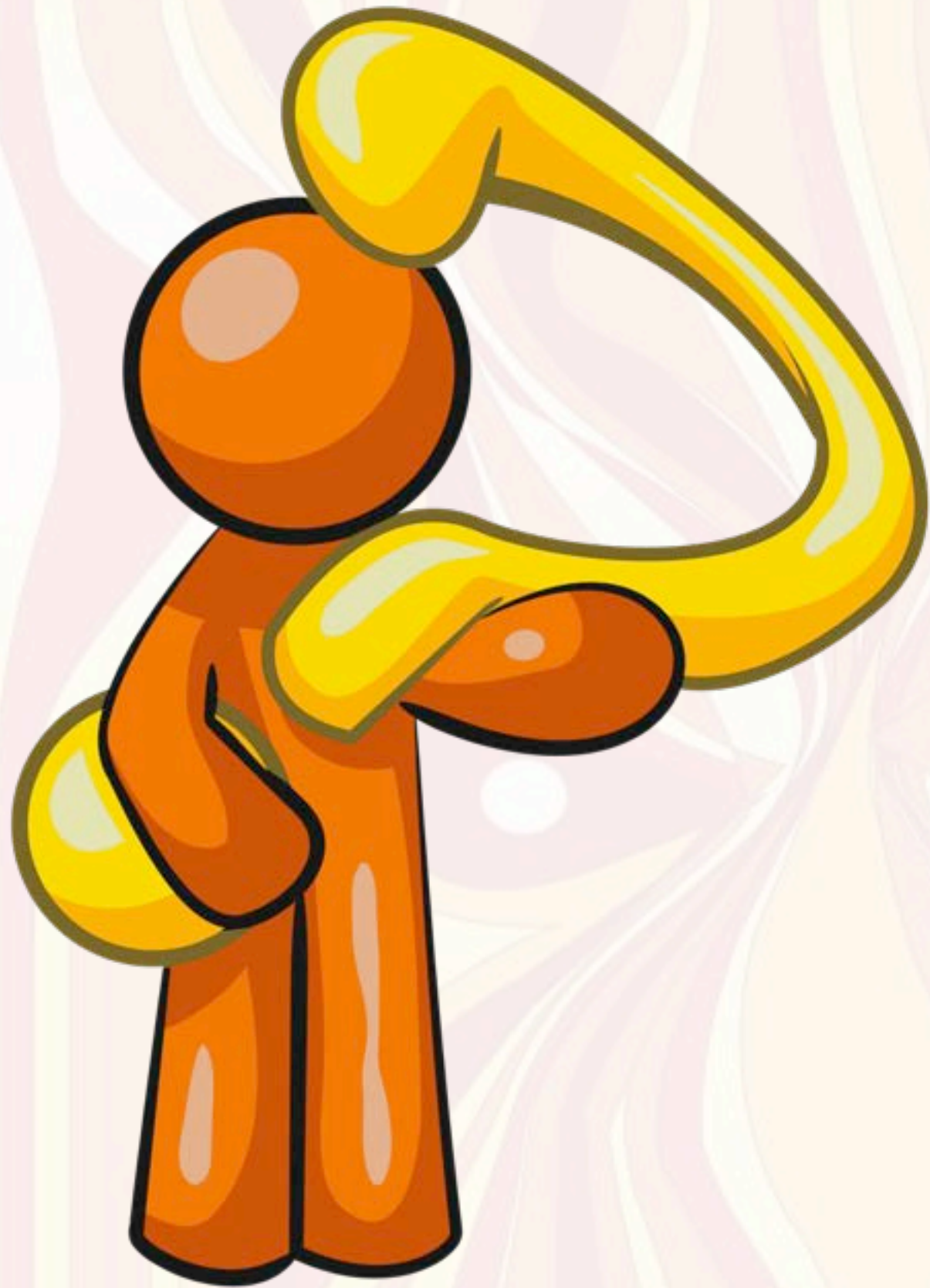


Art Illusions

Learning Objective:

