

DYNAMIC COMPOSITION

This Japanese illustration has *Notan*, a skillful balance of light and dark or positive and negative shapes. By dividing up the space with a diagonal vine and *NOT* putting the bird in the middle, the artist creates a dynamic composition. Think of the bird as one end of a seesaw on the upswing and the mass of leaves on the bottom left hand corner as the other side of the seesaw, providing visual balance. This is what is known in art and photography as 'asymmetrical balance'.

