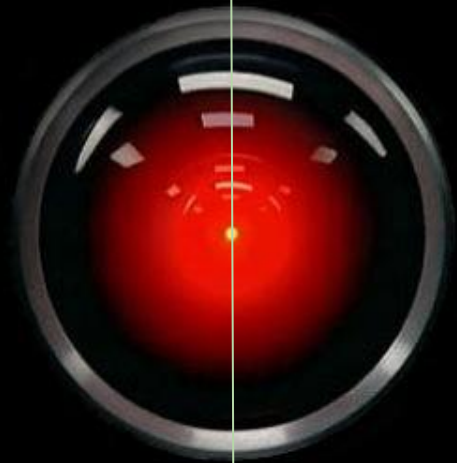
Center Frame

Centre Placement

- Placing a subject in the middle of frame can have a visual impact, and offers symmetry to a composition.
- **Stanley Kubrick** and **Wes Anderson** use this type of framing.



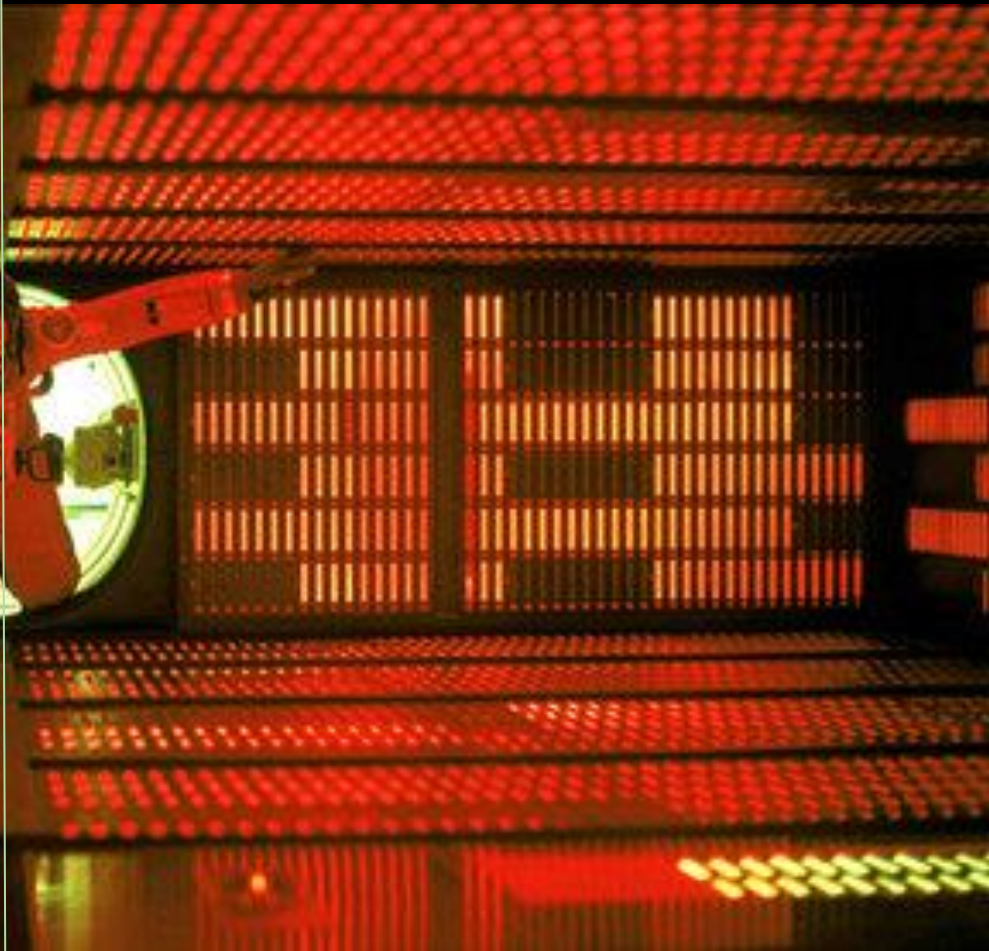
Center Frame



Center Frame



Center Frame





Center Frame



Center Frame



Center Frame

Looking Space

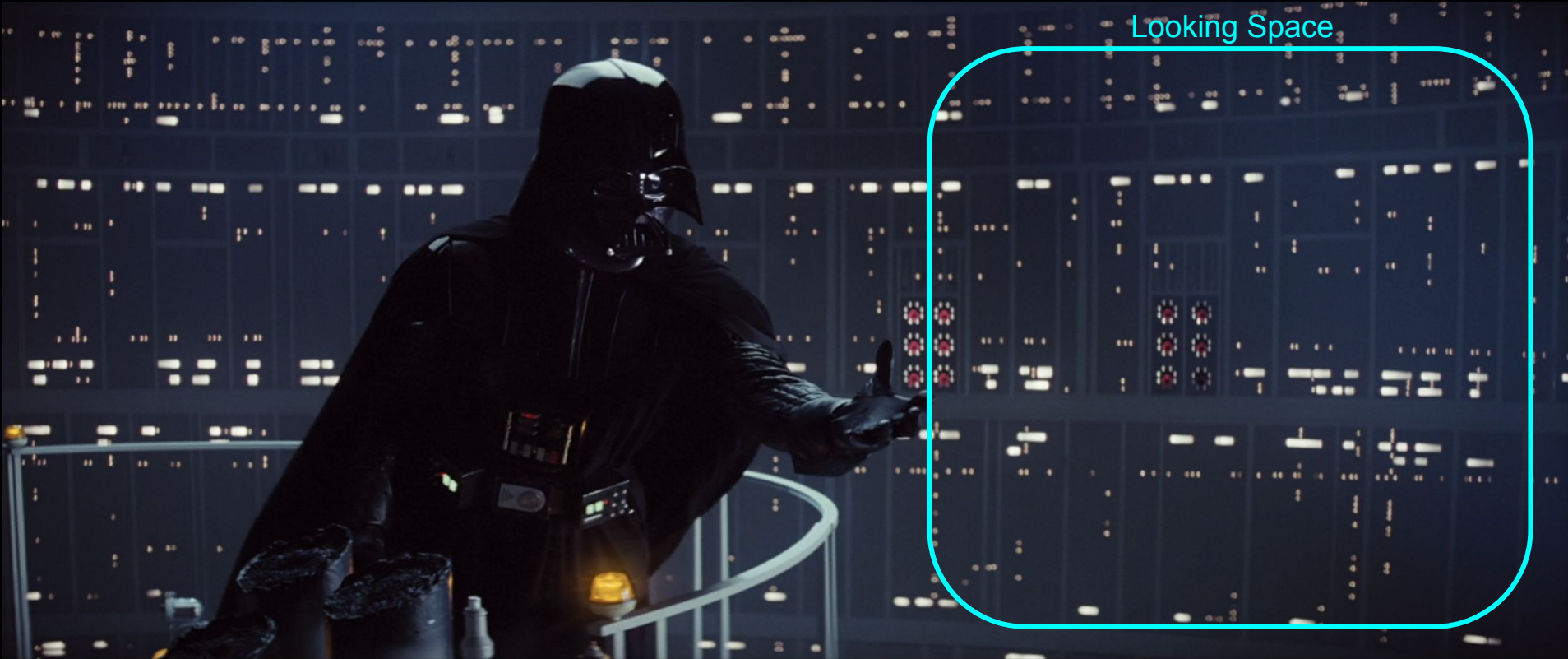


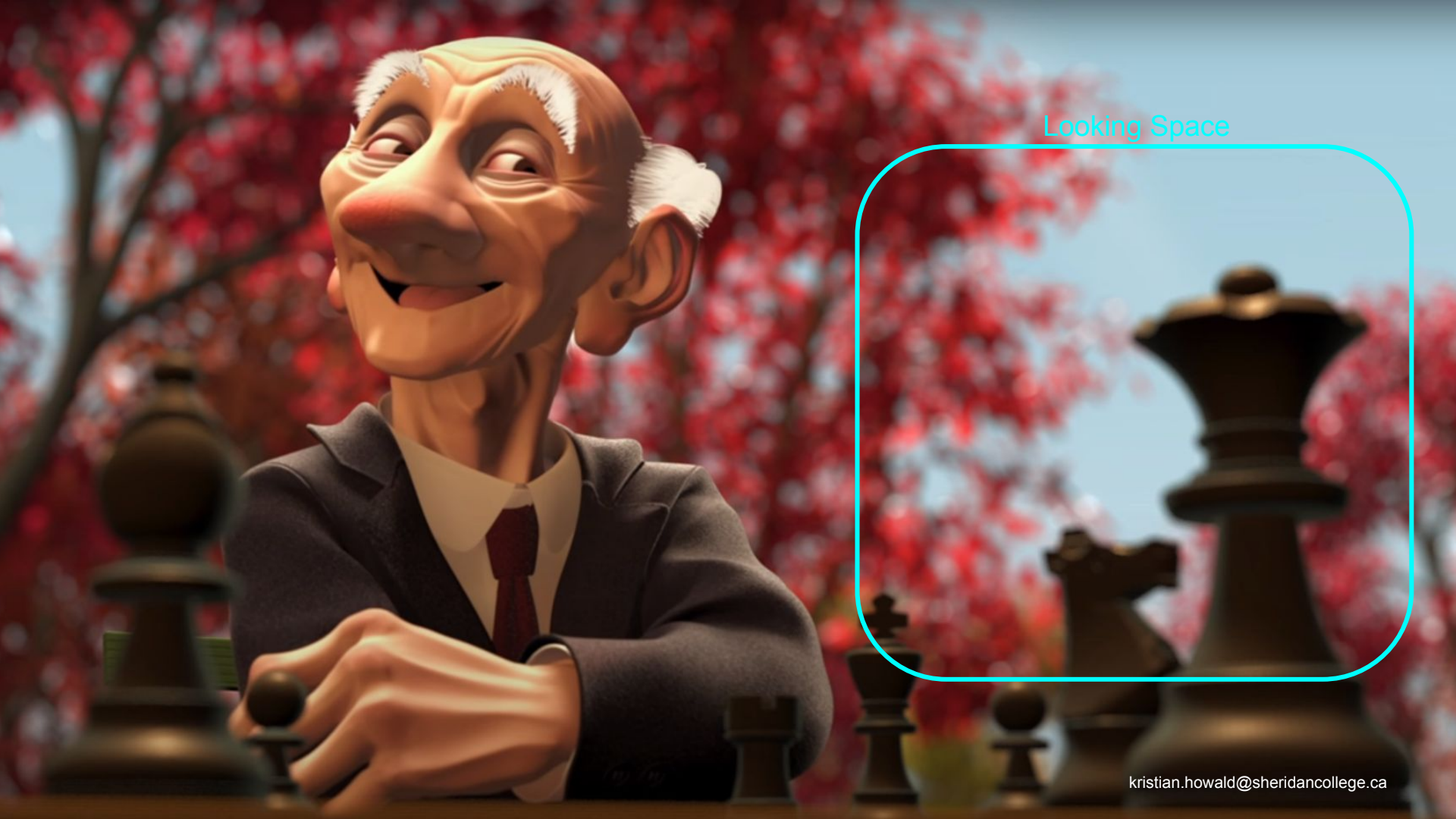
Leading the Subject and Looking Space

- An open area of the frame that leaves space for the subject to move into.
- Creates a relative separation between several characters (looking space).



Looking Space





Looking Space



Looking Space



Frame

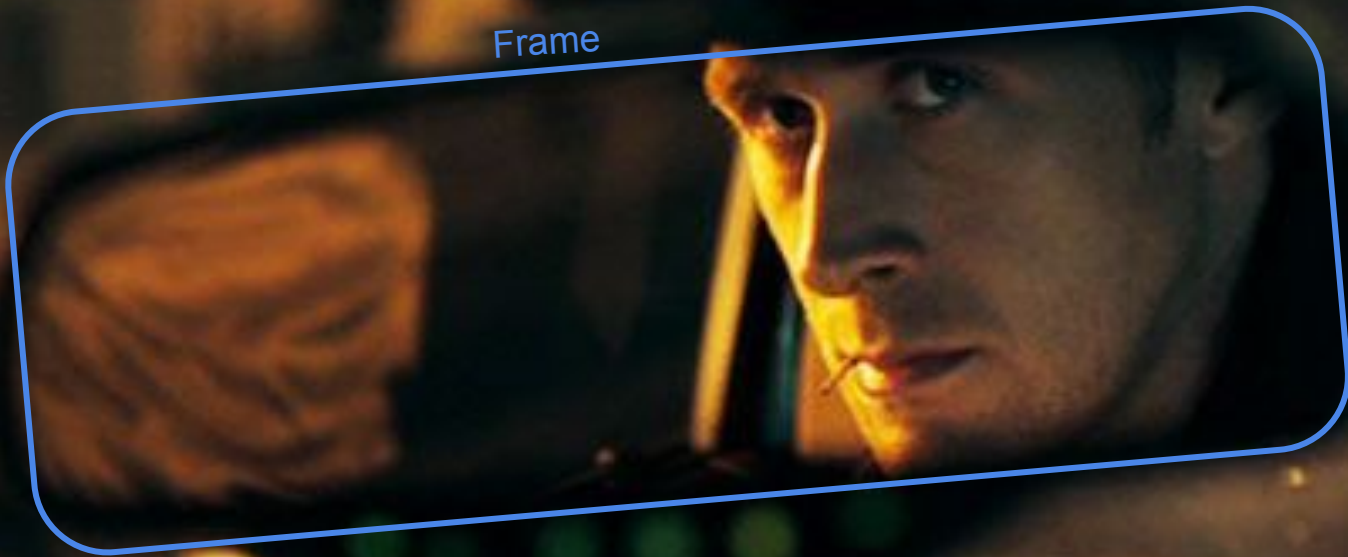


Framing

- Elements within the shot act as a frame (like a picture frame), which helps to focus the viewer's attention.
- Used to minimize extraneous information, allowing the audience to notice what's important.

