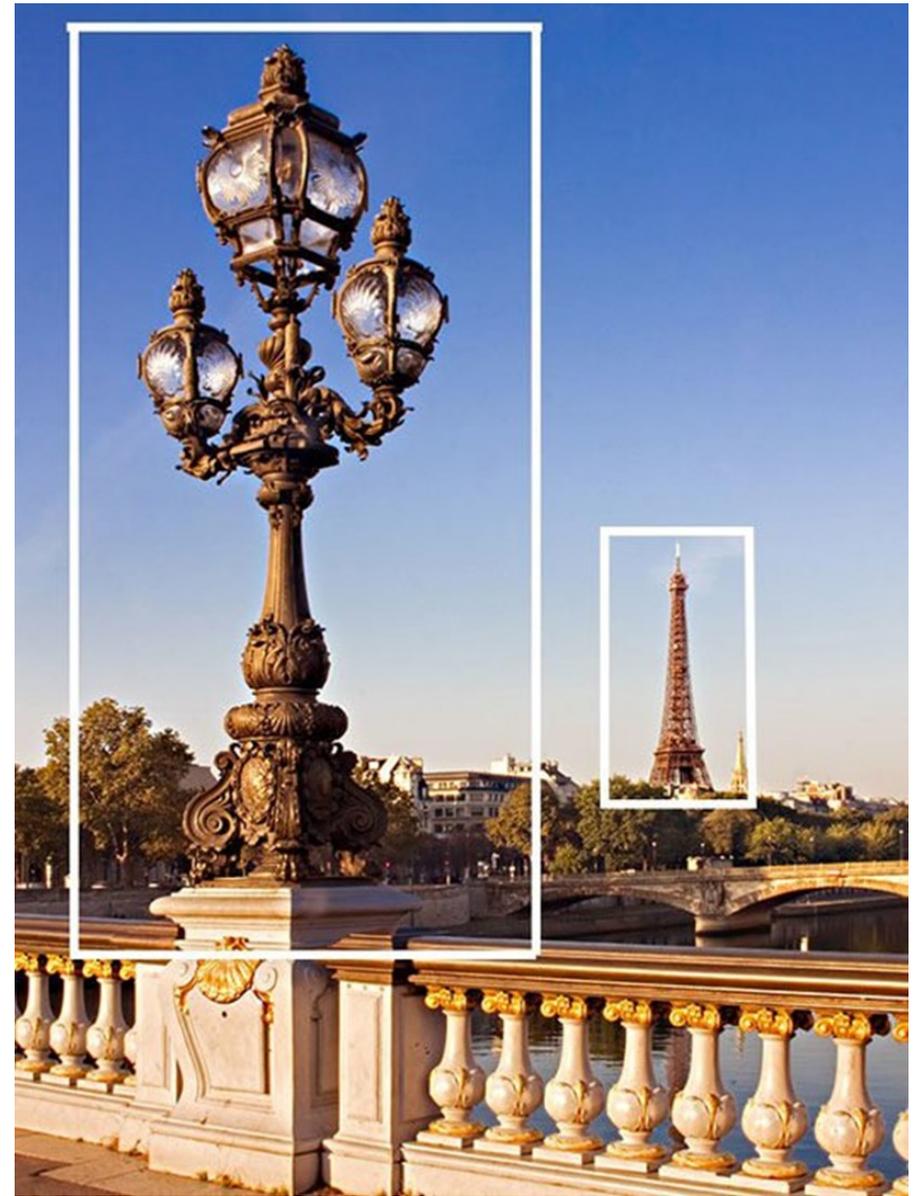


Balancing Parts

What is it?	Arranging 2 (or more) parts of a composition in order to achieve some amount of visual balance or harmony within the picture plane.
Effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equal distribution = uniformity, balanced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pros: mathematical order, can have calming, organizing feel • Cons: can be too structured and organized, limits dynamic movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of the difference between a decluttered, organized space; versus a space that is unnaturally cleaned and maintained by some with Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). 2. 40%-60% = classical balance structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro: composition will achieve a natural harmony, Ironically it will feel more balanced than a uniform balance. • Con: need to rely on other effects to enhance your visual message. 3. 80%-20%= Occult Balance Achieved, Usually gives feeling of overwhelming, or overpowering whatever you decided the 20% is. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro: It's a shortcut to making something feel overpowering or dominant over something else. • Con: it takes practice and effort to pull this one off to full effect and also achieve other subtle nuances to this effect.