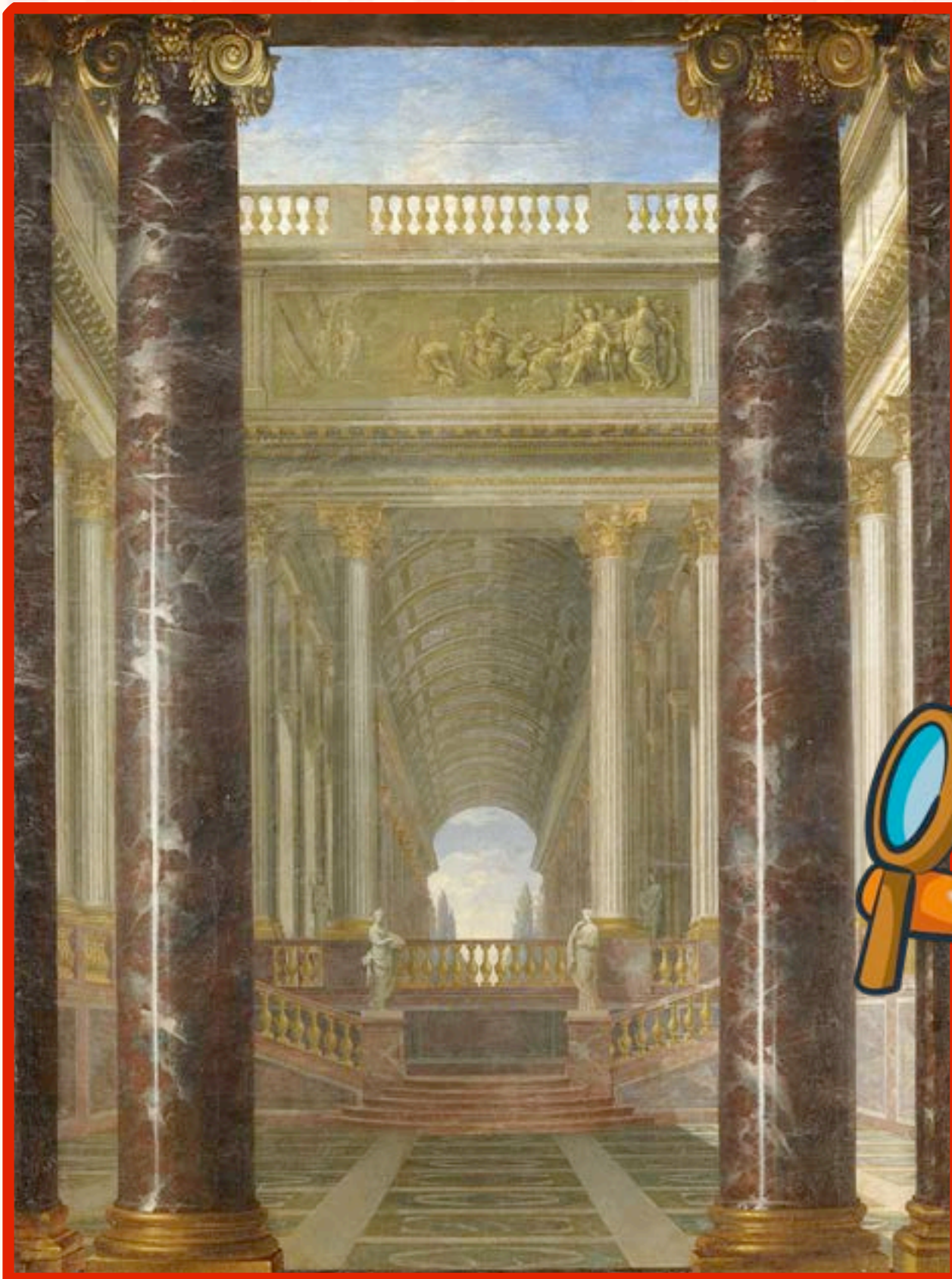
To explore how artists use perspective in their work.





Artists have been trying to fool people for thousands of years by creating illusions. What kind of illusions do you think artists use?