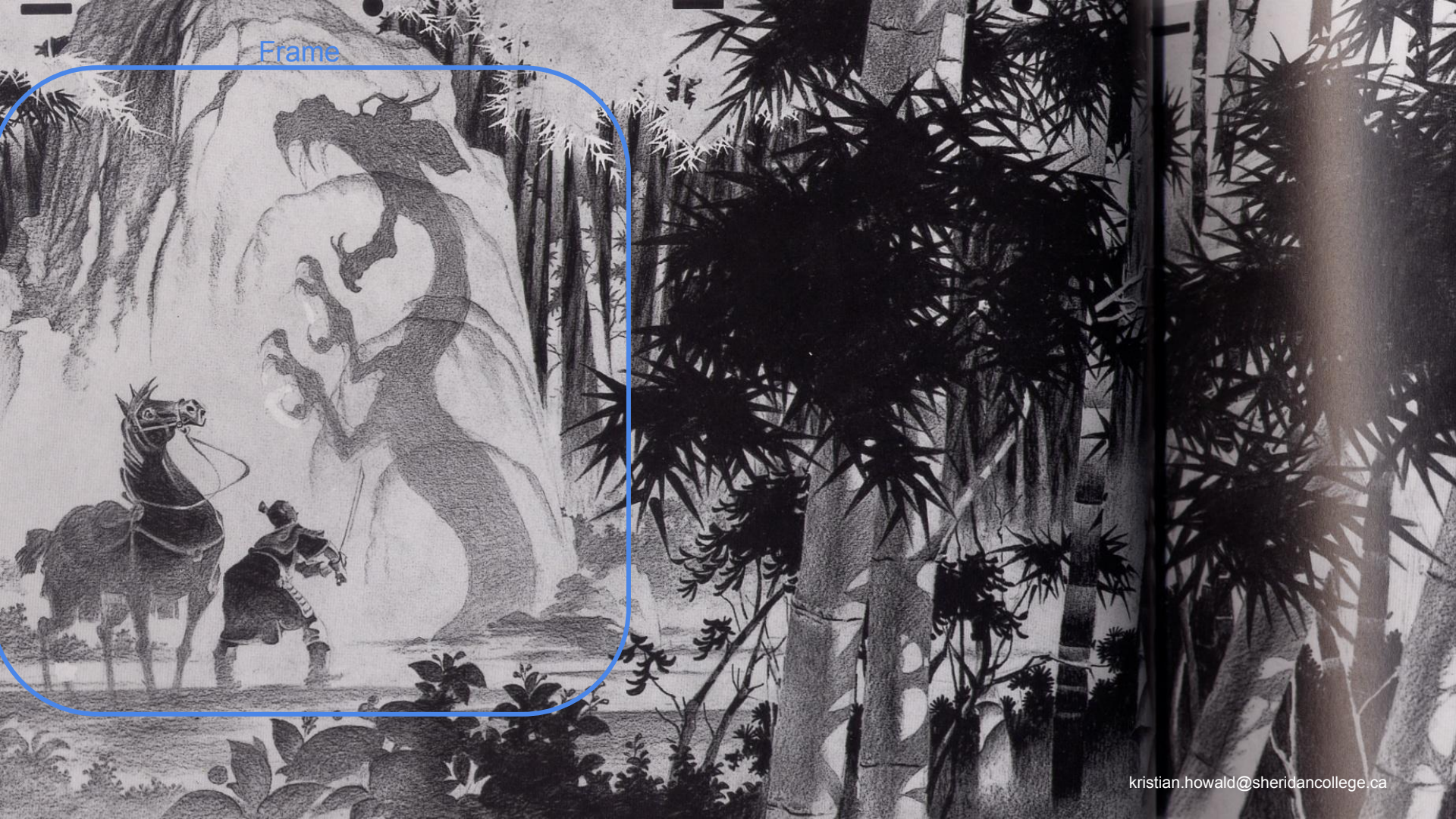


Frame





Frame





Frame

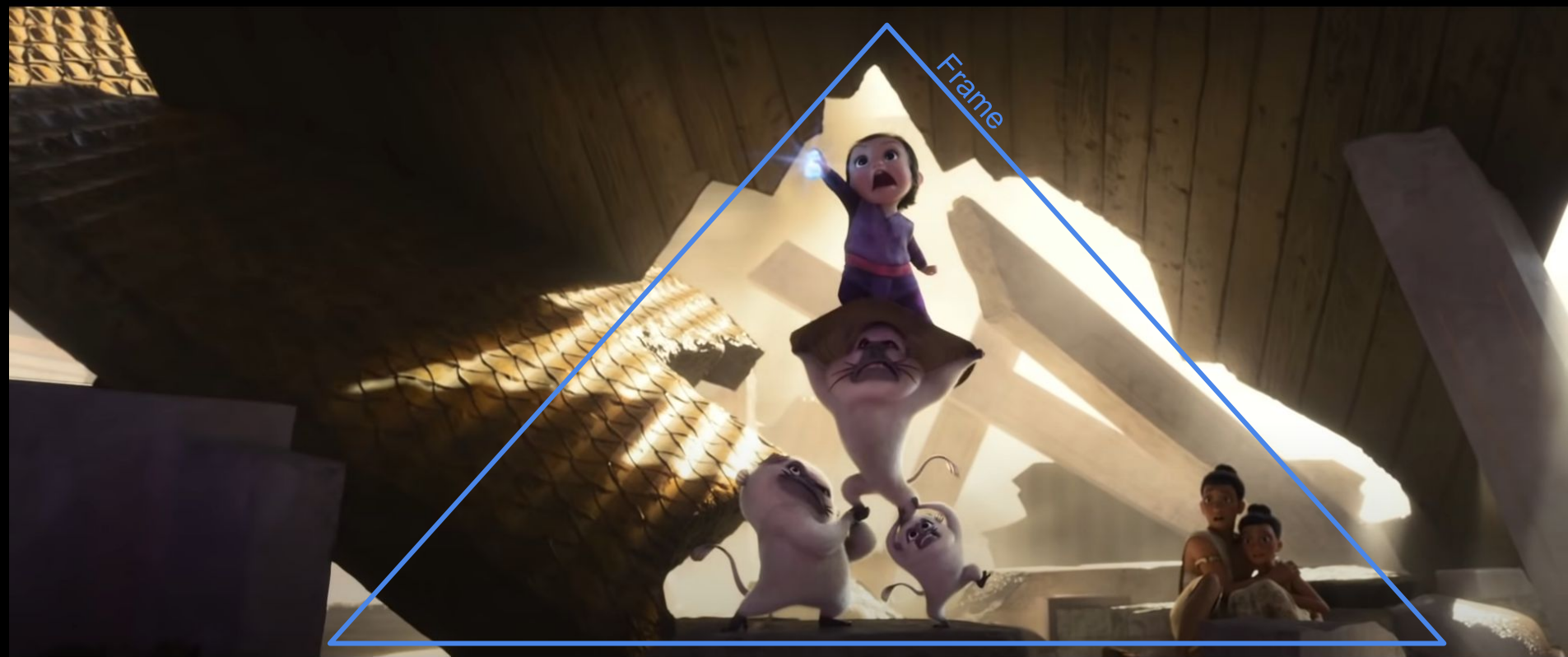




Frame









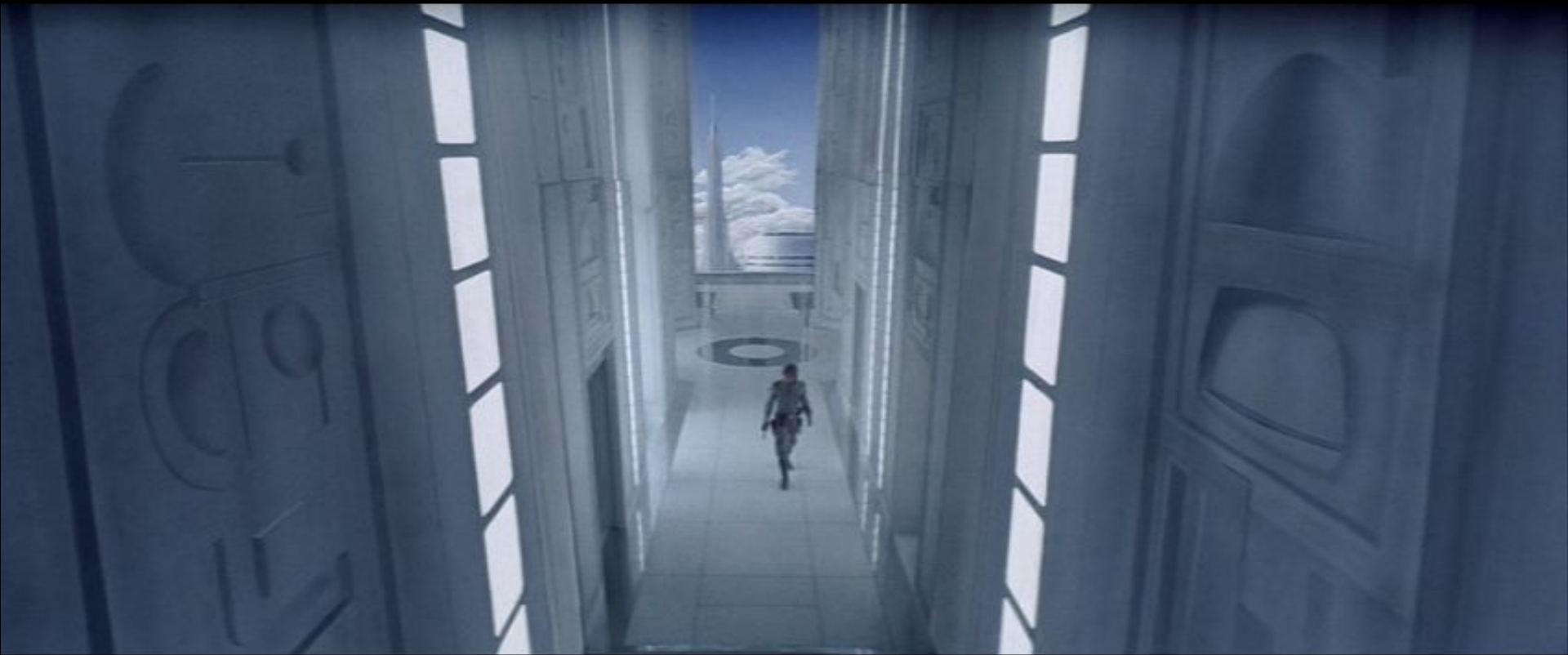
Frame





Frame



