

MINIMALISM

Minimalist photography **emphasizes simplicity in composition and telling a story with as few elements as possible.**

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

- “Less is more” is a phrase often attributed to German architect and designer Mies van der Rohe, and although it’s become associated with everything from brevity in writing to anti-consumerist philosophies, the roots come back to a particular visual aesthetic.
- With this in mind, we’ll draw our understanding of photographic minimalism from the traditional definition of minimalism as it relates to art, architecture, and design. In these contexts, minimalism traditionally refers to visual simplification, stripping all extraneous elements and details to the bare minimum necessary to present the subject.

SIMPLIFICATION IS KEY

- All the image makers I researched agree that simplification is key to minimalist images, though they sometimes differed greatly in style.
- Some makers consider abstract images the same as minimalist, some do not. I will consider them different in this presentation.
- My own style preference is for softness and extreme contrast. This is just a preference, **not a rule**.
- **You may not agree with everything I have to say today. That is as it should be.**
- I welcome questions but **please wait till the end to express your opinions.**

Some of the ways Simplification may be accomplished

- Give the viewer a single visual point
- Use negative space.
- Isolate the subject.
- Use simple geometric shapes or curves.
- Use Squared off lines.
- Use Just a pop of color.
- Use strict or exact repetition.

Any subject is amenable to simplification and
minimalist style

PORTRAIT



LANDSCAPE



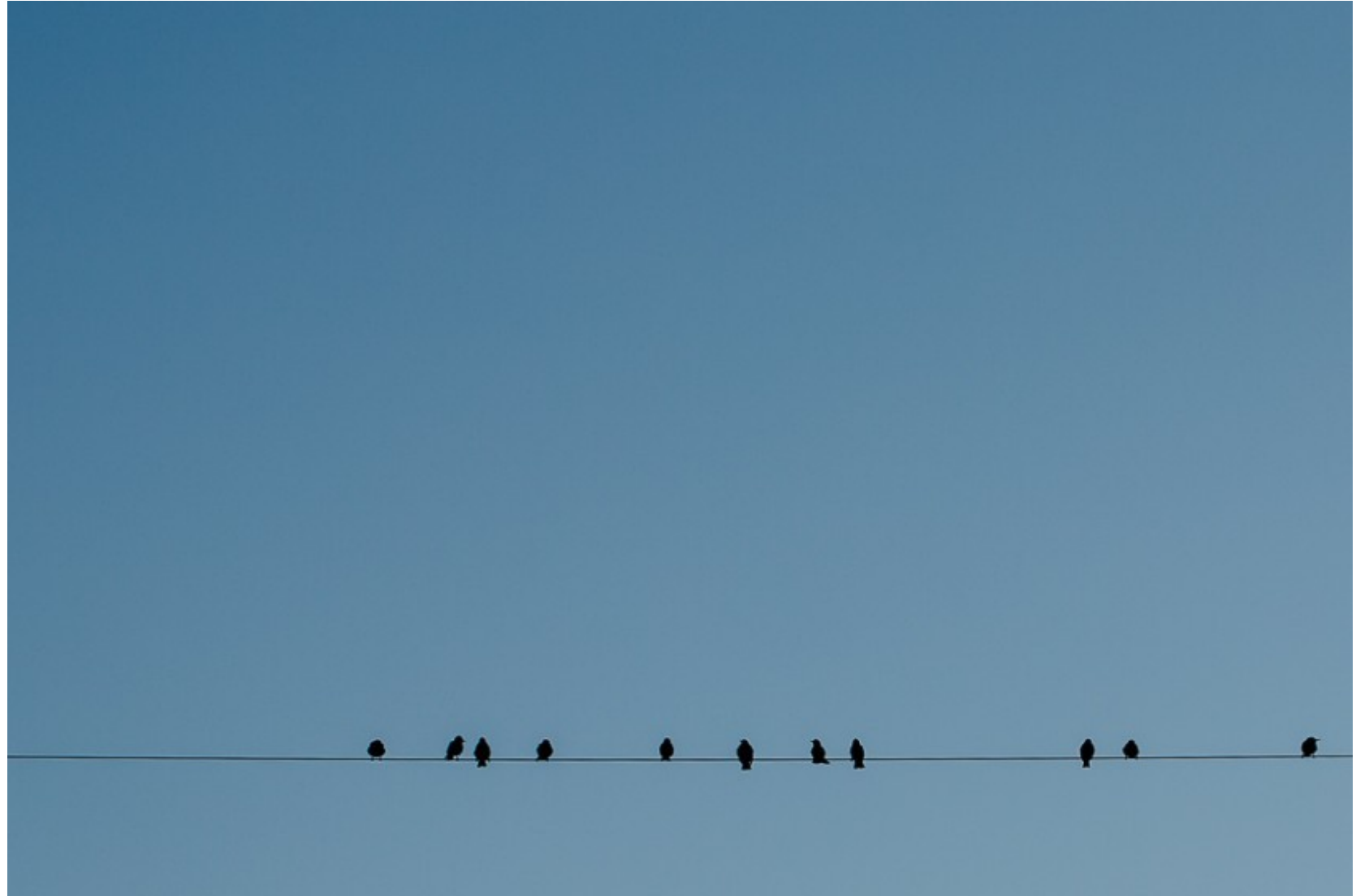
FLOWERS



OBJECTS



ANIMALS



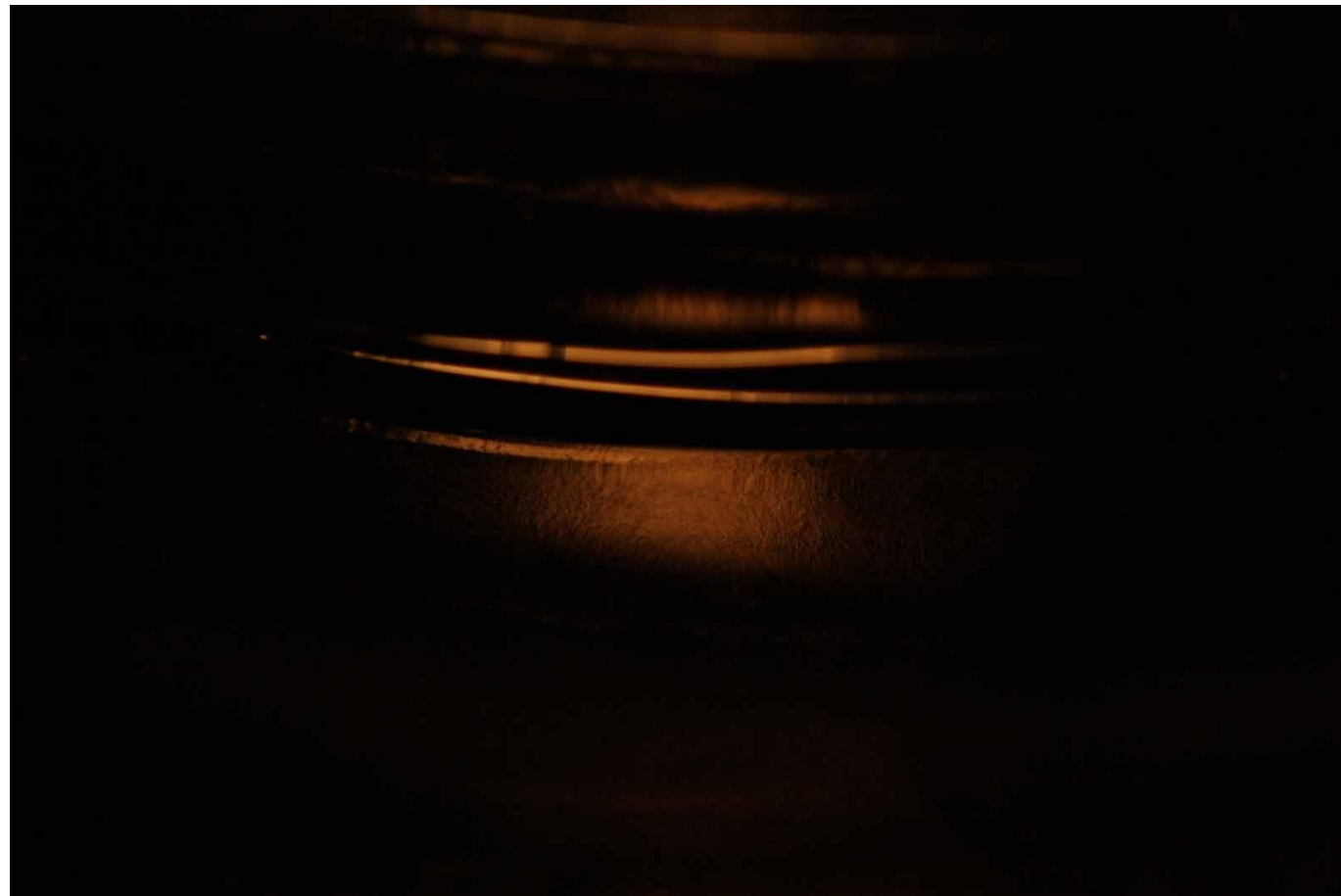
ARCHITECTURE

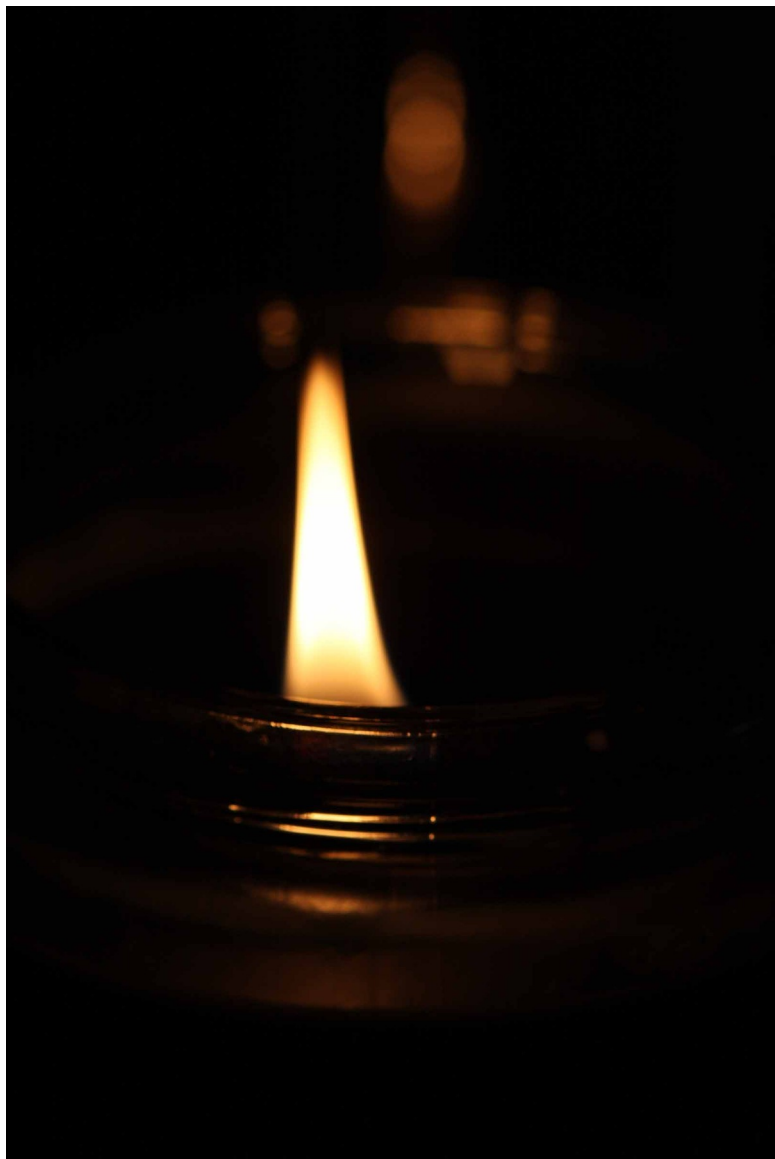


Abstract vs Minimalist

- For this presentation abstract and minimalist images will be considered differently because they differ in amount of context.
- Context in photography may be defined as visual information that clarifies meaning. Context is conveyed by details.
- Abstract images contain no context, no details that convey meaning; only design elements. You look at it and have no idea what it is.
- Minimalist images contain the smallest amount of information or context necessary to convey what the subject is. You instantly can identify it.

