

COMPOSTION

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Today I will be talking about the composition of some images, presented in random order. Your ideas about composition and mine may differ and that's a good thing. I am going to ask questions and give you something to think about. They are rhetorical questions. We can talk about them at the end. (there are no rules..)

Im going to talk about the whole structure of the photograph. I will consider everything objects in these images.

A puddle of darkness is an object in a primarily white photo.

A puddle of light is an object in a primarily black photo.

Compositon is about placement of objects and light and dark in an image to direct the eye through the image.

#1 the image is primarily dark, notice where the light is, it invites your eye in to rest on the chair, note the elegance of absence of clutter, this image is composed of repeated curves and straight lines and the puddle of light. There is nothing to distract you from the seat of the chair with the light.



#1

#2 in this image the subjects are centrally placed and framed by the tree trunk, note the edges of the tree do not go through the heads. Note the simplicity and lack of clutter in the negative space. Negative space is everything that is not the centre of attention. The light is gentle and flat.



#2

This image is about balance, dark skin dark dress; pale skin pale dress. A significant design element is the cross created by the girls' arms going to the others bike. It is no accident that the white dress is behind the black bike and the dark dress is behind the white bike. Central placement in this image and the cross creates strength Note where your eye is directed to move in this image. My eyes final resting place is the girl's bow. Where is yours?

#3 Notice where your eye enters this image. Mine lands on the white cloud that begins in the upper left corner, then it slides down the hill to land on the branches on the right side then it notices the quiet and small branch in the bottom left corner before going up again to the denser and bigger branches in the left corner.



#3

There is no centre of interest, the center is misty and blank and moody. I think it adds to the image. Do you? There are no rules....

#4 What is this one about? We are often told to avoid numbers or letters in images....however they create the story here. This is a primarily grey image with patches of light. Where does your eye enter this image?



#4

Mine again enters top left, on the black this time, slides down the black curved line and lands hard on the 10 and notes the date and the year, the curve of the blackline is mirrored in the curved corners of the inspection ticket. And finally I see the age and wear indicated by the texture of the paint and the threads of fabric. There is a story here.

What is it?

It is no accident minds like to start at the left and move to the right. many cultures process left to right because they learn to read left to right.

#5 a family portrait . The viewer's eye is drawn to the lightest space, the mother's shirt, her arm leads you to the centre, the baby. There is an x here, can you see it? It creates strength.



#5

Interest is created in the contrast between the monochromatic grey shapes; this is the big pattern of the stones, and the small texture of the throw and dad's sweater. The light is gentle and soft. Not always the light photographers choose for portraits....Why ?

When might you put lots of black in a portrait? The maker creates this or her image by the choices her or she makes.

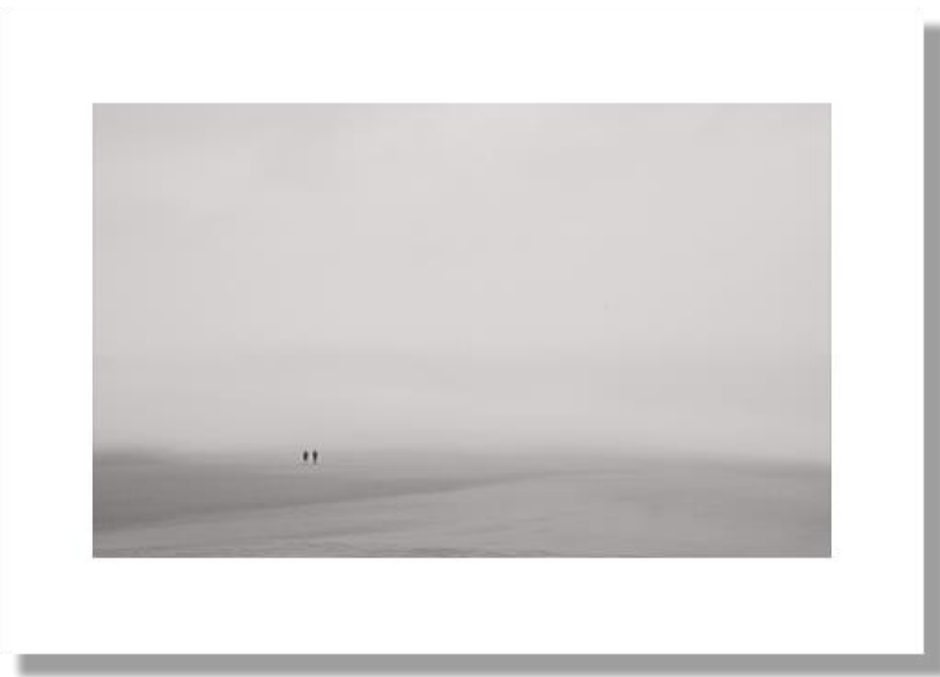
#6 In this image note the figure is leaning to the right. Does this make you feel uncomfortable? Note the purposeful placement of the object on the left side of the image. Note also the soft one hanging in the top left. Draw an imaginary line from the side object to the figure and then to the object at the top and then down to the object at the side. These imaginary lines serve to anchor the figure and reduce the tension in this image.



