

BASIC ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Light and Shadows

Hector Rivera



Basic Elements of Photography

7 Elements School

composition, light, depth, line, texture, pattern and shape, and the vantage point of the photograph (*Thomas James*)

5 Elements School

Composition, exposure, the story, the emotion, the life connection (*Nancy Hill*)

Basic Elements of Photography

My 3+1 Elements Concept

Subject, Composition, and Illumination
plus ATTITUDE



Subject

- Must be relevant
- Appeal to audience
- Tell a story
- Be unique



Composition

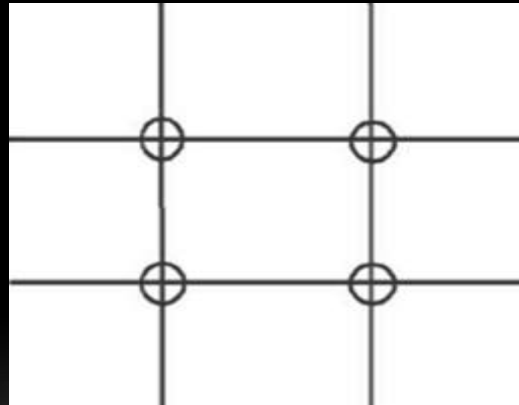
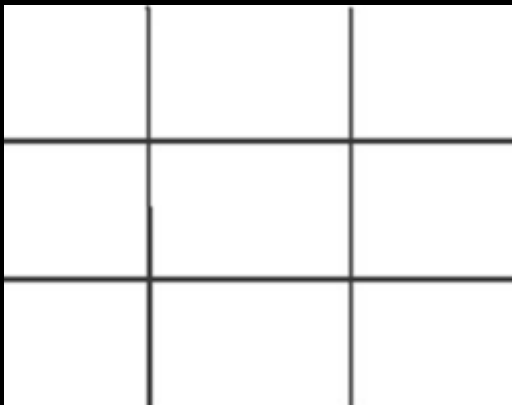
- Rule of thirds
- Framing
- Leading Lines
- Negative Space
- Texture
- Triangle



Rule of thirds

One of the most commonly talked-about rules in photography is the ***Rule of Thirds***. The concept is best explained by taking your photo and dividing it up into thirds, vertically and horizontally.

The rule of thirds is derived from another rule called the "Golden Mean" that says that the main subjects of an image should be placed at the ***intersecting points*** created (roughly) by the lines mentioned above, thusly:



Which photo do you think makes a better shot from the compositional point of view?

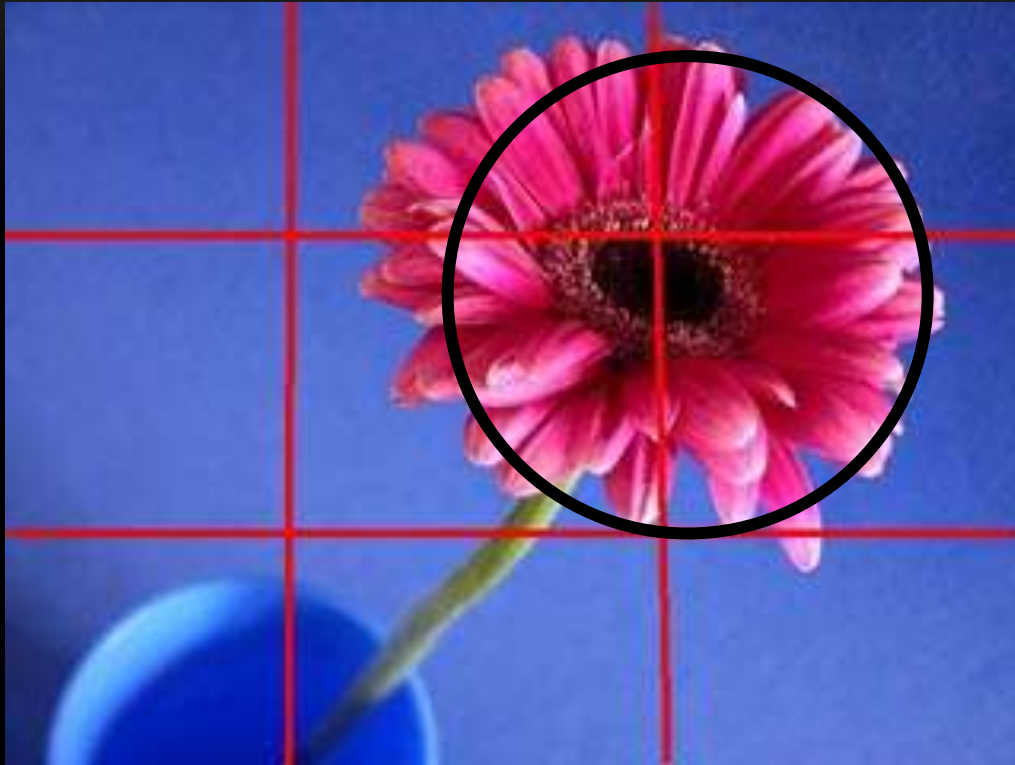
Can you see how the Rule of Thirds can help to quickly compose a picture without needing too much unnecessary fuss thinking about where to put your focus...Try it and be thrilled



