

Faculty of Design

2013

Unblocking the design mind; Looking for AND rather than EITHER-OR

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introduction to 2nd day

Harold Nelson

RSD2 Symposium
AHO, Oslo, Norway
October 11, 2013

the systemic design mind

a mindset

Harold Nelson

RSD2 Symposium
AHO, Oslo, Norway
October 11, 2013

**there will be
an 'ask'**

Knowledge comes by taking
things apart: analysis.

But wisdom comes by
putting things together.

John A. Morrison

systemic design

“putting things together”

wise action

**habits of a systemic
design mind**

vice

habits of an analytic mind

developing the habit of

AND

vice

either/or

'AND'
AND'

conjunction

vice

aggregation

AND
V

- science _ art
- the individual _ the collective
- thinking _ acting
- you _ me
-
-

AND as conjunction

filling in the in-between

ordered / ordering systems

- relationships
- patterns
- compositions

entangled / entangling systems

- links
- assemblies
- networks

organized / organizing systems

- connections
- synergies
- emergent qualities

conjunction systems

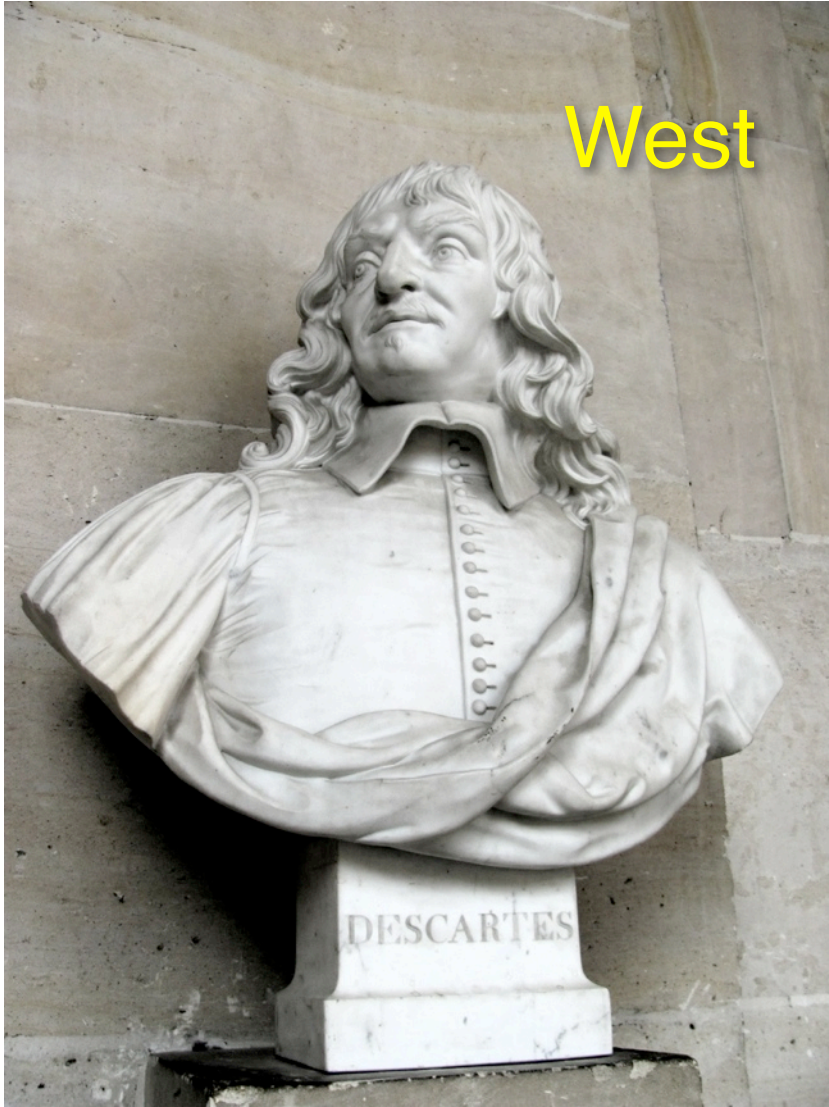
1 what is true?

