When you think about it, the basis of all visual art is really *light*.

Light defines objects, and literally enables us to see things.

Artists create the illusion of light by producing wide range of tonal and color *values* in a work.

But what is *value*?

Value is defined as *how light or dark a given color or hue is*.

It is best visualized as a *gradient*, or scale from light to *dark*.
If we took the red out of an apple, we would still see an apple because of its values.

A high-contrast image contains only a few different values, and quickly jumps from dark to light.

A low-contrast image contains values from only one section of the value scale.
M.C. Escher was an illustrator who famously experimented with value to play with the viewer’s perception.

How has the artist made use of light and dark areas in this work?
The word *photograph* comes from the Greek words *photos* and *graphos*, which together translate to “light drawing.”
Chiaroscuro
pronunciation: KEE AA RUH SKOO ROH
the use of strong contrasts between light and shade.

This is a prominent technique in Italian Renaissance art - "chiaro" means "light" in Italian, "scuro" means "dark."

Caravaggio, Supper at Emmaus, 1601