

COMPOSING PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES WITH IMPACT

Photographic composition is the selection and arrangement of elements in an image. Most good photos are not the result of a fortunate accident! Well composed images are the result of careful planning, patient waiting, or a quick sensing of the best moment to take the shot. It won't be long before the recognition of pleasing composition becomes second nature.

Following are some of the guidelines of classic composition to help with subject arrangement and presentation. They are **NOT** rules, sometimes deliberately ignoring traditions can be used for visual impact or to convey feeling. Don't forget to be individuals and to exercise your own visual expression.



Strong Center of Interest

Concentrate on one strong point of interest or main subject which first attracts the eye because a picture can tell only one story successfully.

The main subject could attract the eye because of its position, its contrast with surroundings, or because other elements have been arranged to form a frame or path that directs the eye to the subject.

Also, make sure secondary subjects don't distract from the main subject.



Best Camera Angle

Try different points of view to change your composition. Always make sure you keep the horizon line level. Close-ups can be used to focus attention on the subject and convey a feeling of intimacy

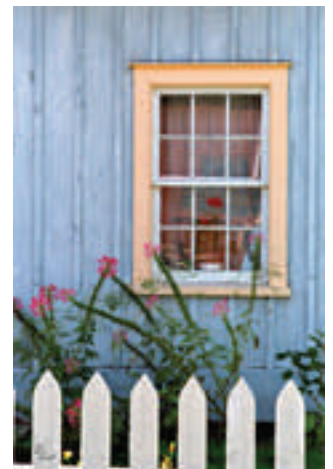


Balance

Pleasing proportions can be achieved through balance between light and dark, between massive forms and open space, or between bright and muted colours.

Avoid putting your center of interest in the middle of the image, symmetrical images are usually less interesting

Also avoid a horizon line running through the middle of a landscape.



Framing

Framing creates a sensation of depth and emphasizes the main subject.

The use of foreground detail, arches and doorways and overhanging branches to frame your subject can make the image more interesting.



Interesting Elements

The use of dynamic, powerful lines or shapes as the center of interest can make striking focal points. The use of leading lines can be used to direct attention.

Patterns, such as repetition of lines, shapes or colors can be a great visual element. emphasizing texture adds realism and a sense of 3 D to the image.



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