Balancing Parts Examples



2

Composition Type

Back Ground Choice

What is it?	Utilizing the background to enhance your content and visual message
Effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plain Background: shortcut to dramatically put attention on your main subject. When used with lots of contrast it adds some extra drama to your subject. If there is not enough contrast your subject can get lost in the background.2. Out-of-focus Background: adds some subtle interesting variation to the background. It might still give some added context to your subject but still makes the subject the obvious focal point3. In-Focus- Background: adds more context to your subject but can start to compete for attention. Pay attention to your balance and contrast if you don't want the background to overpower your focal point.4. Expected Background: makes it look and feel like you're "really there". Its great for when you are practicing your observational art skills.5. Unexpected Background: great visual storytelling tool, usually want to put subject in a setting that is dramatically different than where you would expect to see it.

Background Examples



3

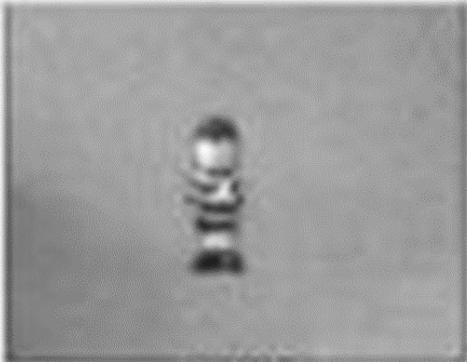
Composition Type

Cropping

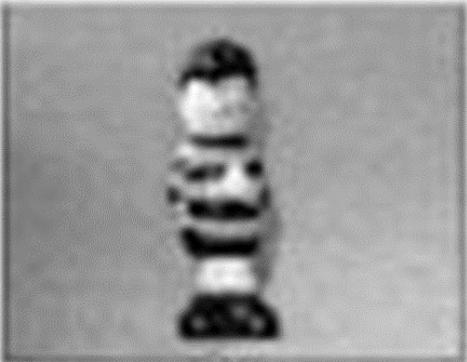
What is it?	Adjusting the edges of the picture plane to achieve different effects or alter the composition to adjust the focal point, and therefore the main visual message.
Effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Zoomed-In: extreme close-up (mostly focal point, and little if any background)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros: can feel intimate, emotionally close, intense• Cons: Can feel claustrophobic, oppressive, uncomfortably intense2. Zoomed-Out (mostly background, smaller focal point)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros: gives a feeling of openness, or being small, part of a bigger picture• Cons: feeling of external forces overpowering the focal point3. Balanced (background and focal point relatively balanced)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros: feeling of balanced, equality, normality, comfortable• Cons: common, ordinary, can be the typical response4. Shifting Focal Point<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can help fix an initial weak focal point by shifting it more to the "Goldy Locks Zone" in the Magic Dimond, creating a stronger, more dynamic Focal Point.

