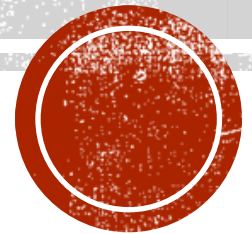


TIPS FOR COMPOSITION

Digital Photography by Mark Gillan





USE LINES

- Leading lines can draw the eye to certain points within an image
- Lines can add interest
- Carefully positioned with other lines can take the eye into and around an image





USE LINES WITH COLOUR

- Colours can place emphasis upon part of an image and lines can draw into the colour
- Lines can pull the eye across and colour can then lead around
- Photographers can use leading lines directly into an image or use lines to draw in other angles leading onto other subject matter with the use of lines with colour and form





ANGLE

- Changing an angle / viewpoint can add interest, combined with leading lines can engage the viewer
- Try out different angles and a completely wild viewpoint to place the viewer into questioning ... and wanting more!





VIEWPOINT

- Try capturing from a different viewpoint to others
- Iconic images can still be made from everyday objects
- Images captured on a daily basis can be made unlike others by changing the angle / viewpoint
- Think outside the box
- Try something new





HORIZON

- Depending upon the image, it can be important to ensure the horizon is straight
- Check the level of the horizon and ensure it is straight ... unless there is a good reason not to do so!





CLUTTER

- Too much clutter, especially around the edges of an image can be distracting
- Tidy images
- Check around the edges and really look at your composition prior to capture





NATURAL FRAMES

- Use trees, branches, arches of buildings and other items to frame the shot
- Branches are a natural frame and draws the eye into the image
- Natural frames add a sense of belonging at the same time as offering a free frame!





SOMETIMES GET IN CLOSE

- Getting in close and filling the frame can create more interest to an everyday object
- Don't be frightened to get in close to a subject and fill that shot
- Filling a viewfinder can be really interesting





BACKGROUNDS

- Check backgrounds to ensure nothing distracts but everything adds to the story
- Try to capture backgrounds that add to the scene
- Relevant and appropriate without being too distracting is the aim of the game





REFLECTIONS

- Symmetry, patterns and reflections can add interest along with familiarity with scenes
- Water reflections can offer a means of symmetry, patterns and reflection all in one
- Reflections can add interest to an image





DEPTH

- Blurring of a background can place emphasis upon a subject whilst retaining the element of scene
- Depth of field can be used to great effect bringing through interest for a subject in the foreground
- Colour and depth work well together





CONTRAST

- Contrast – colours, shadow, light can make a subject pop
- Look for natural contrast or light and shadow





CENTRE GROUND

- Centre point is useful when using symmetry and leading lines into the centre for purpose
- Sometimes it can help to avoid placing the point of interest and having first eye contact to the centre of an image
- Off-centre and rule of thirds can take the eye to a point of interest followed by looking around the image afterwards – maintaining interest and questioning
- Off-centre can sometimes provide a more visually appealing image





RULE OF THIRDS

- Using the intersections of a grid split into three on the horizontal and vertical, known as the rule of thirds can help bring the eye around an image
- Splitting the image can either be done horizontally, vertically or both
- Diagonals also provide a link between the intersections meaning the viewer will move from one end to the another, thereafter moving around in a circle given the strength of shape and form within the image





FOREGROUND

- Foreground interest can make a 2D flat printed or on screen image more into a 3D with depth image
- The viewer will feel more involved with the image if the photograph has depth involving a non distracting object in the foreground relevant to the scene





SHAPE AND FORM

- Shape can assist the movement around the image
- Especially helpful for architectural photography when so often straight lines are predominant
- Roundness will quite often offer a friendly humanistic link to the viewer





LIGHT

- Light can soften a portrait for quite angelic appearance and shadow can offer form, texture along with mysticism
- Hi-key is the use of lightness to bring a softness to an image and strong soft colours can work well with hi-key shots
- Low-key will provide good shadows and contrast with black and white often being a great option
- Both are important for form and both can work well with deep or pastel colours whilst black and white can be engaging
- Portraiture, editorial, landscape, architectural, almost any style can benefit from creative use of light