2 what is real?

3 what would be ideal?

4 what ought to be made real?

design inquiry



West

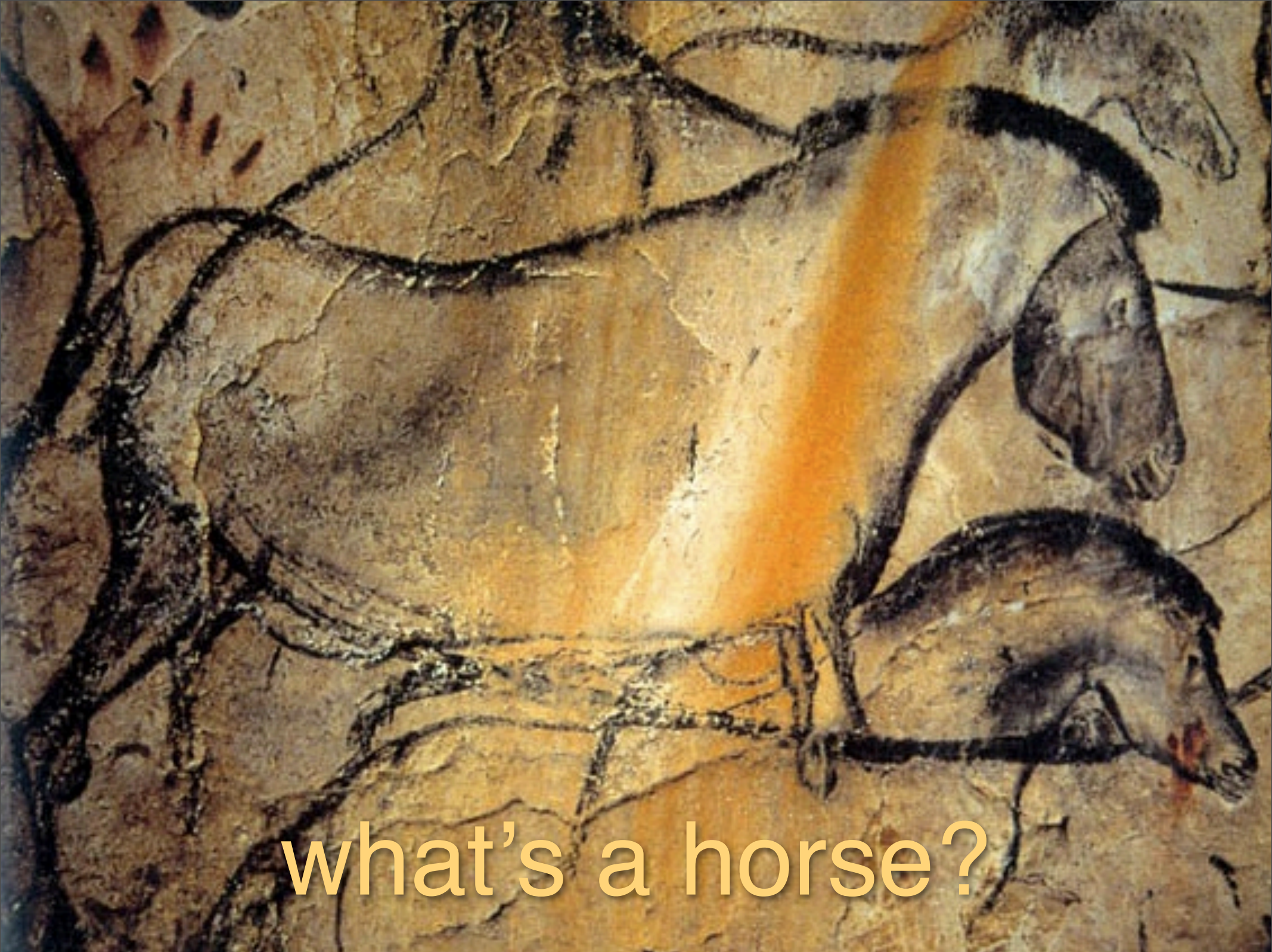
&

East



what's true?

what's real?



what's a horse?