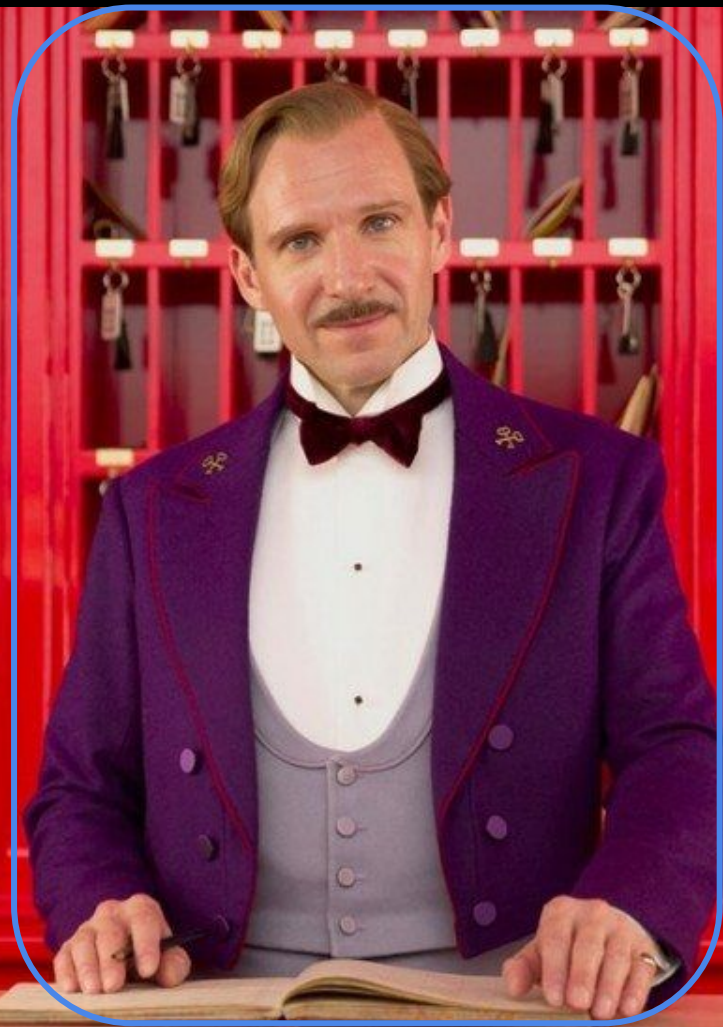


Frame

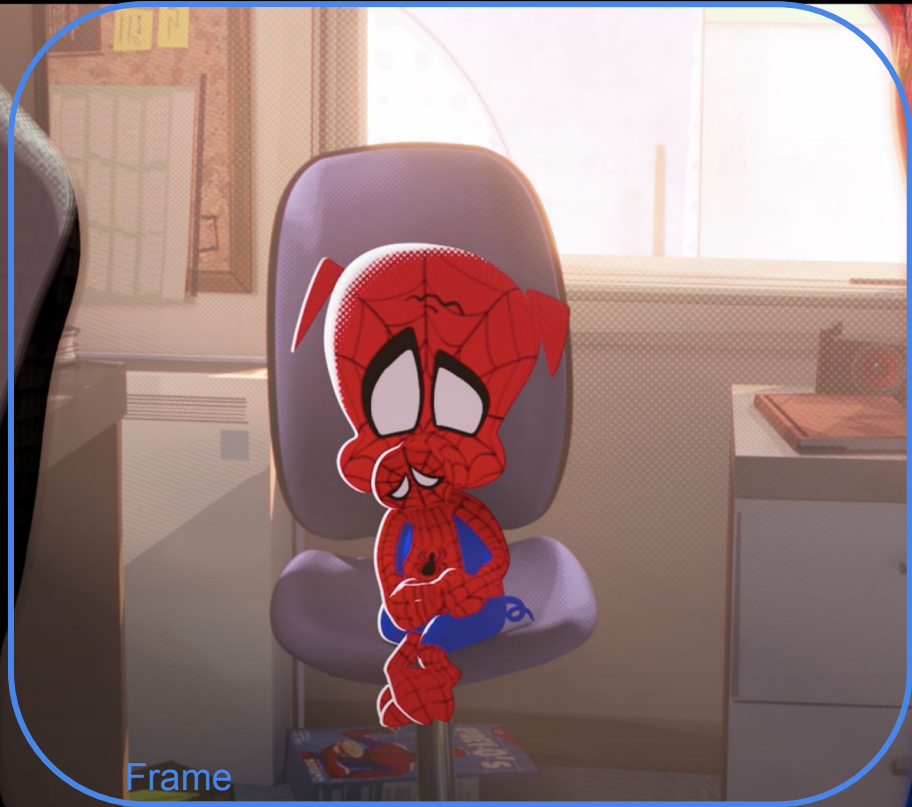




Frame

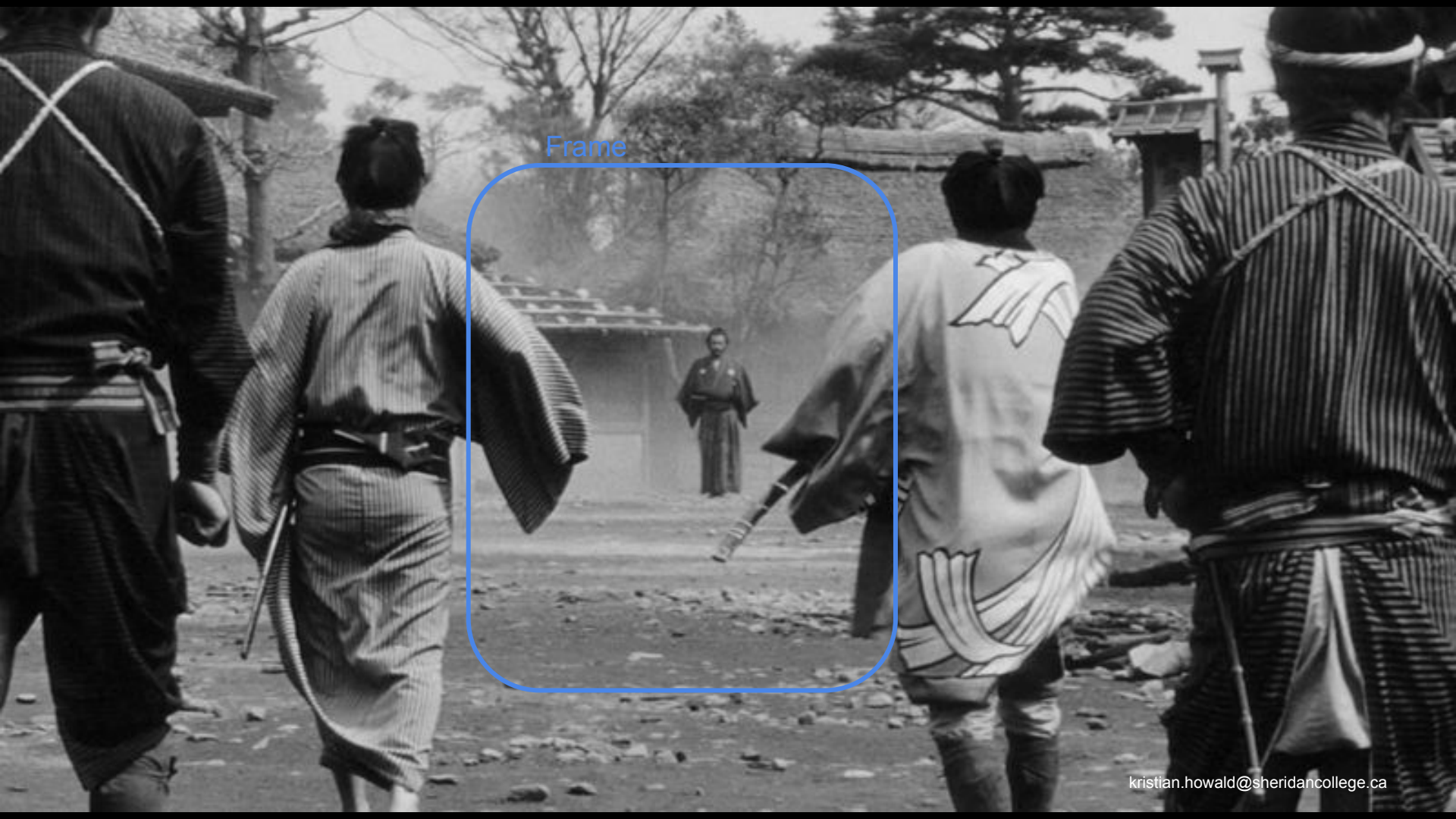






Frame





Frame

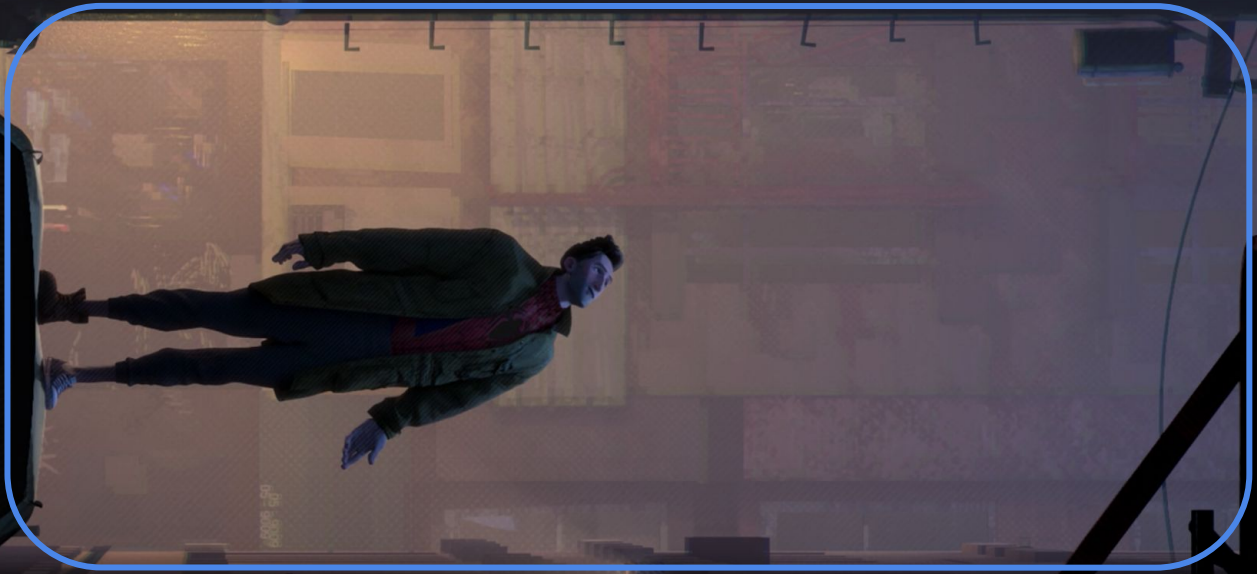




