Discover Better Composition

FOR BETTER PHOTOGRAPHS

#1378
Discover Better Composition for Better Photographs

• Learn to see your surroundings in a new way and
• share your discoveries through photography.
• Everyday things become fresh and new
• when you compose the visual elements to stimulate interest.
Discover

• Weekly photo assignments
• Chance to share
• Learn from each other’s experiences
• Develop your photographic skills
• Develop your eye,
  • Master a technology is secondary
• Welcome all levels of:
  • Photographic skills
  • Equipment.
Better Photographs

• My career includes photography, film, television, video production, and software development. With the advent of digital cameras, I returned to photography, it is my passion. I have won awards, judged an area photography show, and assisted his wife, Muriel, in teaching her master photography classes. I love taking pictures and the joy of discovery it provides.
Better Composition

• Who is in the class? Name...
• Susan the Granny
• David
• Marty the Weirdo
• Howard the Jogger
• Janet the Artist
• Kathy the Newbee

• and identifier (Dennis the Geek)
• Michael the Landscaper
• Marianne The Birder
• Peter the Traveler
• Ron the Smiler
• Judy the Jaguar
• Jim the Fireman
Better Photographs

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS TO GET FROM BETTER COMPOSITION?

• BREAKTHROUGH
• SKILL
• MYSTERY SOLVED
• BROKEN BARRIER
Discover

EXPLORE
ADVENTURE
FUN

WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN’T WORK
What are the rules of composition?
- Simplify
- The Rule of Thirds
- Fill the Frame
- Diagonal Lines (Energy)
- High or Low (Point of View)
- Reflect

Composition

Muriel’s Rules

• Get Close (Fill the Frame)
• Try different points of view
• Look for the Light
• No Bulls Eyes (Rule of thirds)

My addition:

Look for anything that distracts or does contribute to the picture and eliminate it.
Composition

The rule approach to composition does not work.
composition
/ˌkæmpə'ziʃn/ noun

1. the **nature** of something's **ingredients** or constituents; the **way** in which a **whole** or mixture is **made up**.

In the case of photography ...

A photograph (whole) is a combination (made up) of visual elements (ingredients) arranged (way) to attract and hold attention of a viewer and sometimes to communicate a message from the photographer.
Visual Elements

These are the visual elements that apply across almost all types of artistic work.

This is a working set of elements. There is general, not universal, agreement as to number and membership in this grouping. But it will give us a good base from which to work.
The Way

- Take pictures each week that will meet the assignment.
- Consider what makes you feel good about the picture you took.
- Consider what you might have done or will do next time to make it better.
- Consider what others could do to help you make it better.
- Share your six pictures and some of your thoughts with the class.

The process each of us will follow to explore the Way elements can be arranged to create better photos.
What is a visual element?

The Visual Elements of line, shape, tone, color, pattern, texture and form are the building blocks of composition in art. When we analyze any drawing, painting, sculpture or design [or photograph -dlf], we examine these component parts to see how they combine to create the overall effect of the artwork.
The Visual Elements have a relationship to one another:

• Most images begin their life as line drawings.
• Lines cross over one another to form shapes.
• Shapes can be filled with tone and color, or repeated to create pattern.
• A shape may be rendered with a rough surface to create a texture.
• A shape may be projected into three dimensions to create form.
Each of the elements may also be used individually to stress their own particular character in an artwork. Different elements can express qualities such as movement and rhythm, space and depth, growth and structure, harmony and contrast, noise and calm and a wide range of emotions that make up the subjects of great art.
Line is the foundation of all drawing. It is the first and most versatile of the visual elements of art. Line in an artwork can be used in many different ways. It can be used to suggest shape, pattern, form, structure, growth, depth, distance, rhythm, movement and a range of emotions.
We have a psychological response to different types of lines:

Curved lines suggest comfort and ease.

Horizontal lines suggest distance and calm.

Vertical lines suggest height and strength.

Jagged lines suggest turmoil and anxiety.
THE LINES WE INCLUDE IN OUR PHOTO CAN CONVEY DIFFERENT EXPRESSION QUALITIES:

FREEFORM LINES CAN EXPRESS THE PERSONAL ENERGY AND MOOD OF THE ARTIST

MECHANICAL LINES CAN EXPRESS A RIGID CONTROL

CONTINUOUS LINES CAN LEAD THE EYE IN CERTAIN DIRECTIONS

BROKEN LINES CAN EXPRESS THE EPHEMERAL OR THE INSUBSTANTIAL

THICK LINES CAN EXPRESS STRENGTH

THIN LINES CAN EXPRESS DELICACY
ANALYSIS

DOES THE ARTIST USE LINE TO:
SUGGEST MOVEMENT,
CREATE INTERESTING SHAPES OR
A CERTAIN MOOD?

WHAT KIND OF LINES ARE USED:
VERTICAL, HORIZONTAL, CURVED, DIAGONAL
OR ZIGZAG; FREEHAND OR MECHANICAL;
CONTROLLED OR SCRIBBLED; THICK OR THIN;
CONTINUOUS OR BROKEN?
SPOILER ALERT

HERE IS WHAT THE SUBJECT LOOKS LIKE FROM A NORMAL POINT OF VIEW.
Line

**WORDS TO DESCRIBE LINES**

LINEAR - CURVED - DIAGONAL - HORIZONTAL - VERTICAL

STRAIGHT - JAGGED - FREEHAND - SCRIBBLED - SKETCHED - DENSE - HATCHED

MECHANICAL - STRUCTURAL - CONTROLLED - ACCURATE

CONTINUOUS - BROKEN

THICK - THIN

DELICATE - SENSITIVE - EXPRESSIVE - ENERGETIC

WAVY - UNDULATING
Line
Line
Assignment

• Take six good photographs of any subject where the Visual Element of Line is featured.
• Email the photos to me at dlf424@gmail.com
• Due, end of day, Tuesday
• Follow The Way