

## Differentiating

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to distinguish – to keep apart – to separate

Among this small selection of synonyms of the verb ‘to differentiate’, the verb ‘to distinguish’ is probably the most frequently used in everyday speech.

Each and every one of us perceives his environment differently. A first impression can appear very differently at the second or third glance. We experience these differences with all our sensory channels; for example in the execution or observation of a movement sequence or a sculpture, while listening to a music, while visiting an art gallery with different objects/pictures/photos, while listening to a poem, while tasting or smelling a new dish etc.

To be clear about one's own ability to differentiate and to apply it, I see it as valuable for artistic as well as for pedagogical work. In this way things/phenomena etc. can be illuminated from very different angles and understood in a deeper way. The expansion of this ability is part of eurhythmics, where one is provided with the necessary space to experience, observe, reflect, and exchange about the differences. Strongly differing impressions can be concretely guided in one direction in eurhythmics, which enables thematic work despite all differentiated perception.

As an example, the following pictures of stones can be seen in different ways:



All photos: Isabel Blengeri

- As a still picture – rather the movement/direction, rather the form
- As a whole or small parts in detail?

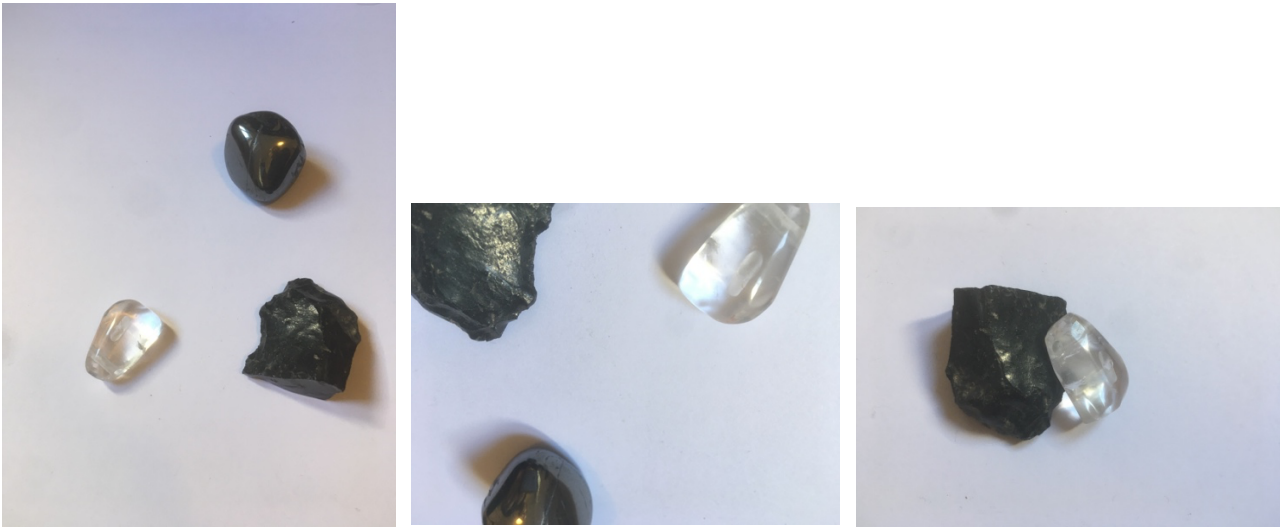


- As a shape/pattern/order or as casual/disorder?
- Do the same/similar colors sort together, or do contrasts stand out, or do I see the whole?



- Where does the attention gather?

- What do I see directly, what changes after a longer period of observation, what is the eye looking for, what do I want/don't want to see?
- Vertical/horizontal lines/arrangements



These are only a few questions that can be used to create the ability of differentiating.