“Perspective of gardens” Jacques Rousseau

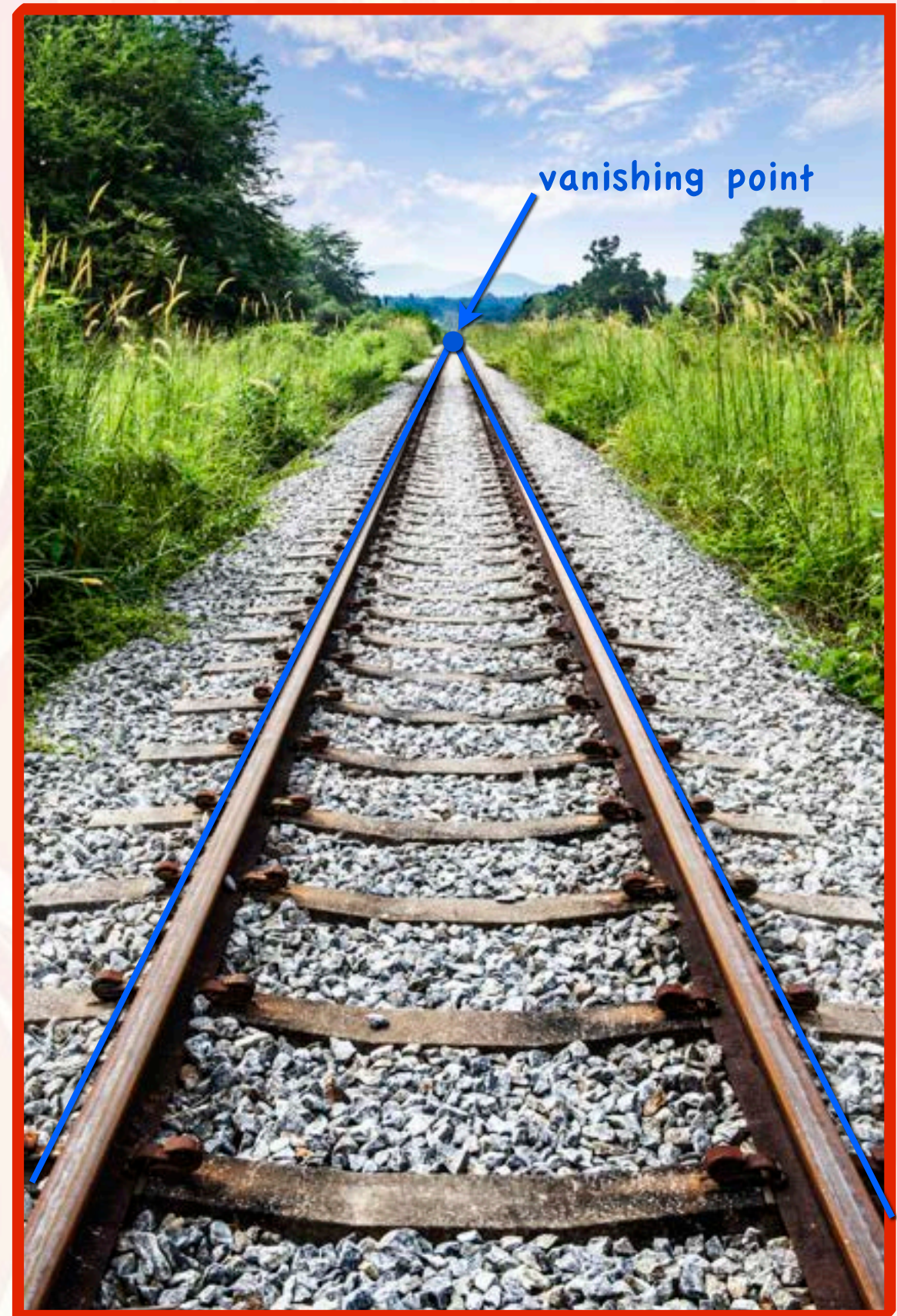


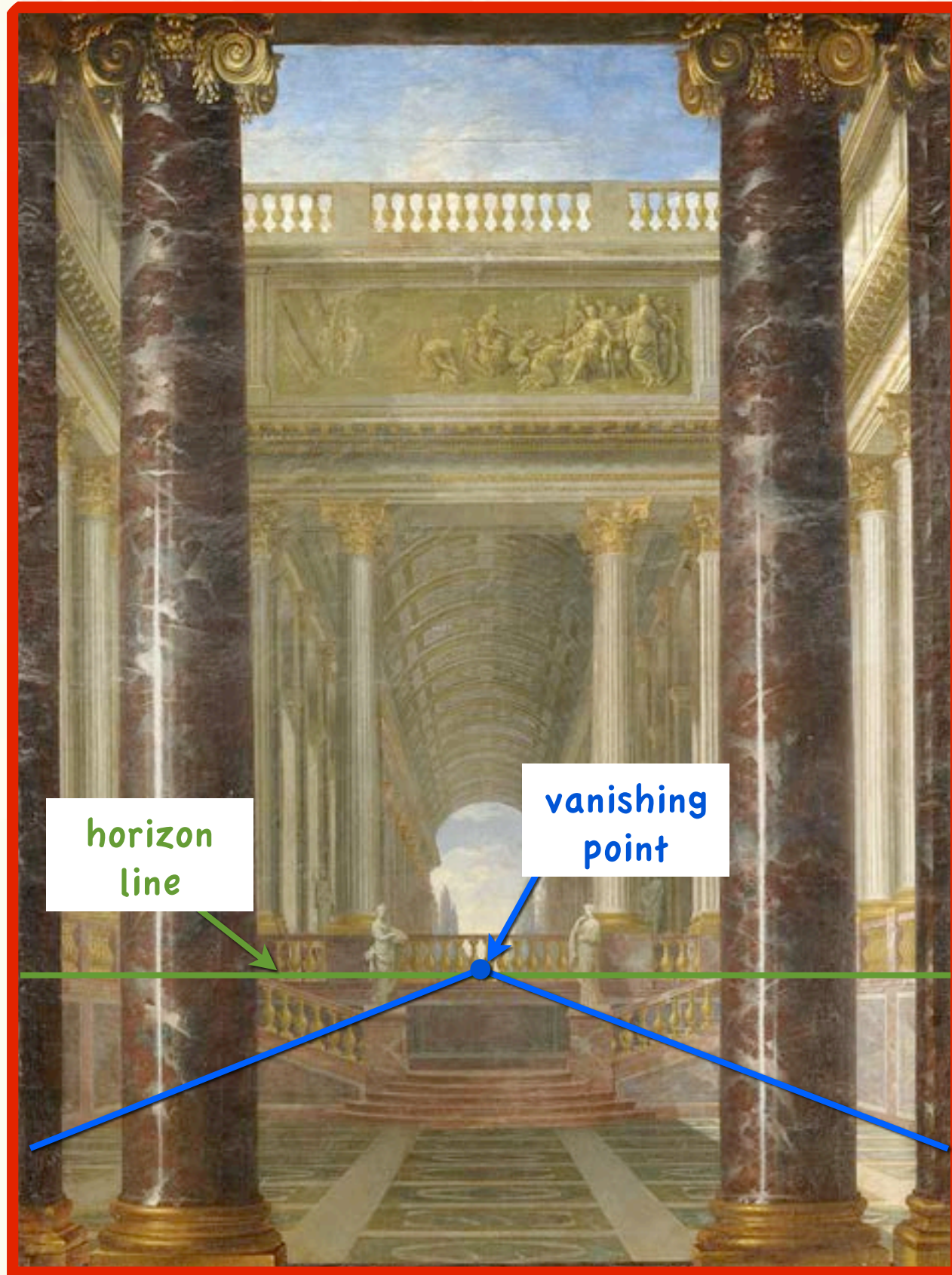
One illusion that artists try to create is that of depth and distance in their paintings or drawings.

How has this artist made the viewer feel as though they could just walk straight into it?



