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Visual Vernacular (VV)



Visual Vernacular (VV)
is a unique form of
storytelling and theatre
that relies heavily on
visual communication.



VV combines elements of:

- **Sign language** – although it is not identical to sign language, VV uses iconic signs and gestures.
- **Body language** – facial expressions and expressive body movements are key to conveying emotions and actions.
- **Pantomime**

Visual Vernacular can be thought of as a poetic and expressive use of the whole body to tell stories without words. It is a powerful art form appreciated by both Deaf and hearing audiences.

Why is it needed?

- It teaches Deaf culture.
- It creates and sustains social identity.
- It provides an opportunity to develop and showcase language skills.
- It allows people to express who they are.
- It enables people to explore and develop their language, pushing its boundaries.

Who created VV?
Where does the name come from?

Bernard Bragg

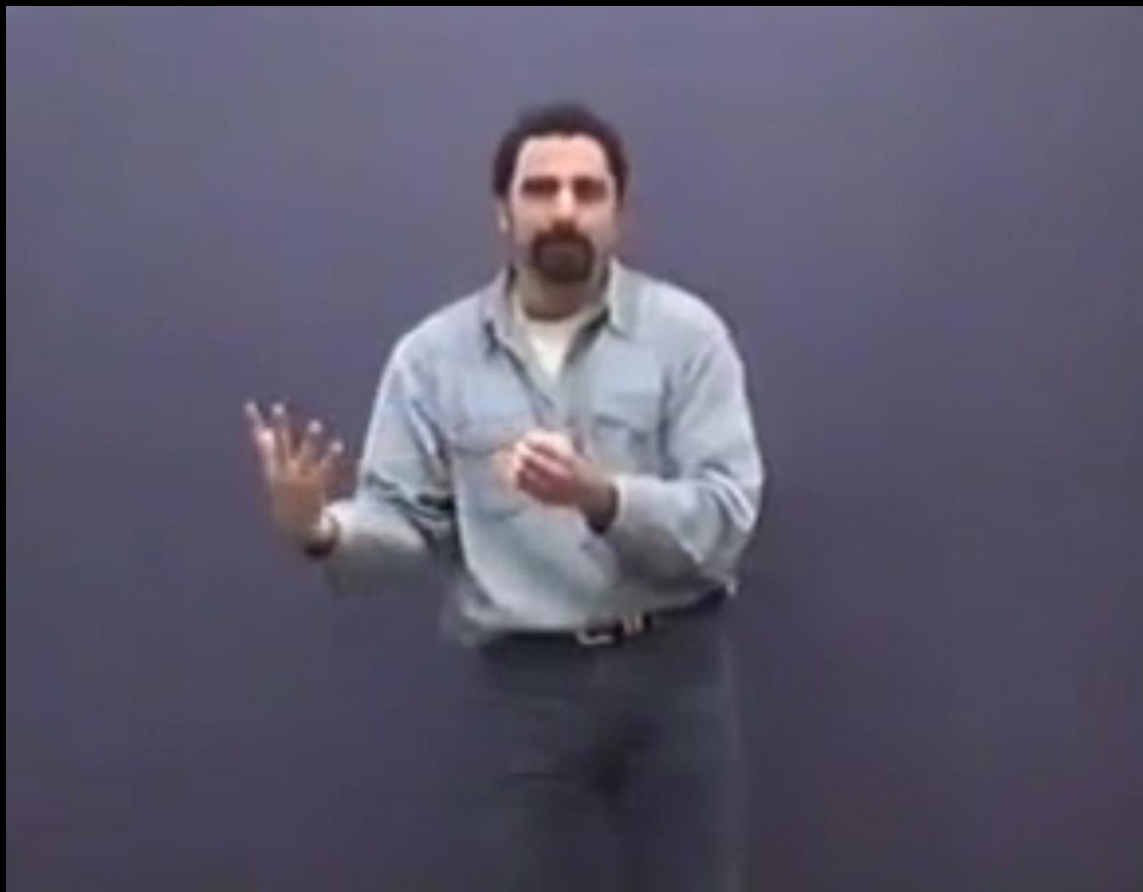


Marcel Marceau



Bernad Bragg
„Eagle & Squirrel”





Giuseppe Giuranna
„Musica” (1998)

Gustavo Gusmao
Ferreira

„O cachoro sente falta
do melhor amigo’
(2020)