Frame



Frame





Frame

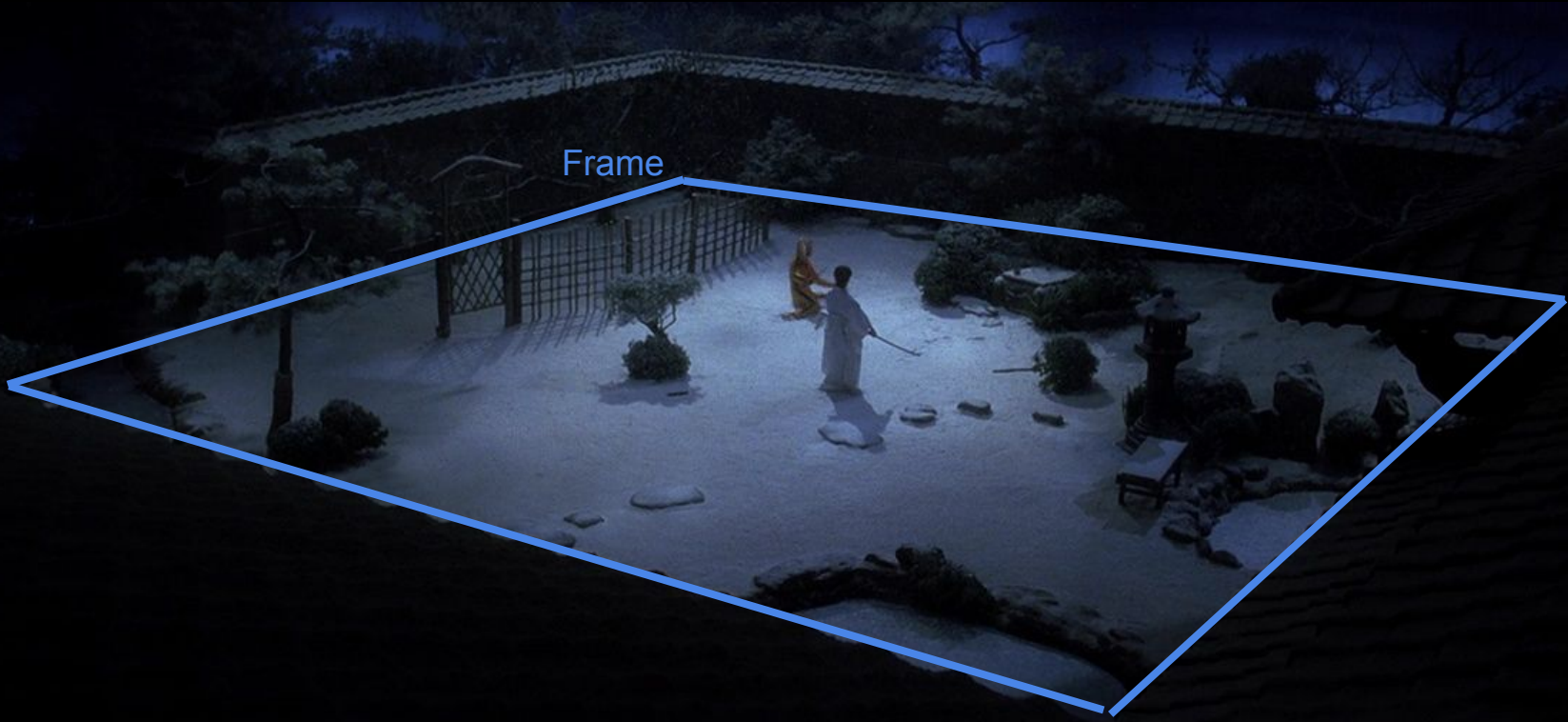




Frame







Frame



Frame

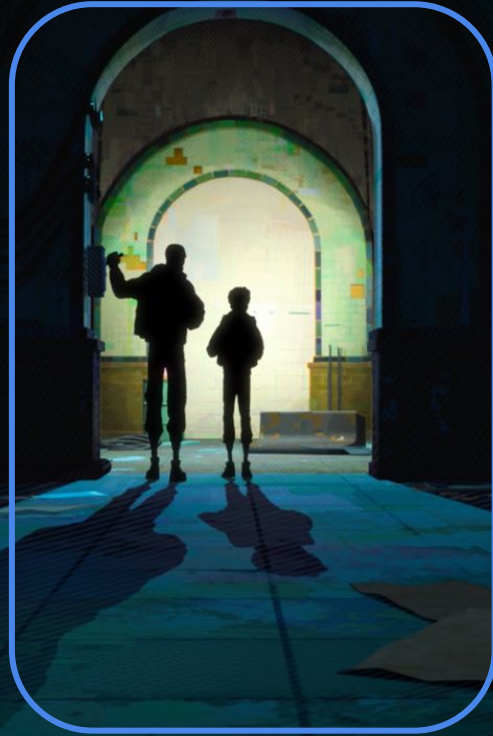




Frame



Frame



Frame

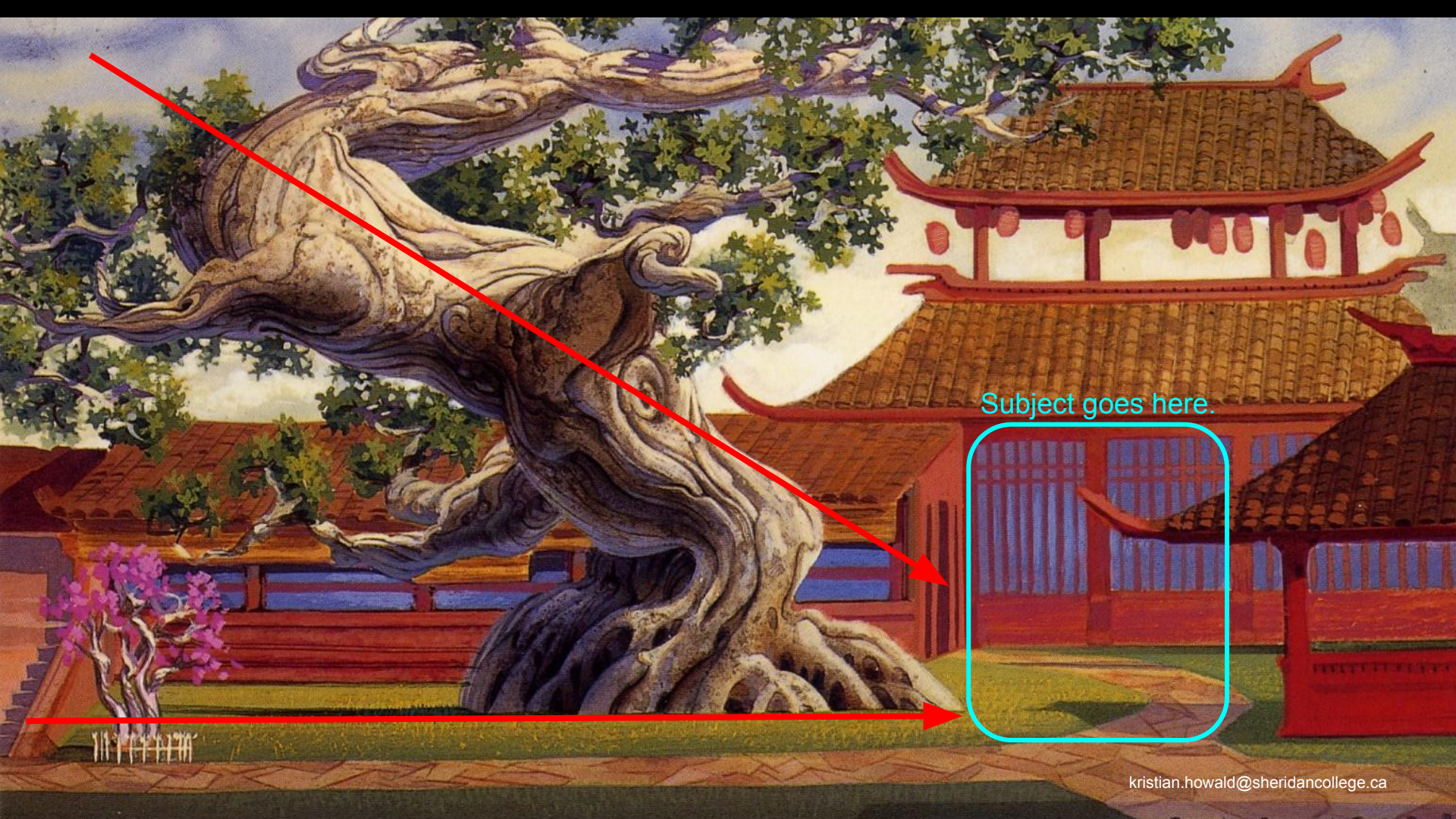