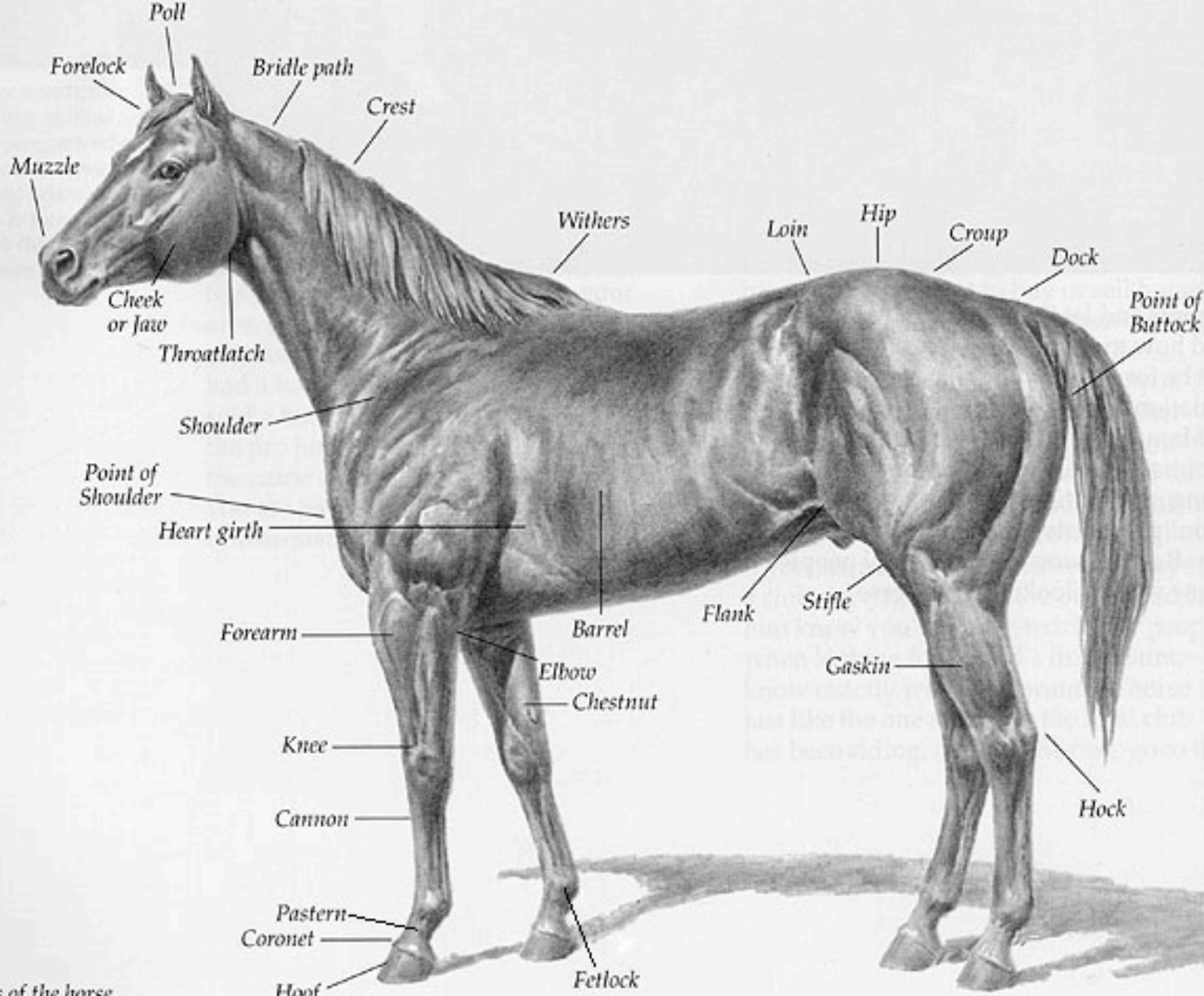
Western

- **analysis & synthesis**
- **relationships**

analysis

(Western tradition)

anatomy



parts of the horse.