Abstract or minimalist













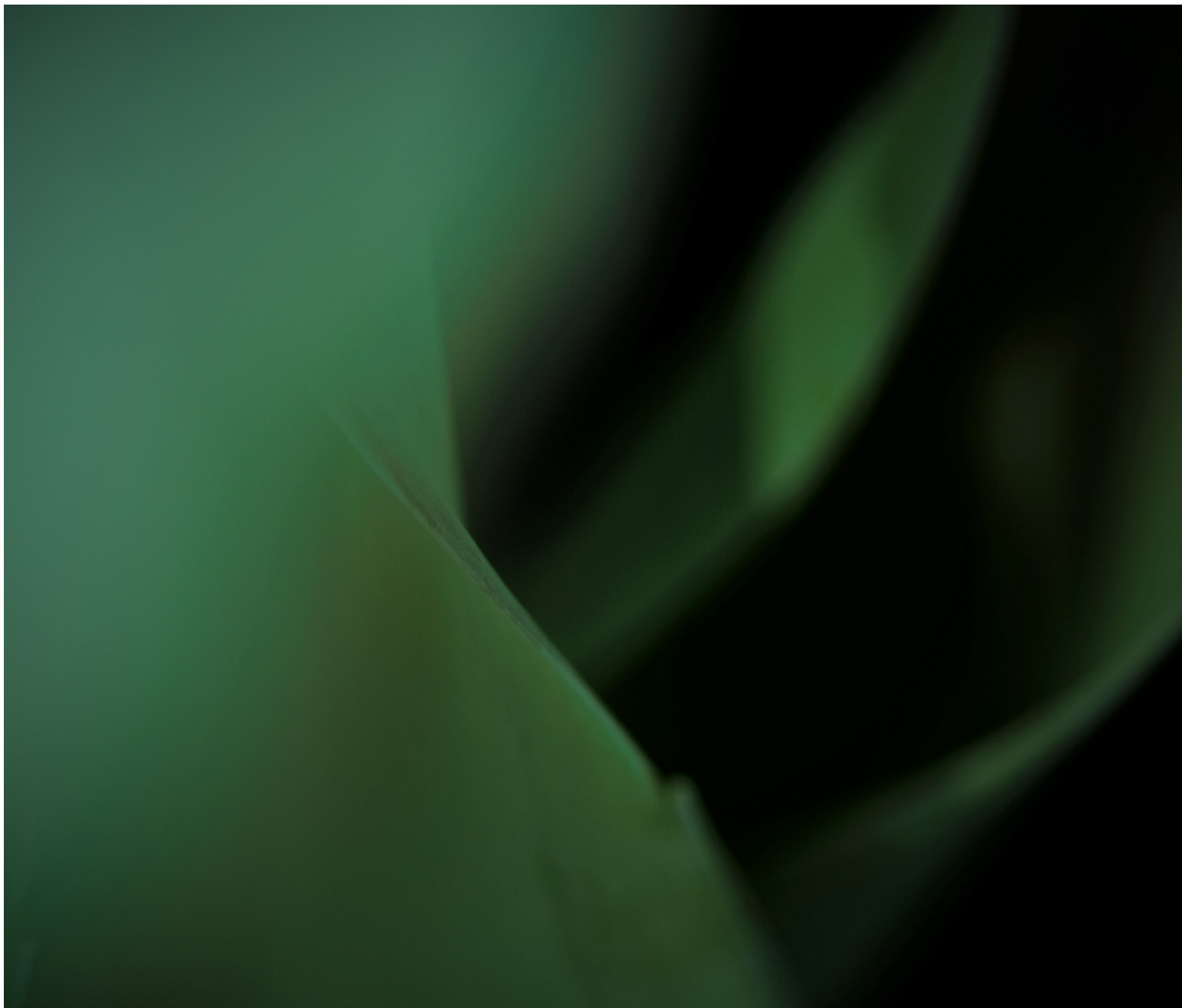




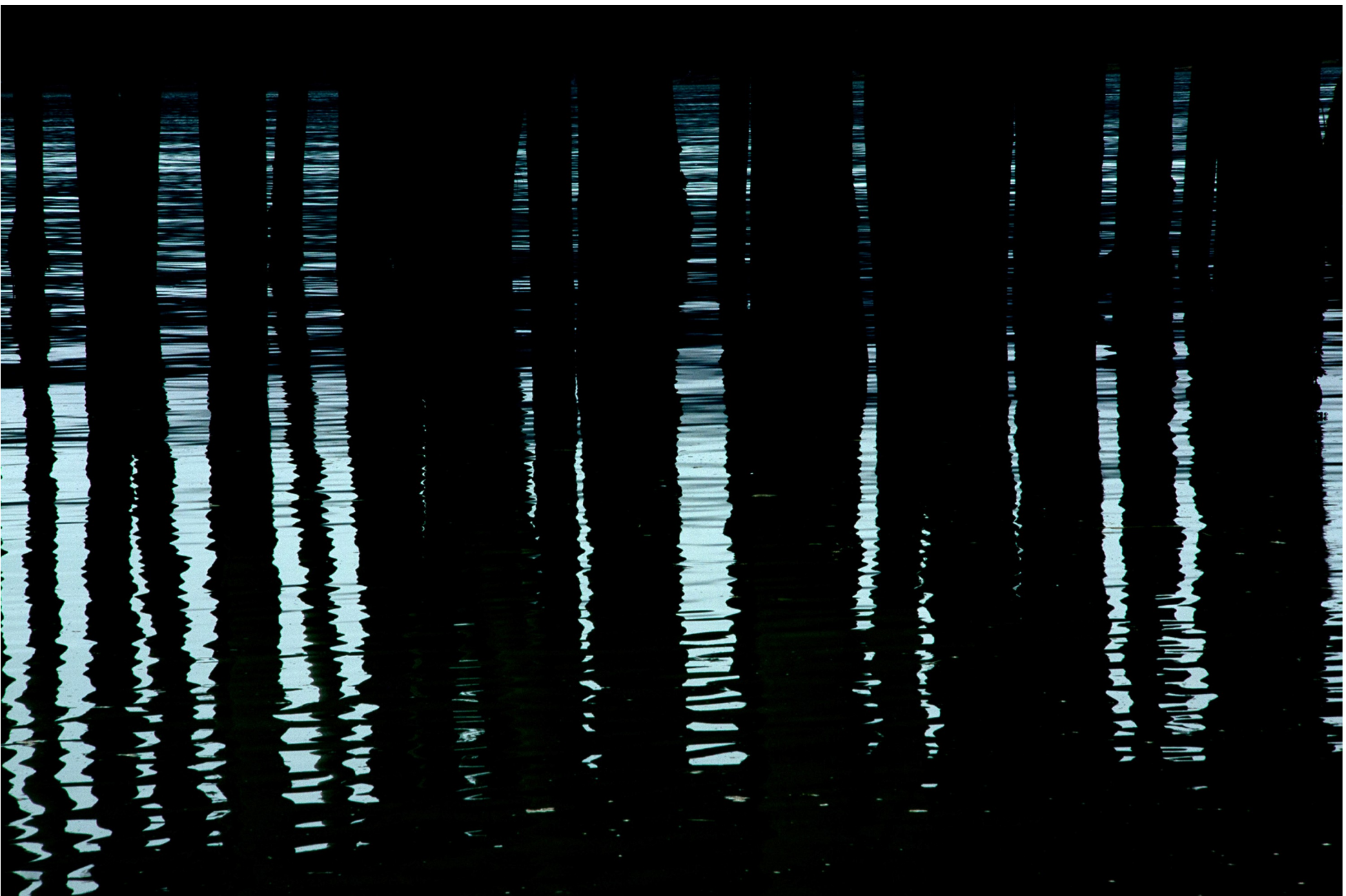
Ask yourself do you know what the subjects in the next images are?

- If yes it's likely a minimalist image because there is enough context or information to be able to identify it.
- If no it's likely an abstract because there is not enough information in the image to reveal what it is.













Ask yourself is it simple enough to be minimalist?
If not simple enough, some details need to be eliminated.



Reduce context by eliminating details

A few suggestions:

- Eliminate sky or water details by using filters and long exposure, or blur in post processing
- Soften backgrounds with shallow depth of field or by placing backgrounds far from the subject or blur in post processing
- Reduce or eliminate colour by using black and white or a colour tone
- Isolate the subject