Leading lines

- These are the bounding lines of objects that draw our attention to the main interest in the frame.





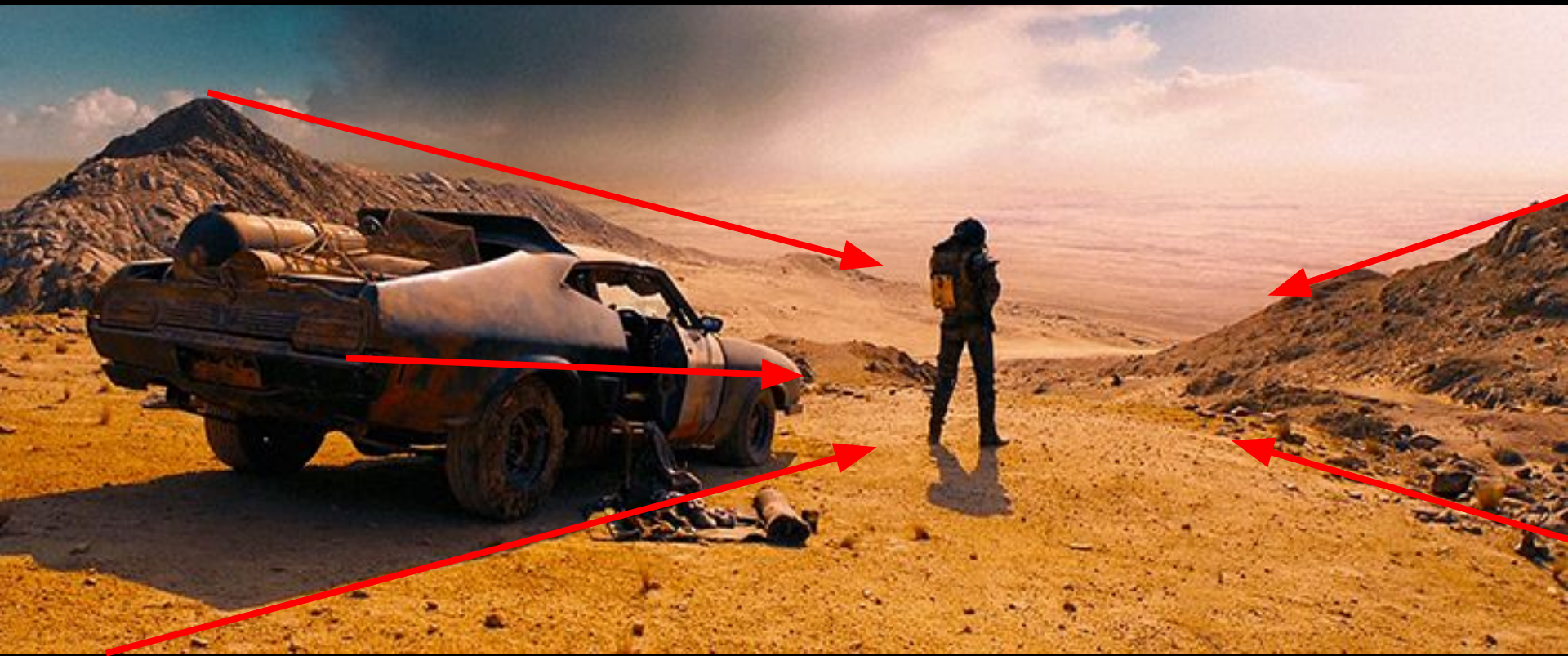
Subject goes here.