classification 'order'

ungulates:
hoofed animals

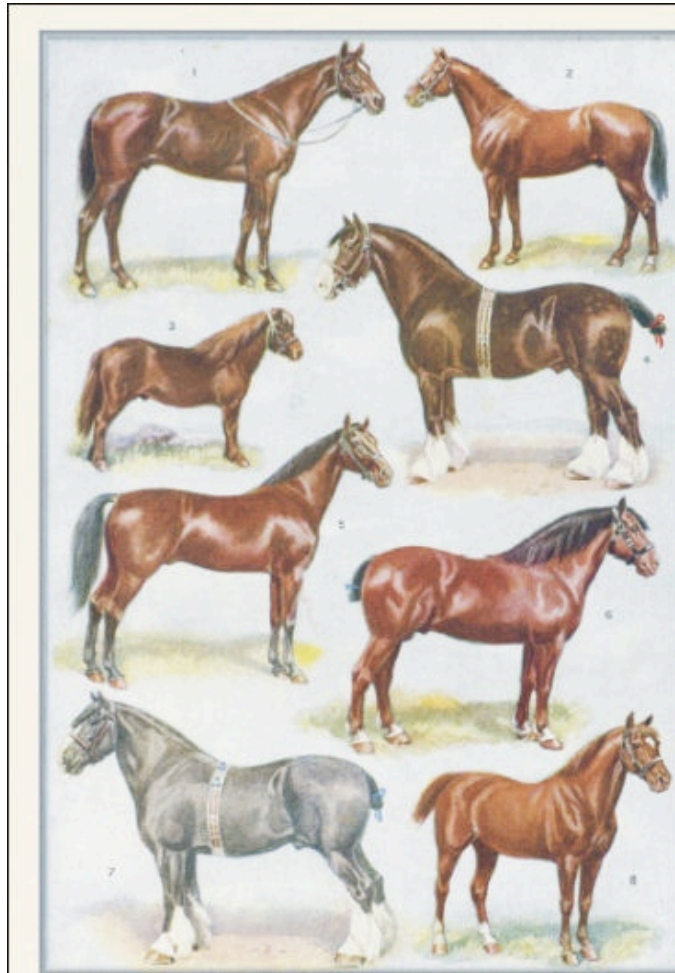


evolution

provenance

breeds

pedigree



Horse: Animals Reared for Driving, Agriculture and Sport
 1. Thoroughbred 2. Polo Pony 3. Shetland Pony 4. Clydesdale 5. Yorkshire Coach Horse



Horse: Light and Heavy Types Bred for Road and Field
 9. Amb 10. Welsh Pony 11. Dartmoor Pony 12. Cleveland Bay 13. Percheron

synthesis

(Western AND)