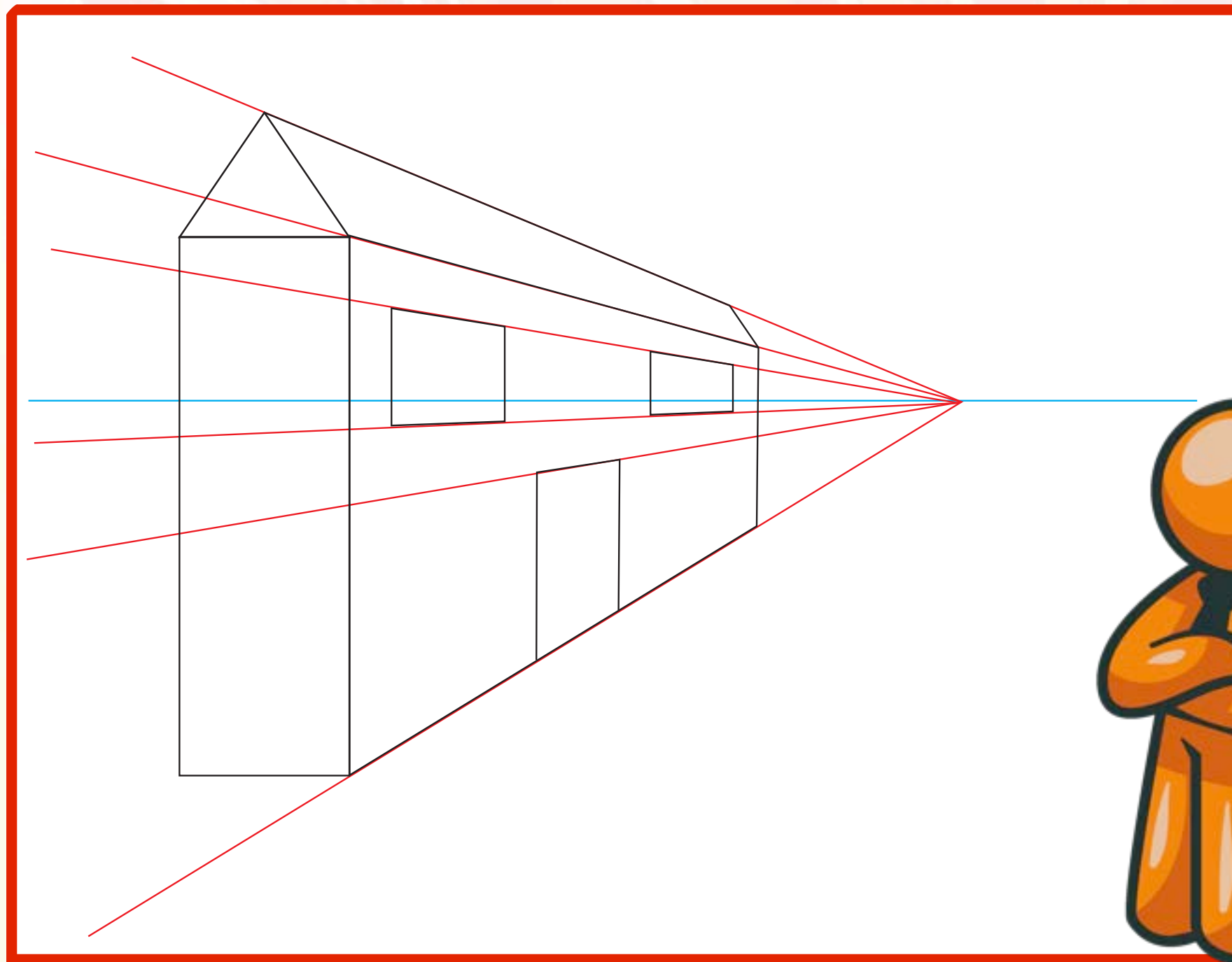
Objects appear to get smaller as you get further away from them and parallel lines eventually converge and meet at a point. In art, this is known as the vanishing point. You can see this using the example of train tracks.





The point where two lines meet at a vanishing point is on another imaginary line called the horizon line. Artists use horizon lines and vanishing points as a starting point in their work to give the painting depth and a sense of distance.

The red lines in this picture are called construction lines. They all lead directly to the vanishing point. The blue line is the horizon line.