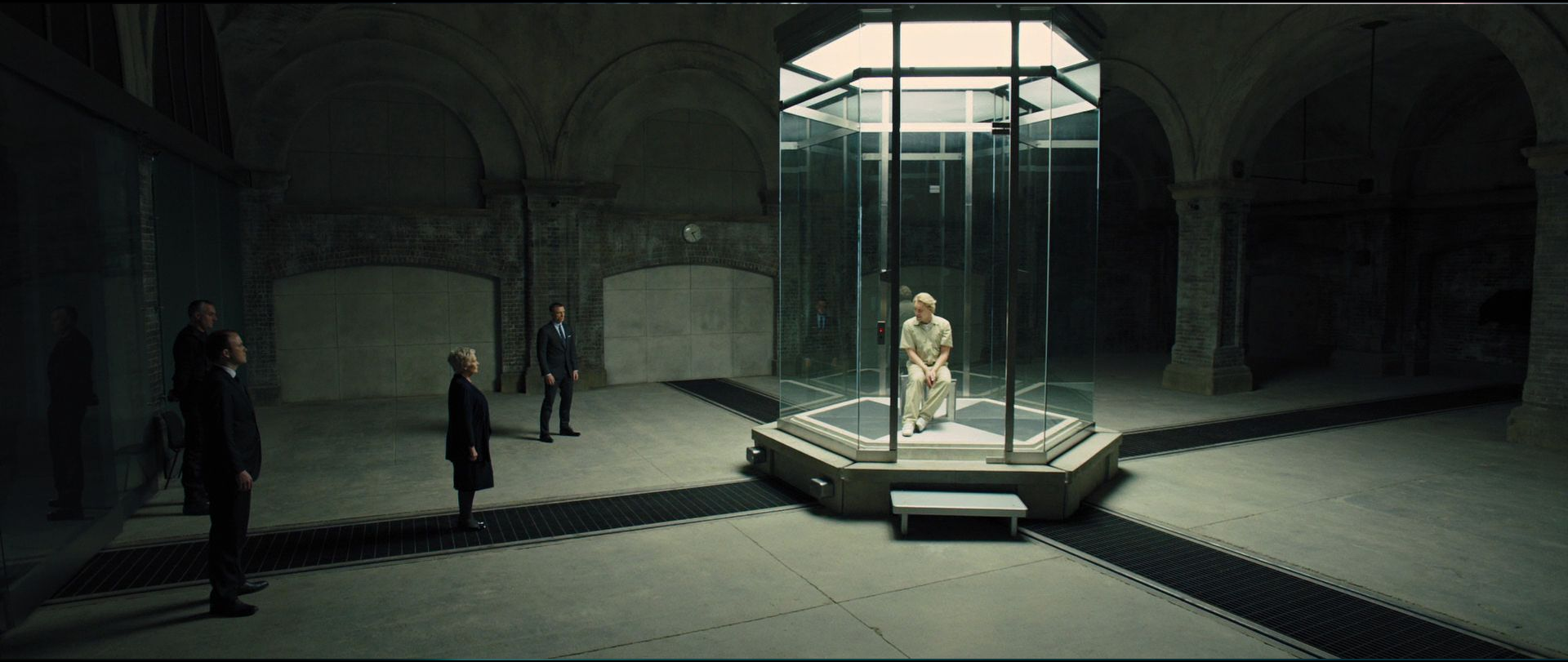


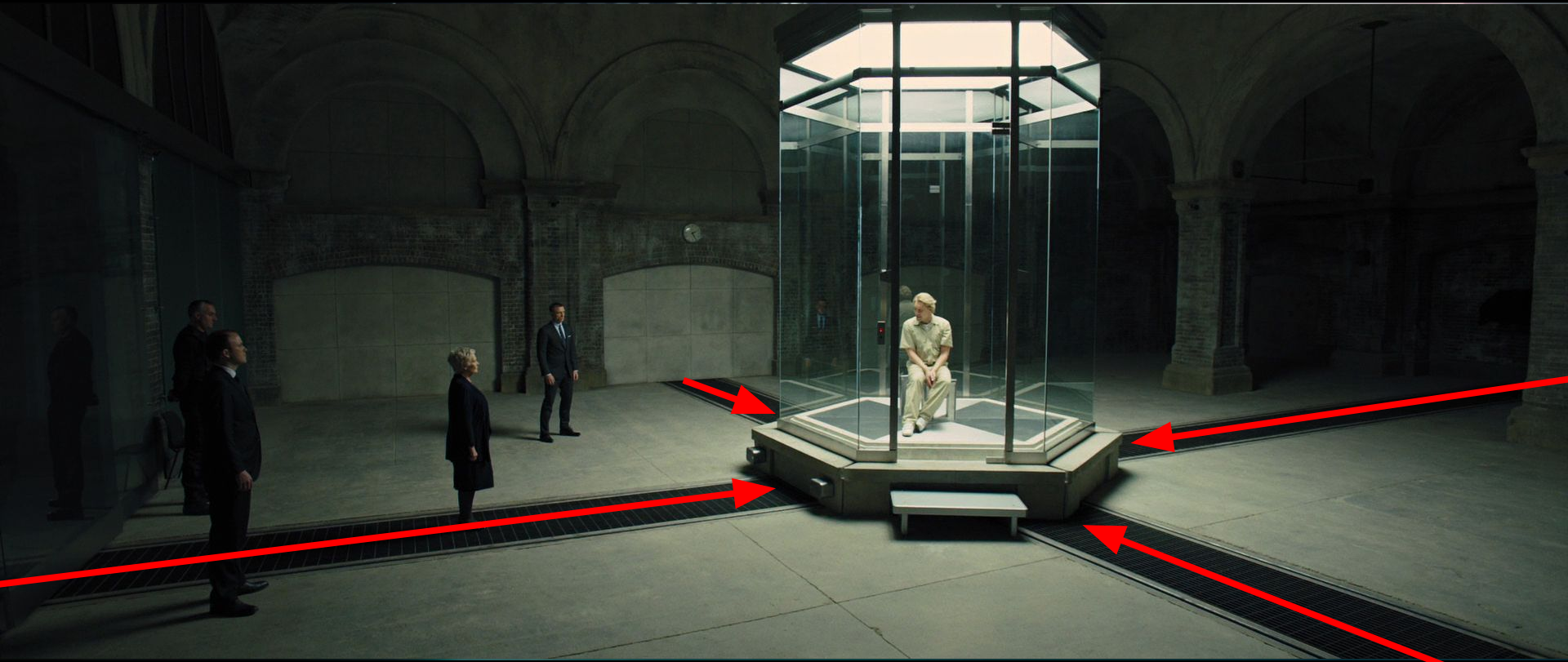








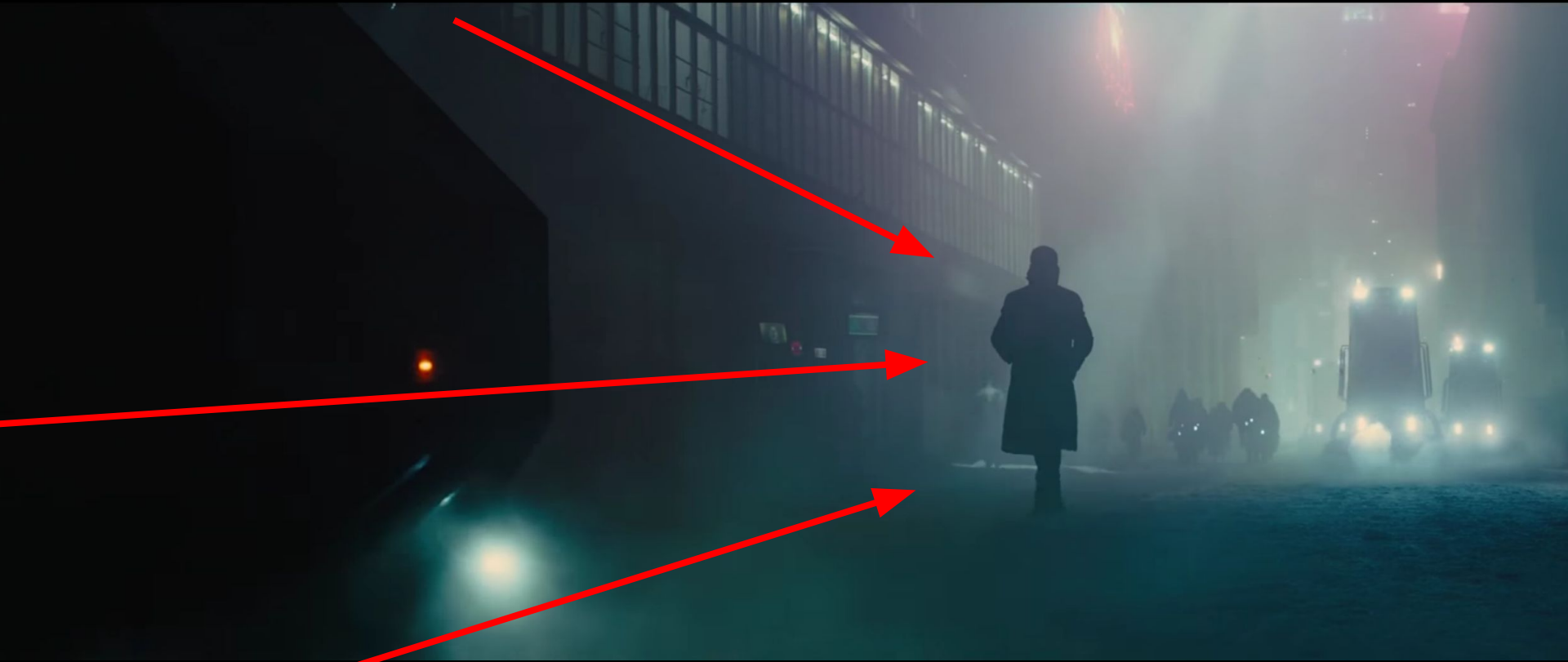