1. synthesis as the 'assembly' AND

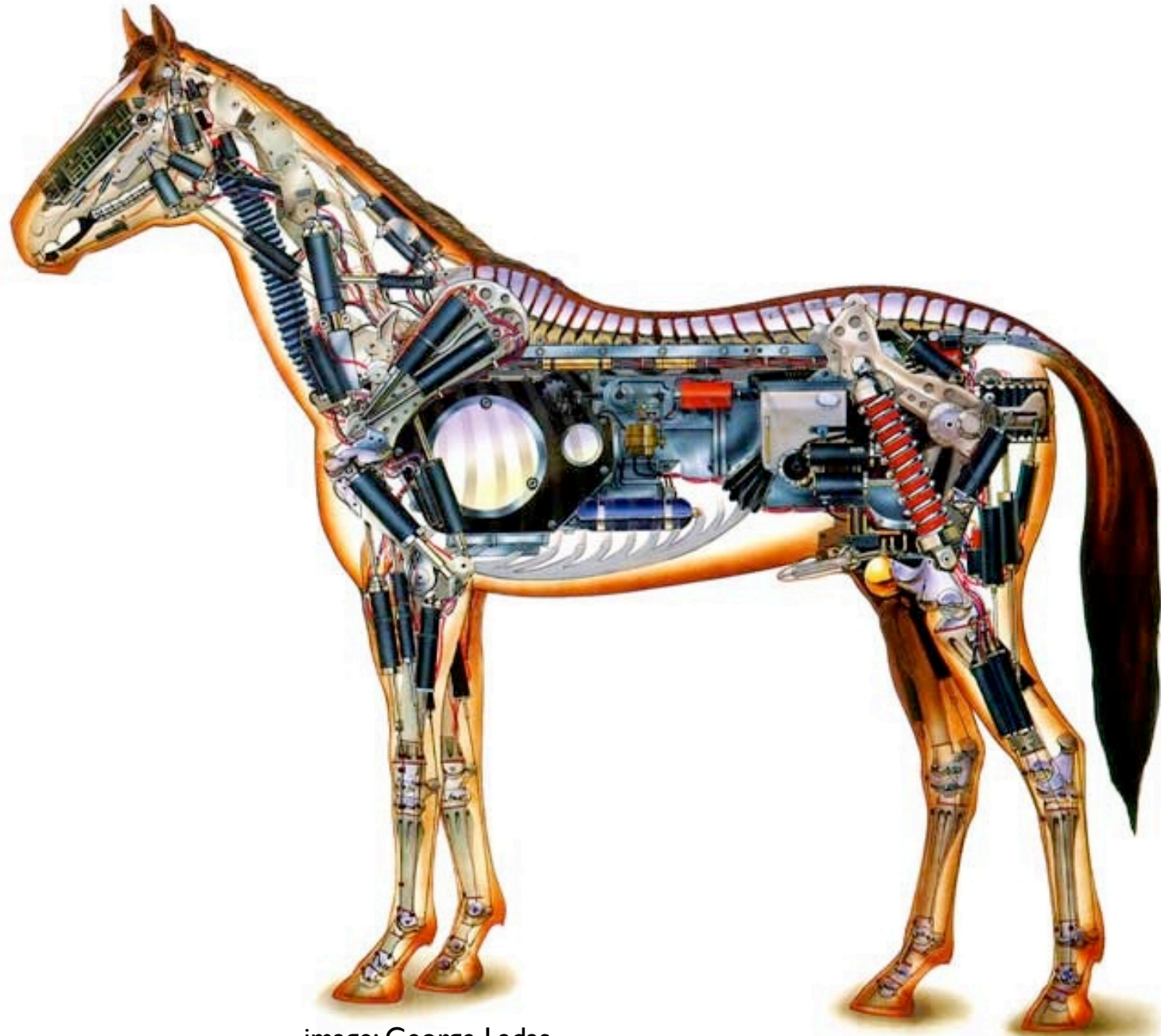


image: George Ladas

functional assembly synergies

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Eastern

- **apposition**
- **links**

2. synthesis as the 'holistic' AND



ecosystems & environments



context

function



design ANDs

non-duality

3. synthesis as the 'aesthetic' AND



Sayaka Ganz

- spirit
- soul
- essence
- character
- nature
- actuality
- quiddity

Deborah Butterfield



emergence of qualities