Cropping Examples

Shot Sizes



XLS



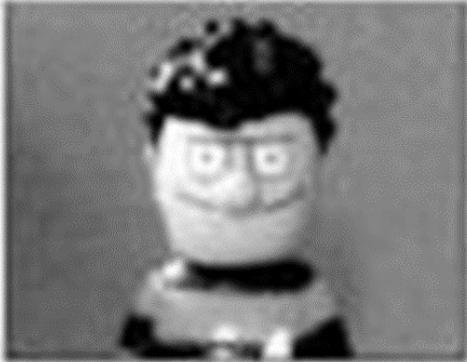
LS



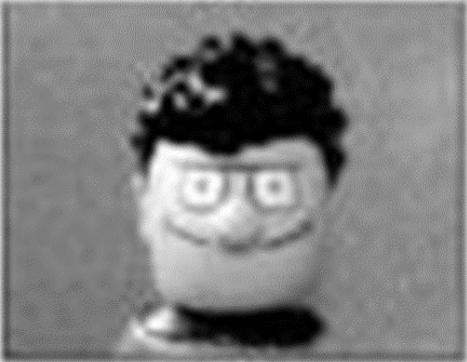
MLS



MS



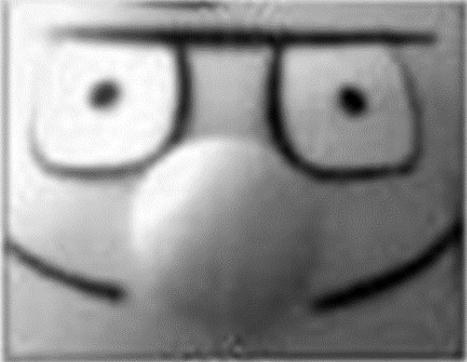
MCU



CU



BCU



XCU

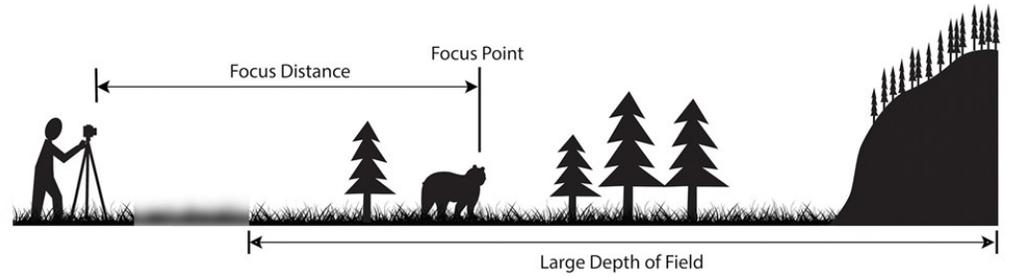
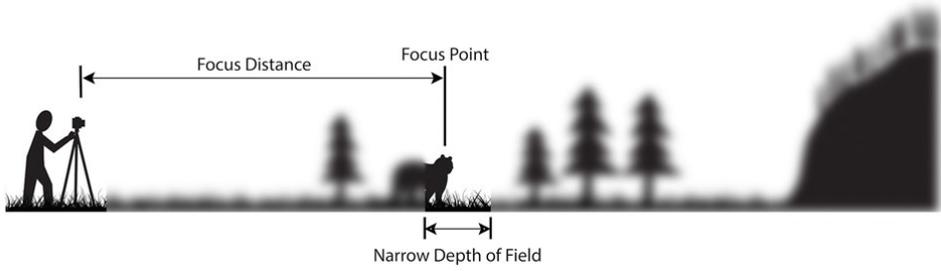
4

Composition Type

Depth of Field

What is it?	<p>Emphasizing a foreground, middle ground, and background elements within your composition. <i>Whatever is "in focus" will become your focal point.</i></p> <p>What is focus? In photography, it's practically married to sharpness. An image that is completely sharp is said to be in-focus. An image that's completely blurry is said to be unfocused. The same metaphor applies to your mind. When you concentrate, your mind is sharp. You are focused. When you're confused, you lack focus. As you are about to learn, you can use focus to direct your viewer's attention to the most important parts of a scene.</p>
Effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Foreground is most in focus: creates natural atmospheric perspective2. Midground is the most in focus: gives the viewer a sense of looking in from the outside of the event but is still relatively close to the action you're presenting. Tends to create a dramatic atmosphere. Can create some interesting visual story telling effects. The viewer becomes part of the story.3. Background is mostly in focus: similar to midground but viewer is more removed from the situation.4. All of it's in focus: tends to look hyper-realistic or surreal since it's difficult to observe naturally. Need to rely on other composition techniques to develop a strong unified composition.

Depth of Field Examples



5

Composition Type

framing

What is it?	Using things within your composition or environment to create a "frame" for your focal point.
Effects	Directs viewer's attention to your focal point in a dramatic way. When used well can add balance and contrast to not just your focal point but your overall composition.

Framing Examples

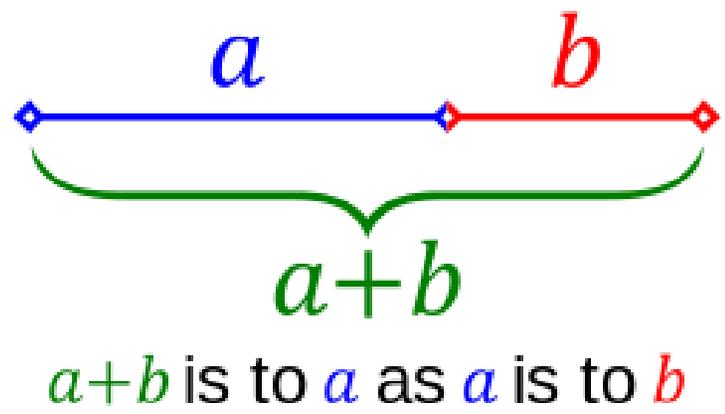
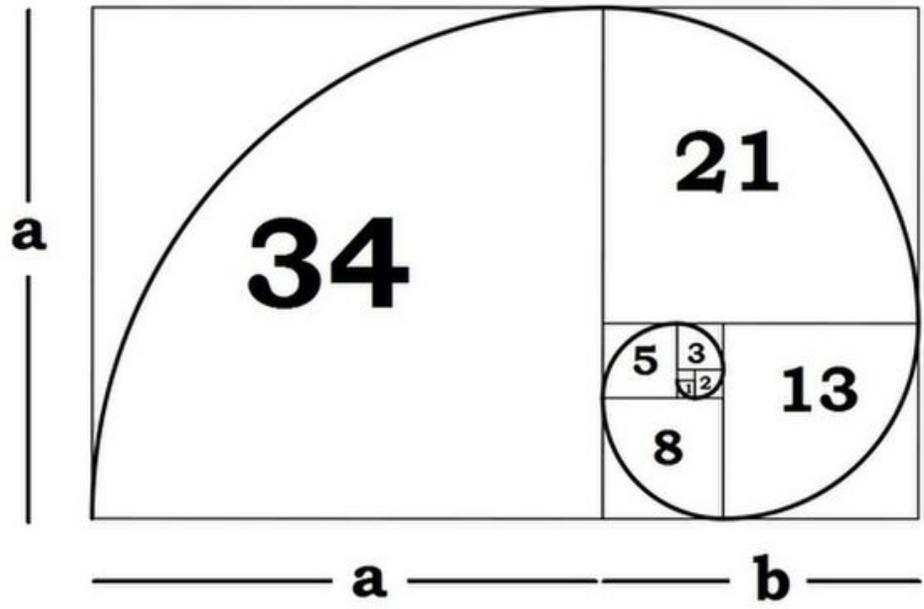