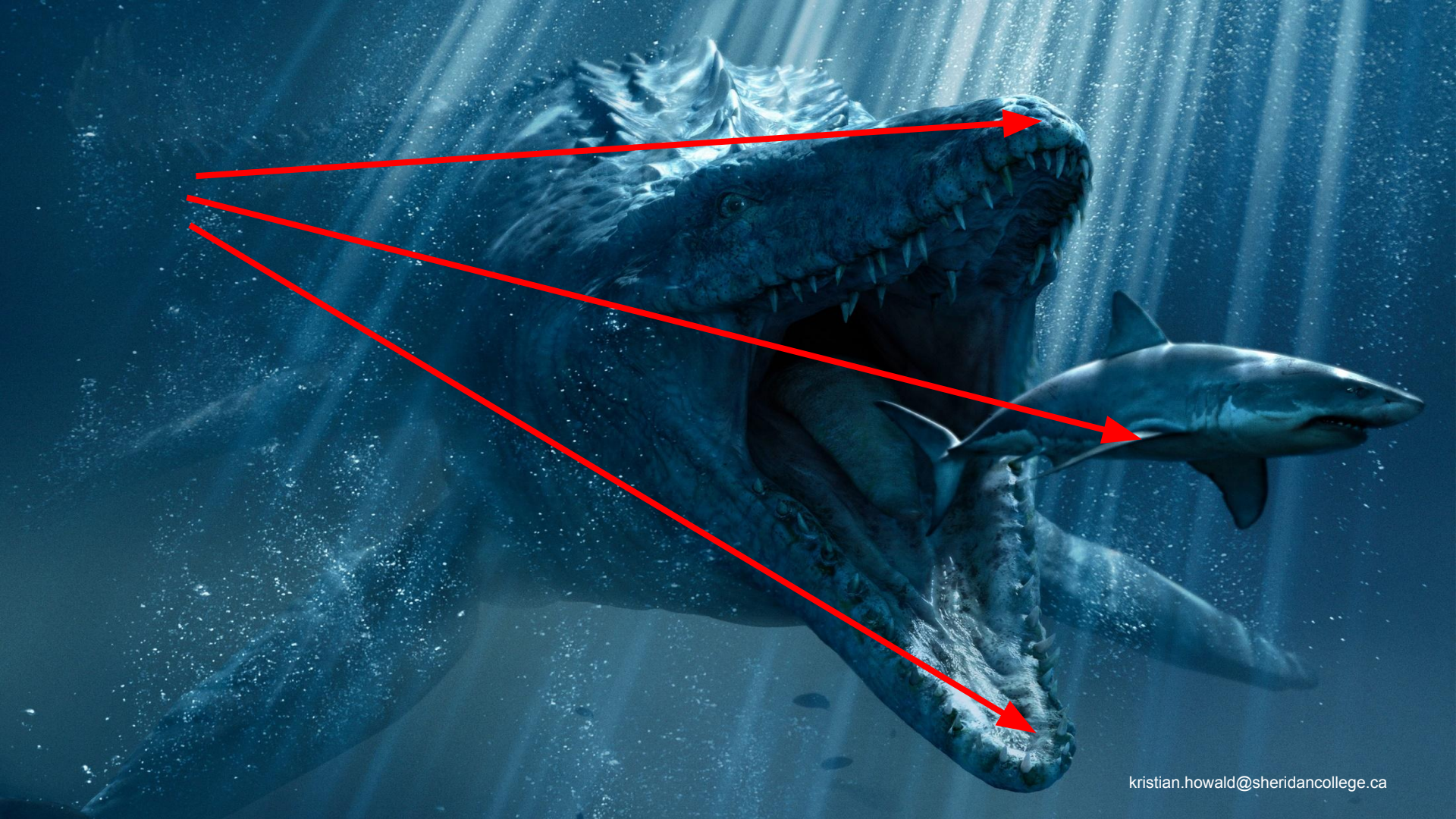




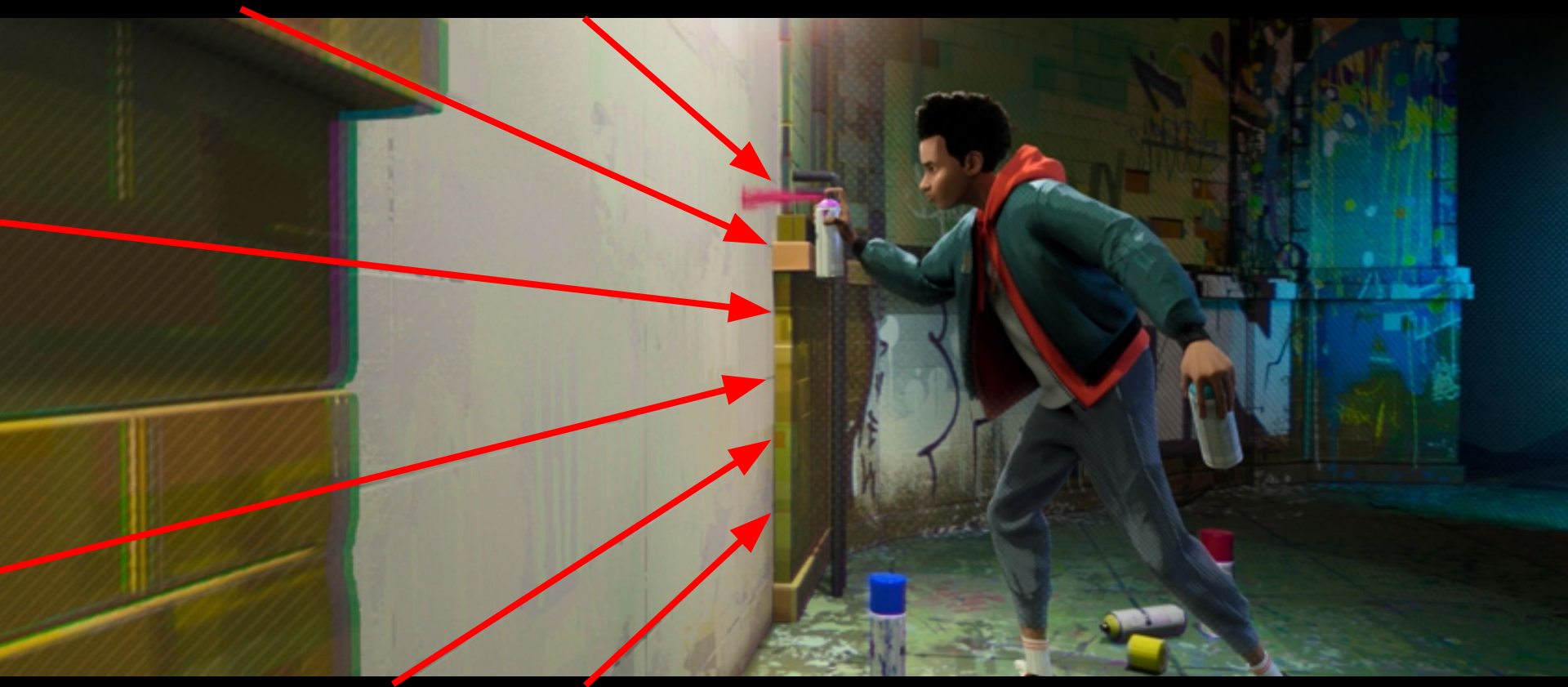








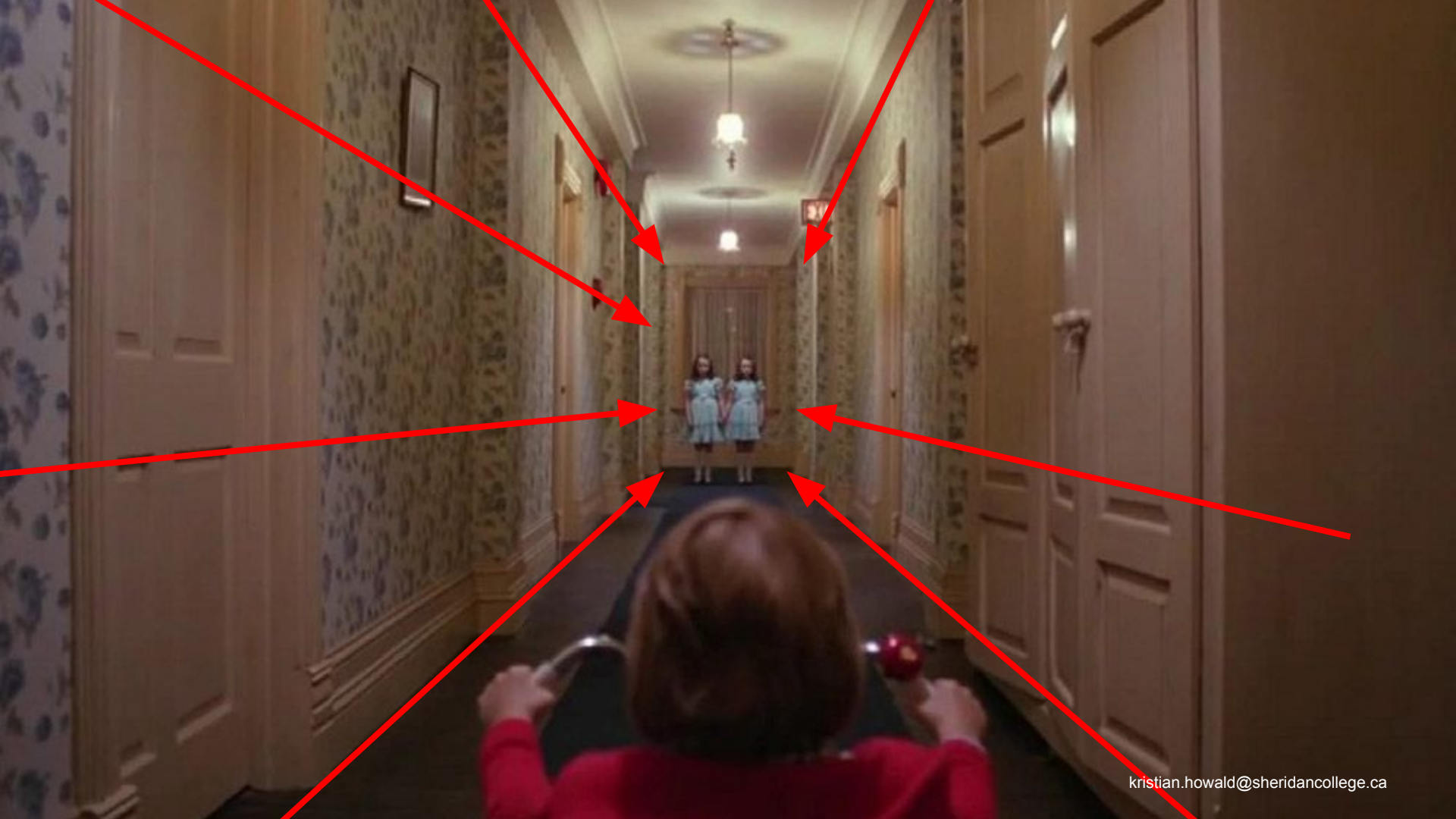