4. synthesis as the 'emergent quality' AND

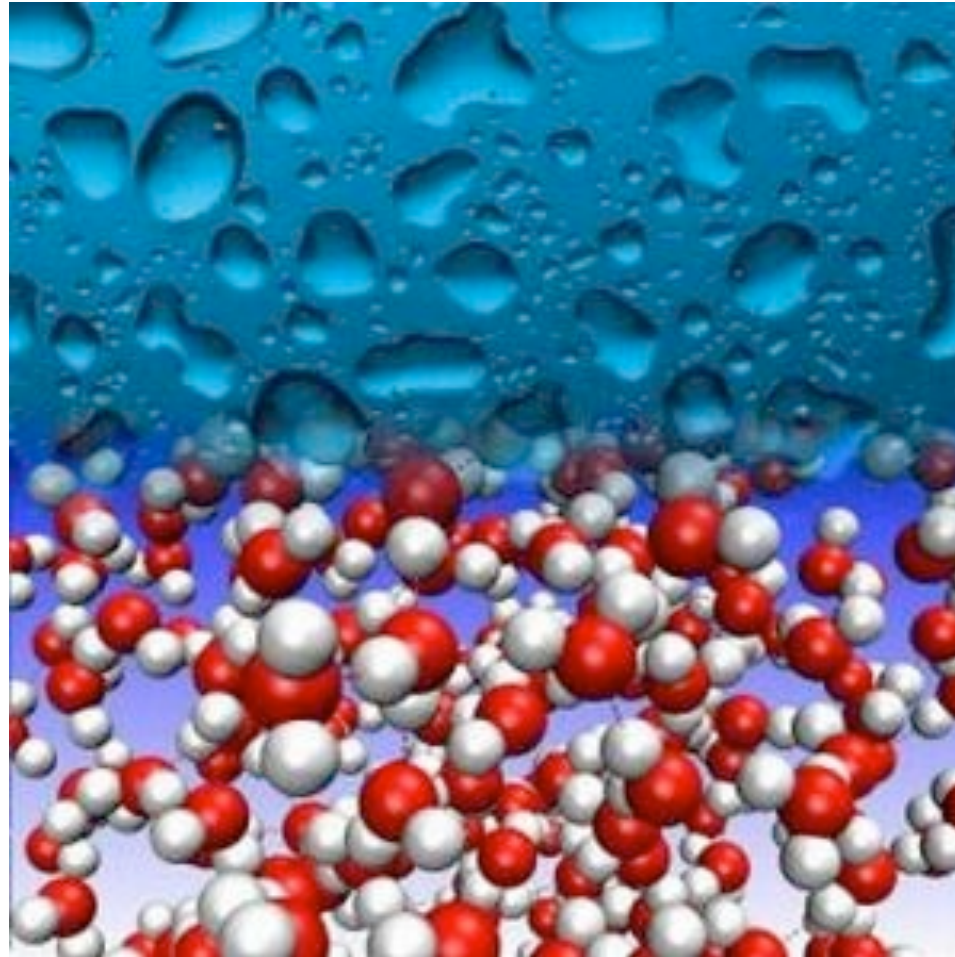
water

emergence

wetness

elements

atoms of gas



hydrogen AND oxygen

AND vice common dualities

putting dualities back together -
3 examples

science



image by Matt Collins
Scientific American 2009

humanities

C. P. Snow's - "two cultures"

a common duality

© Harold G. Nelson

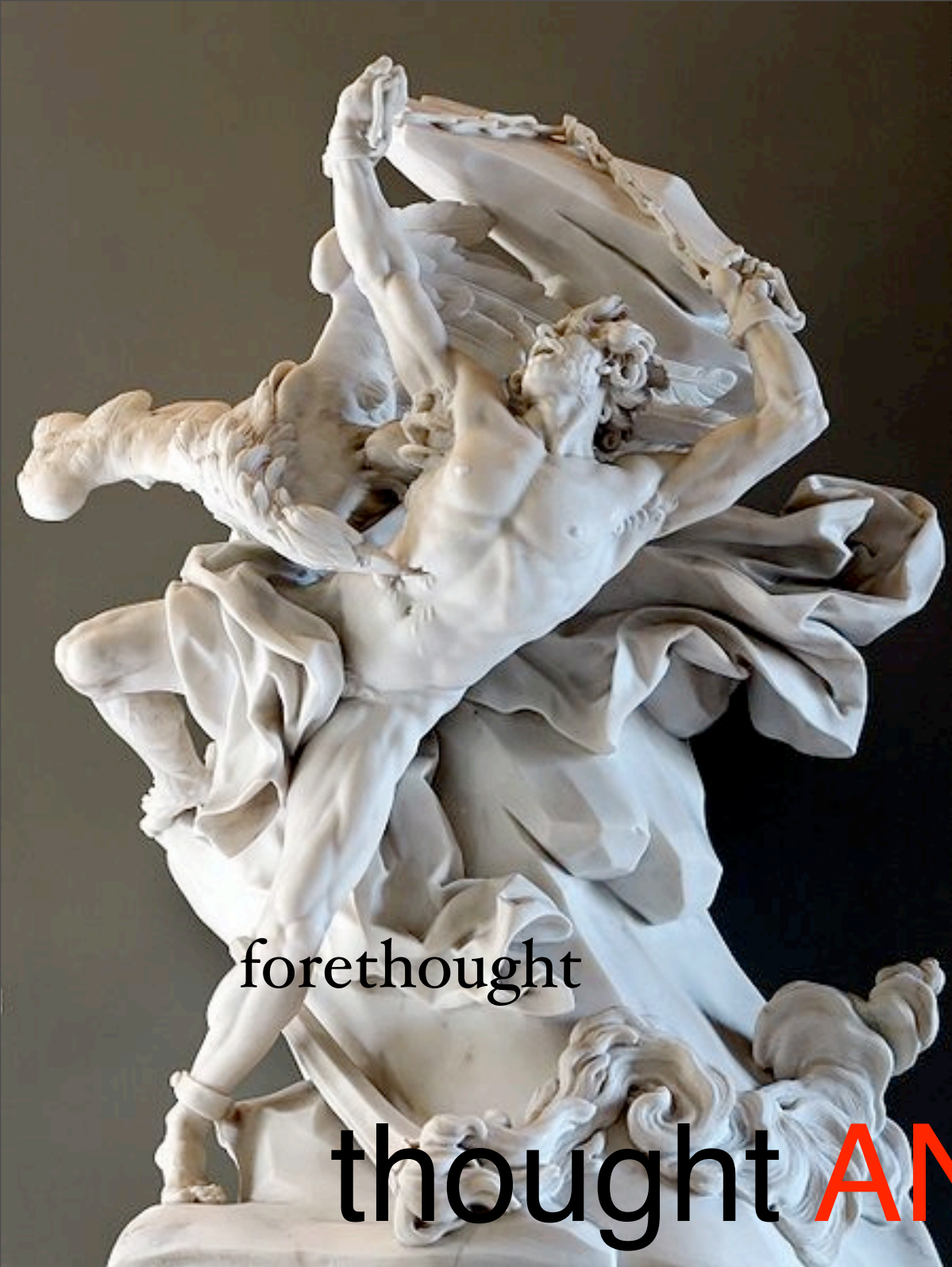


the individual
creativity

AND

the group
collaboration





forethought



after thought

thought **AND** action

© Harold G. Nelson

the 'ask'

An "ask" is a request for an action or a favor.

what is the 'wisdom' of this symposium?

- 1 New systemic practices in design
- 2 Rethinking systems approaches from a design perspective
- 3 Relating Design Praxis and Systems Thinking
- 4 The role of systemic design when developing design practices in new areas
- 5 Teaching systemic design, systems thinking in design or design in systems approaches
- 6 Relating systems and design theories, conceptually and pragmatically

symposium elements