#6

The tension is also evident in the twisting of the girl's torso and the asymmetry of her shoulders. This is in contrast with other lines in the image that are straight such as the stiles of the railing and the girl's fingers. These shapes are repeated.

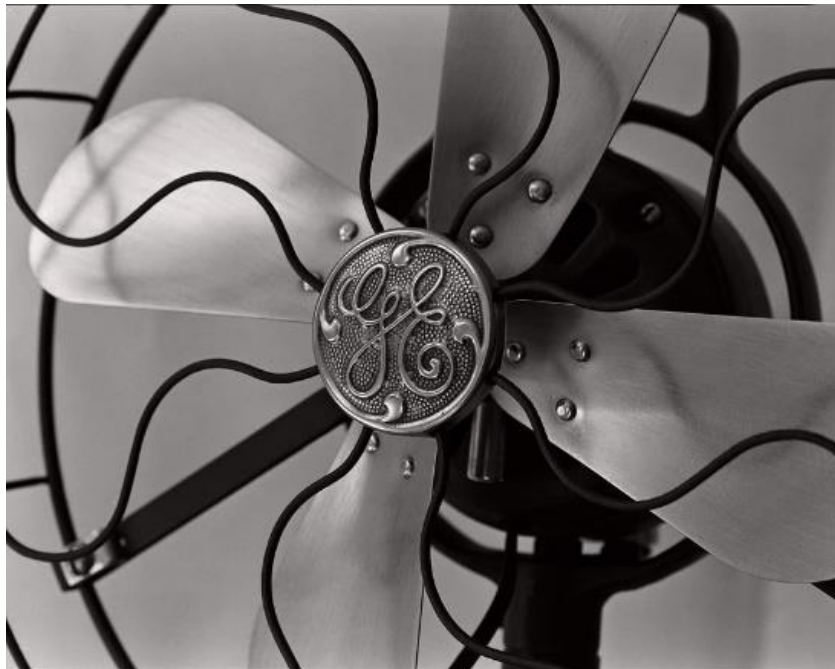
#7 Minimalism can be very powerful. In this image note the vast atmospheric lighter area contrasting with the very small dark figures at the bottom. The dark shapes on the bottom left lead to the figures. It is traditional to place figures like this in landscapes. They are placed using the rule of thirds, in this case $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ up $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ in. How do you feel as you look at this image? I remember feeling cold to the bone in a place like this.



#7

#8 repetition repetition repetition and then some repeated dots. the eye is drawn from the white fan on the left to the centre where it needs to go. The curve of the wire is repeated in the curve of the ge which is the centre of interest and is highlighted by the repeated circles around it. There is an x going through the centre of interest holding you there. What is the reason for so much grey?

Note about the x shape; it is preferred by this particular photographer in some images but it is not necessarily traditional....there are no rules....



#8

#9 your eye starts in the foreground with the sharp lines and darkest tones in the gate, which is open inviting us into the centre of the image. The centre is soft and the object in the middle of the image has an interesting shape. What is this image about, the open gate or the soft mysterious object? Does this image work? Does it tell a story? Would there still be a story if the central image was sharp???? If this were yours you could try it both ways and see.



#9

#10 the eye is drawn up toward the lightest cloud in the heaven, the while cloud feels light and lifted there are repeated curve shapes in the clouds. Is this image soothing or elevating to you; or boring? Why? I think it suits the use of text.



#10

#11 A traditional landscape with the point of interest placed on the lower third but in the centre. Would it work better placed to the left or right? The light is very bright around the trees serving to draw the eye to them. What effect does this have on the impact of the image? Does this have more or less impact than the dark mountains?



#11

#12 There is one cluster of sharp flowers in this image. Where is it placed? The background is soft and uniformly grey and uncluttered. What characteristic makes it interesting?



#12

#13 the background is uniformly light and uncluttered and in contrast with the stone objects. The dark object on the right is touching the edge and appears to be the darkest in this primarily white scene. It draws the eye into the image and to the repeated shape beside it and then over to the lighter gray and the repeated curve of the head and shoulders of the statue. Do you like this image? Why why not? Could anything be added or taken away from it to make it better? I feel the need for more black....



#13