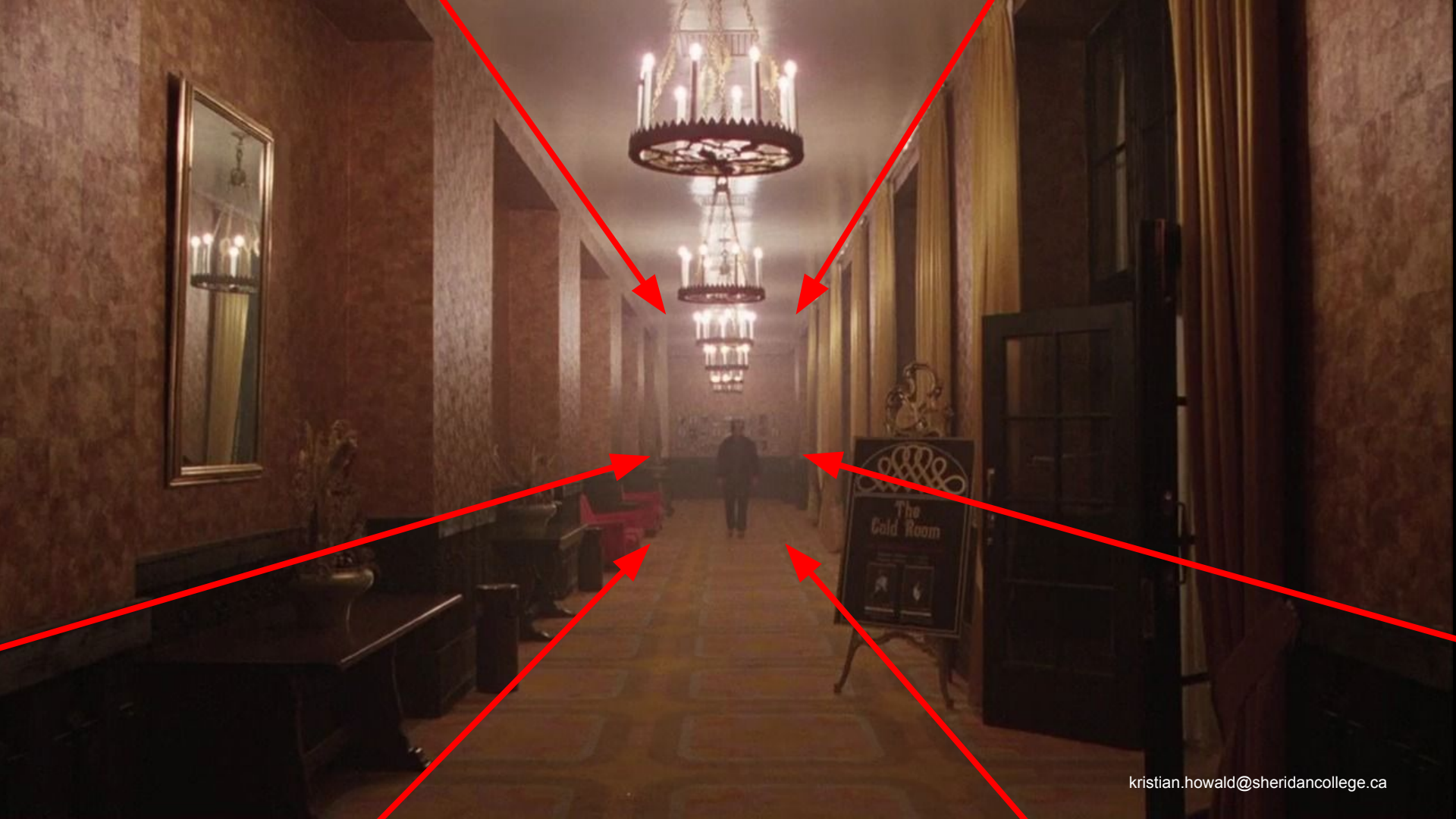






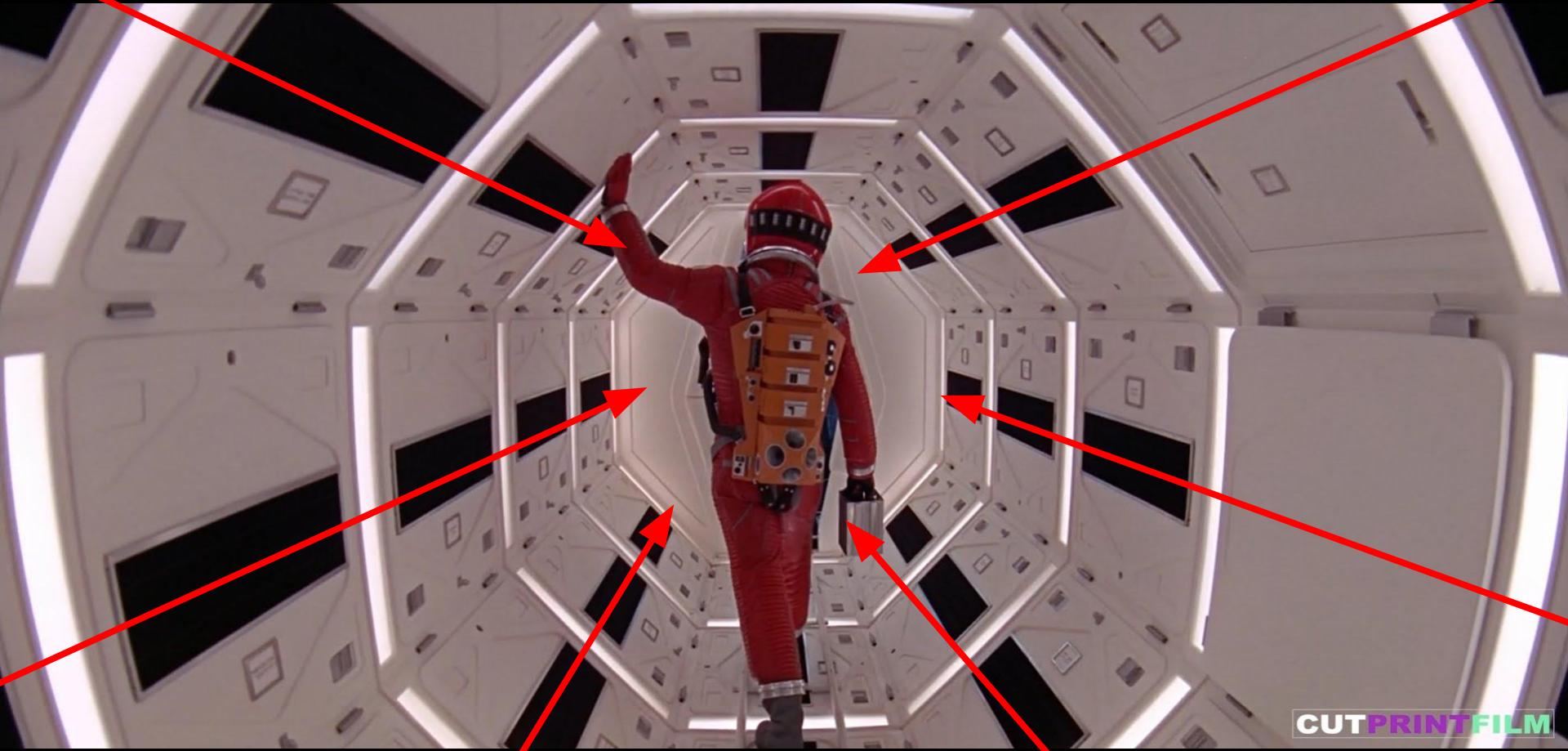












CUTPRINTFILM

kristian.howald@sheridancollege.ca