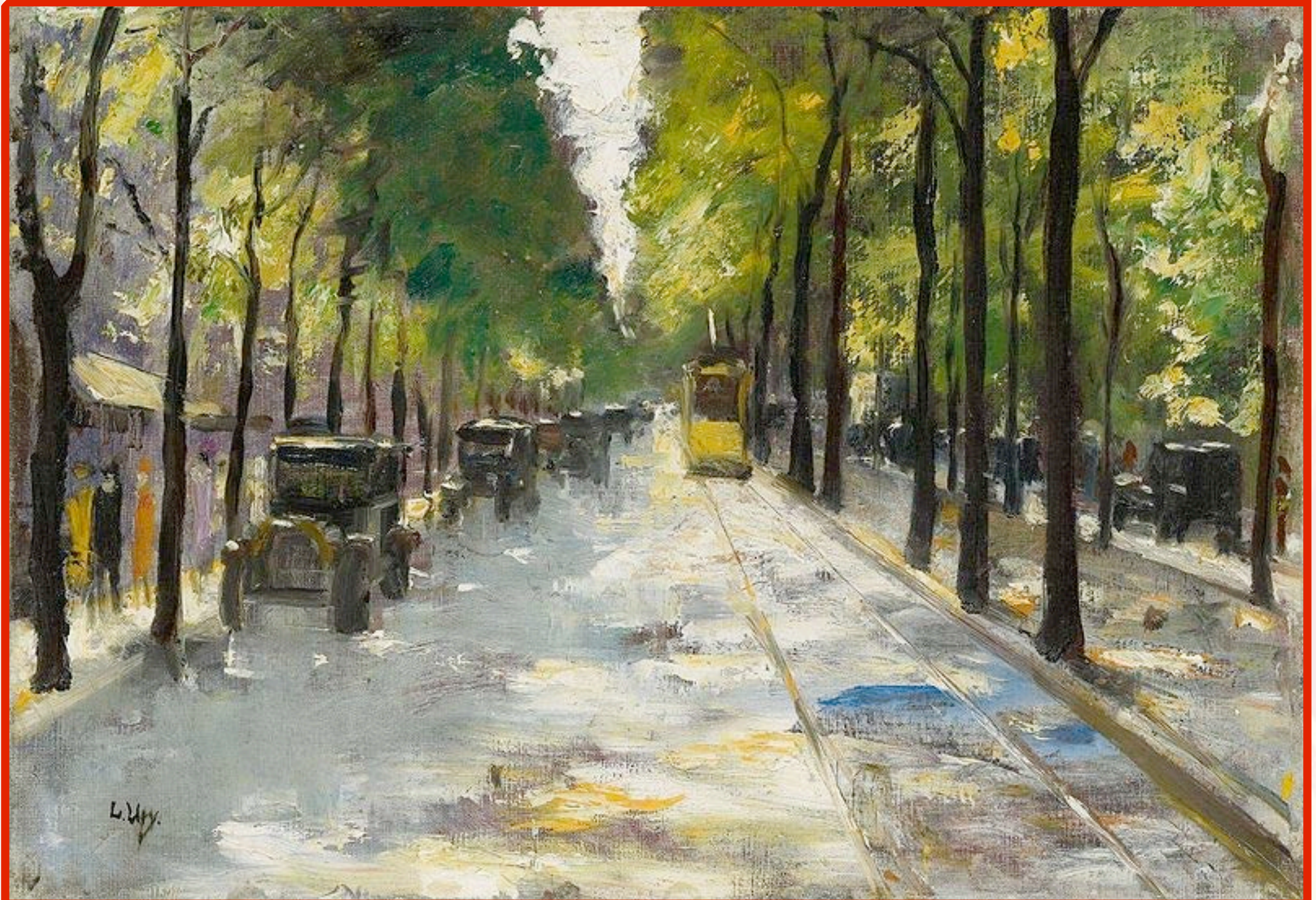


Can you see how the construction lines are used to keep everything in proportion to create a sense of distance and depth?



Have
a look at the
paintings on the next
slides. Can you see where
the vanishing points are?
How has the artists
created the illusion
of depth?

“Berlin Street in the Sunshine” Lesser Ury



“Boston Common in Twilight” Childe Hassam



“Grand Canal in Venice” J.M.W. Turner



When you're creating your own artwork, use a vanishing point, horizon line and construction lines to help you. If you practise, soon you will be drawing perspective perfectly without even thinking about it!