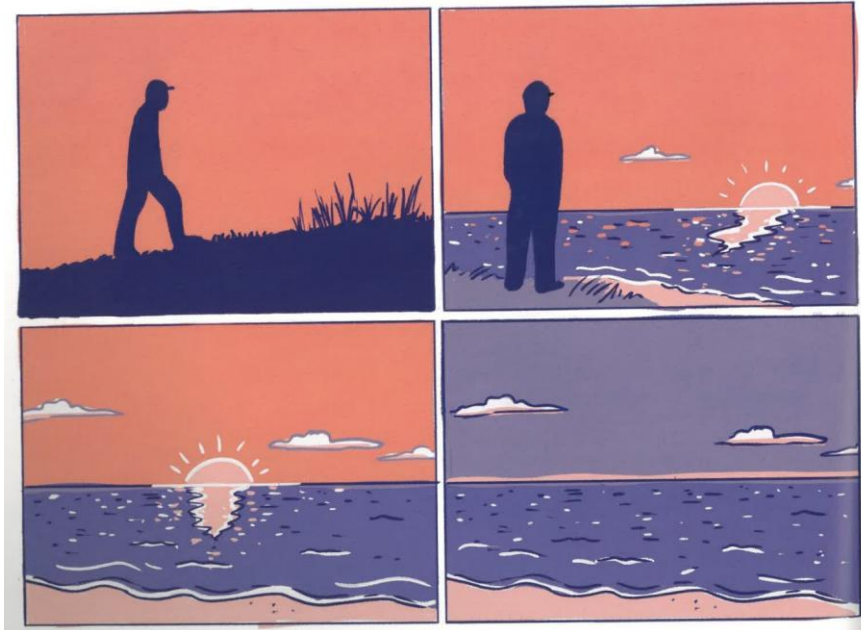
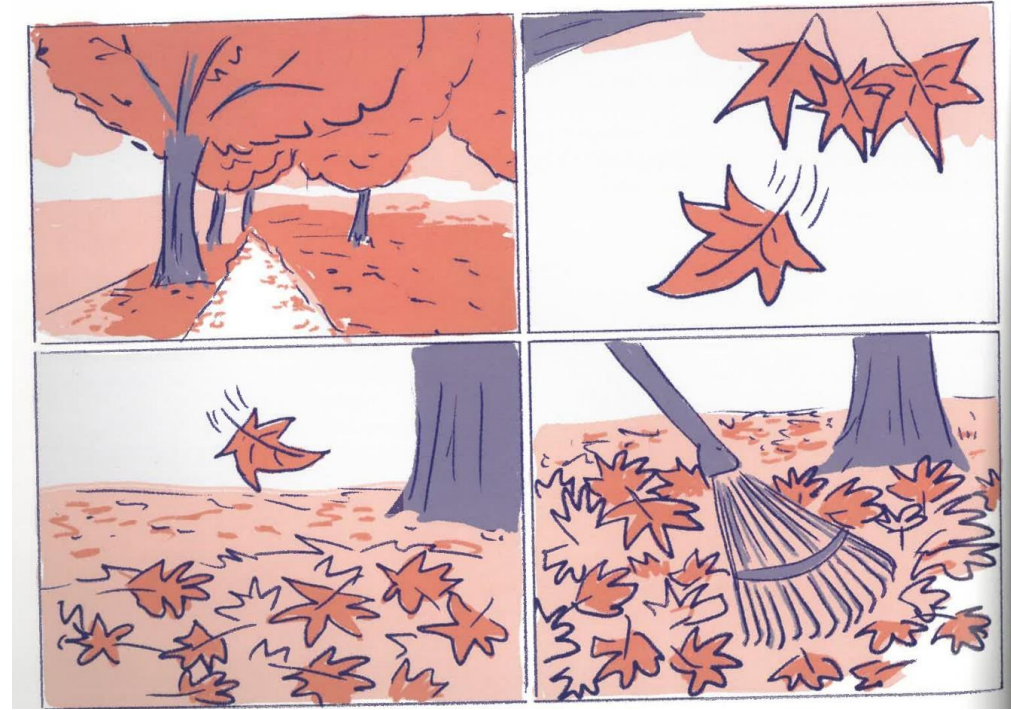




Jamila & Amina Ouahid
"Unexpected moment,,
(2014)

Description

- Shape / appearance
- Movement / action
- Space



Pictures by Brittany Castle

What does VV include?

- **Facial expressions** – expressive use of the face to convey emotions and meaning
- **Speed and rhythm** – changes in tempo to build tension, emotion, or action
- **Zoom effect** – shifting perspective (like a camera zooming in or out)
- **3D space** – using space to create depth and show distance, size, and relationships
- **Role shifting** – taking on different characters within the story
- **Pantomime** – clear, exaggerated gestures to show actions and objects without words
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What can VV be used for?

- **Storytelling** – to tell stories, fairy tales, and personal experiences in a vivid, visual way.
- **Theatre and performance** – as a stage art form in shows, festivals, and artistic presentations.
- **Education** – to teach Deaf culture, visual thinking, and communication skills.
- **Intercultural communication** – to communicate across different sign languages and cultures.
- **Artistic expression** – to express emotions, ideas, and creativity without words.
- **Media and film** – in videos, short films, and social media content.
- **Language development** – to explore and expand visual and sign language skills.

VV is a very flexible form—it can be both artistic and practical at the same time.

Question?

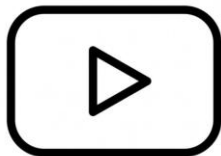




Picture by
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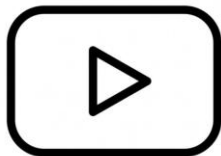


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