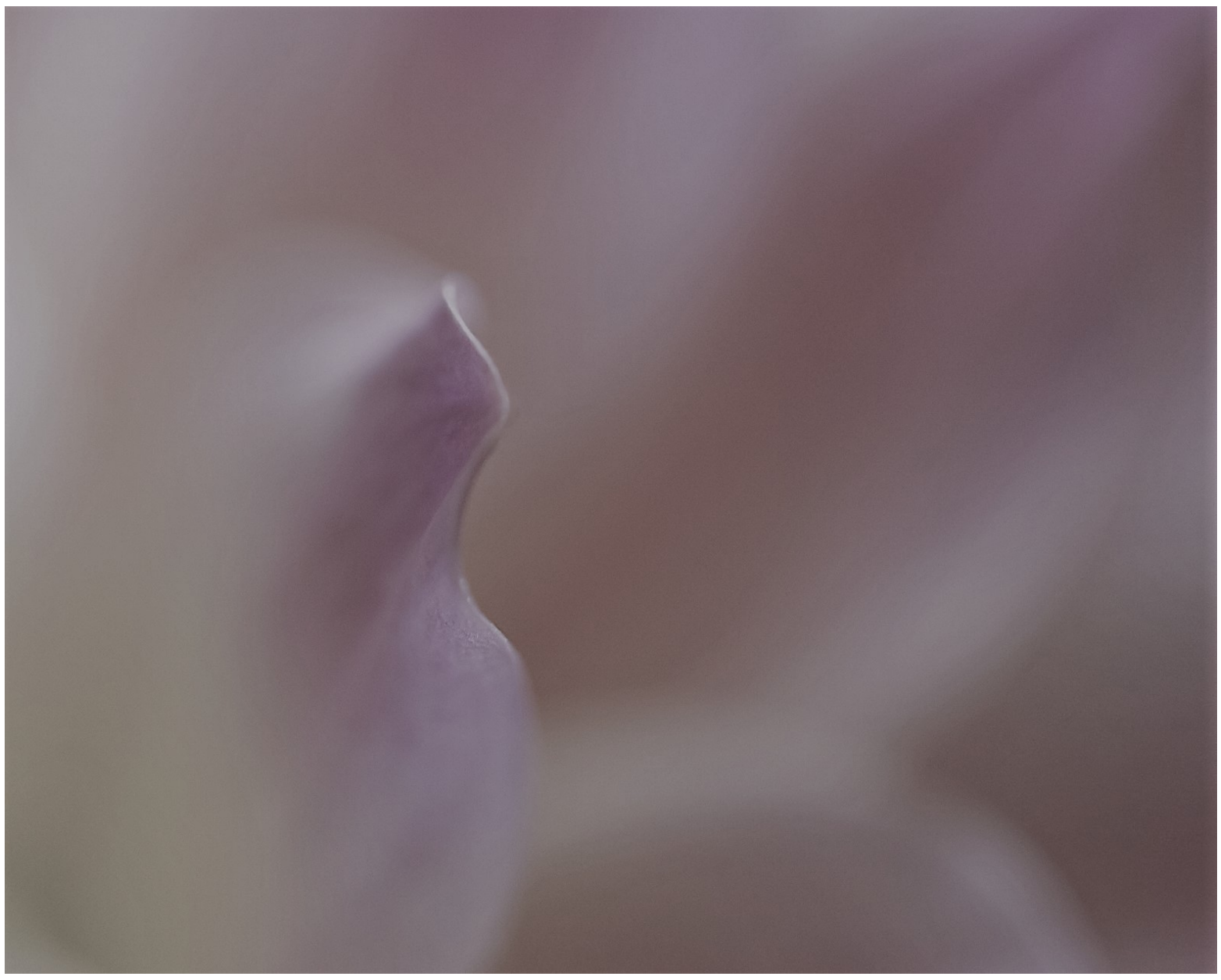
















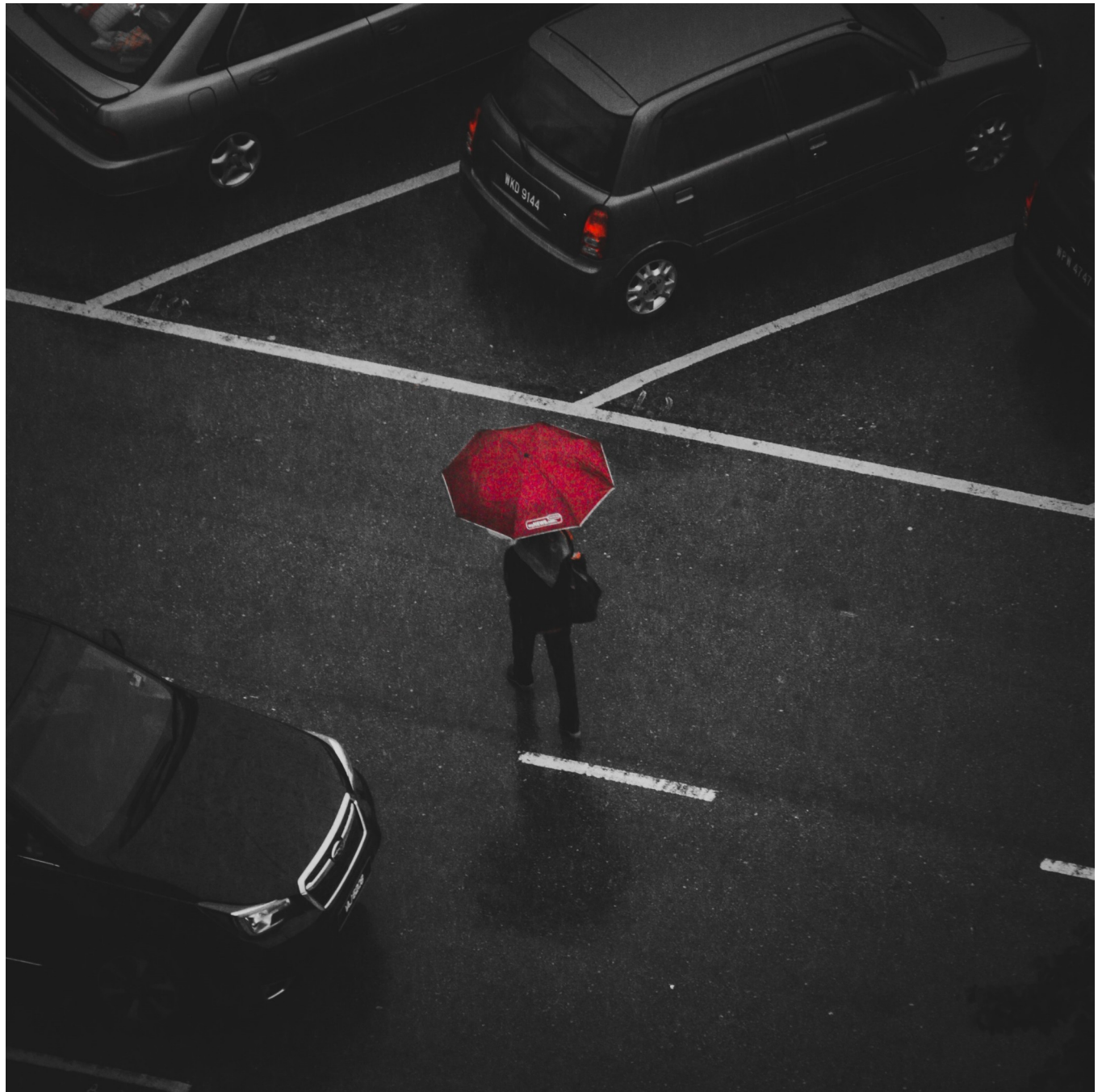
CHEVROLET

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a Chevrolet emblem. The emblem, which reads "CHEVROLET" in a stylized, raised font, is mounted on a dark, curved surface of a vehicle. A thin, horizontal line, possibly a trim piece or a seam, runs across the middle of the image, just below the emblem. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic texture of the emblem and the smooth curves of the car's body.













Minimalism is as subjective in photography as is any style of art. That is, what appears simple and soothing to one viewer might strike another as deep and complex, or have no meaning at all to another. This openness for interpretation can cause the photographer to feel uncertain about sharing their vision.

REFERENCES

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<https://www.myclickmagazine.com/minimalism-creative-photographer/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD0umiEO-0c&t=1106s>

<https://www.sharontenenbaum.com/talk-learn-zoom-sessions>

<https://www.pexels.com/>

Image Makers

Max Avans

Gerry Boretta

Deva Darshan

Melissa Gibson

Mitchell Luo

Valeria Miller

Ben Neale

Waldermar Nowak

Ovan

Brian G Phillips

Heather Pick

Angshu Purkait

Kathy Roberts

Thiridman

Eve Tuft