For a sunset photo, try placing the horizon ***one-third*** the way from top or bottom of your photo, to include more foreground or more sky.

You'll notice a stronger landscape this way





Look at the photo on the left...notice the pink daisy blossom is placed at one of the *intersection points*.

The background itself is *not distracting*.

The blue of the vase melts into the blue background, and all of that blue really makes the contrasting pink stand out and grab your attention.

That's what composition is about...*Balance*

Framing

One of the first compositional decisions we make is often an overlooked one. You know that we begin the shooting process by deciding where to put the frame, but are you deliberate about what kind of frame you select?

For years, a standard frame format was the horizontal 3:2. Makes sense. The horizontal format is the easiest way to hold most cameras. Also, it keeps the same format of the 35 mm negative, which is 36mm x 24 mm. The size and format most viewers expect is 4x6 horizontal. It's a safe choice but not always the most creative.



As you develop your eye and choose the frame more deliberately, you'll consider different options as you shoot. Since digital images make it so easy to crop after the fact, we can consider the 5x7, 4x5 (the 8x10) or even the 16x9 (HD video format). Many of these decisions we can make as we edit, but while we are shooting, we can still decide on horizontal vs. portrait.



With some of the new cameras and even your smart phone you also have the option of framing for panoramic.



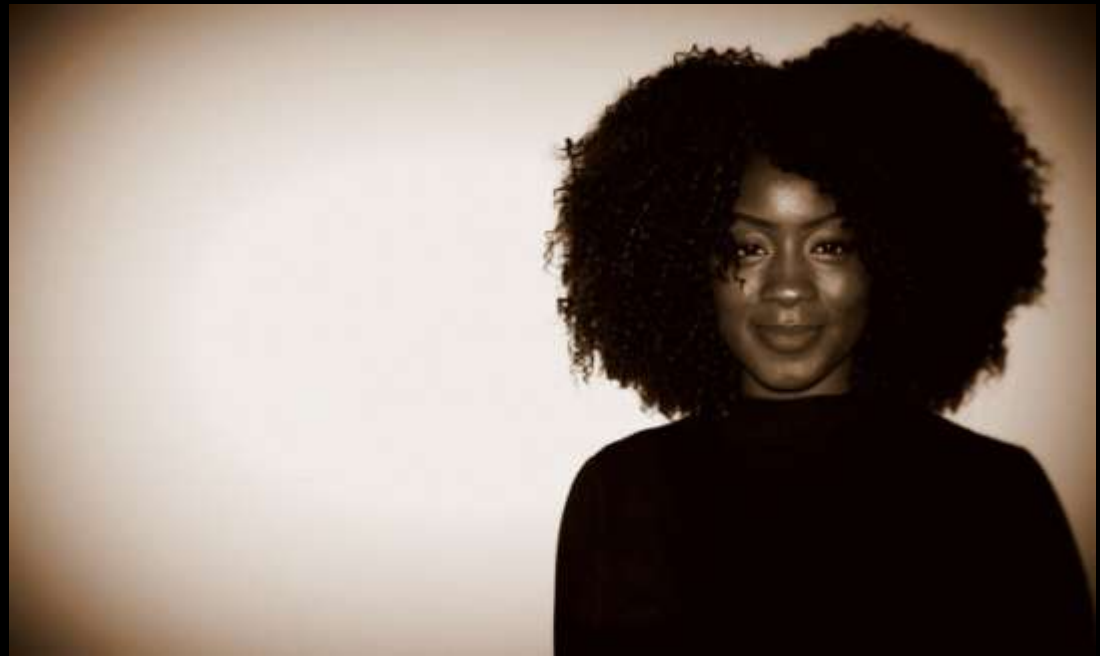
Composition

- Leading Lines
 - This are elements in the composition that lead the viewer's attention to the subject



Composition

- Negative Space
 - Isolates the subject and adds impact



Composition

- Texture
 - Adds tactile interest and visual appeal.



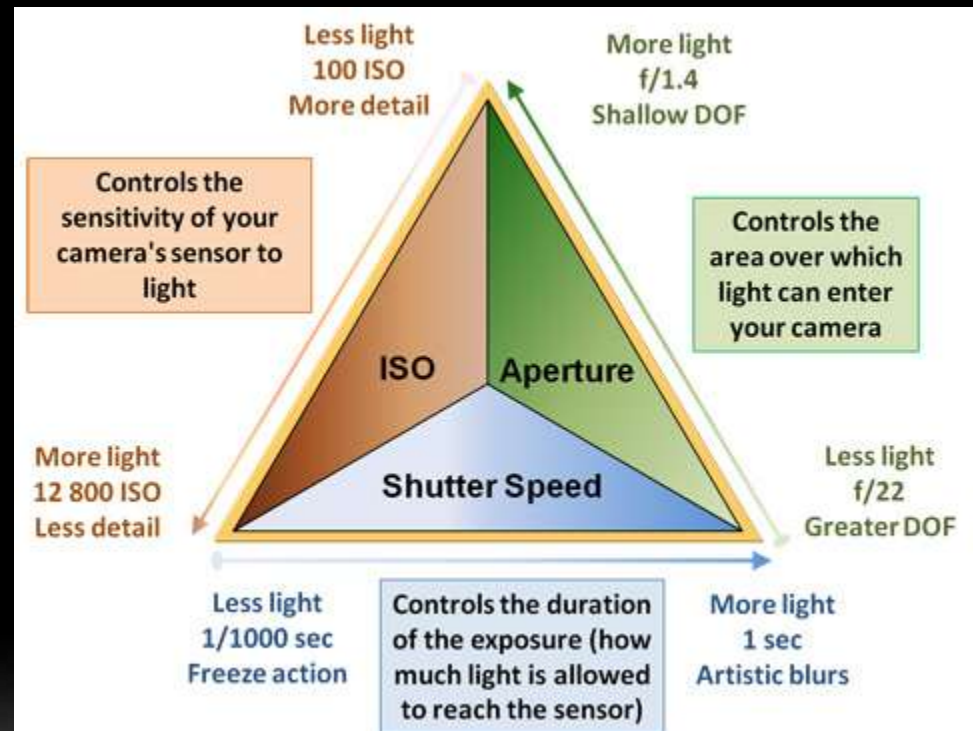
Composition

- Triangle
 - This is used as a structural approach and adds strength, impact, and dynamics.



Illumination

- Light & Shadows
- Exposure
 - Aperture
 - Shutter Speed
 - ISO



ATTITUDE

- Do you have what it takes?
- Are you willing to do what ever it takes to get the shot?