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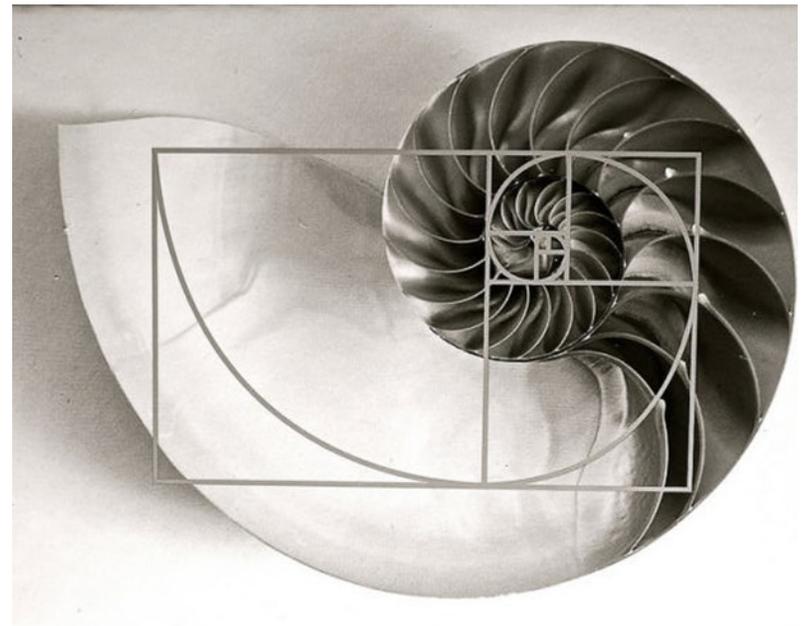
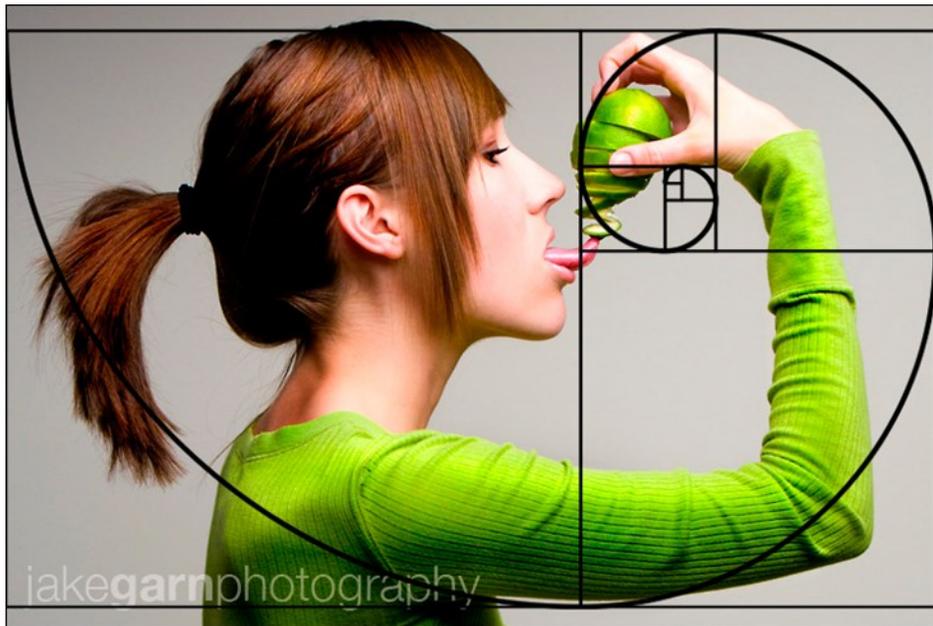
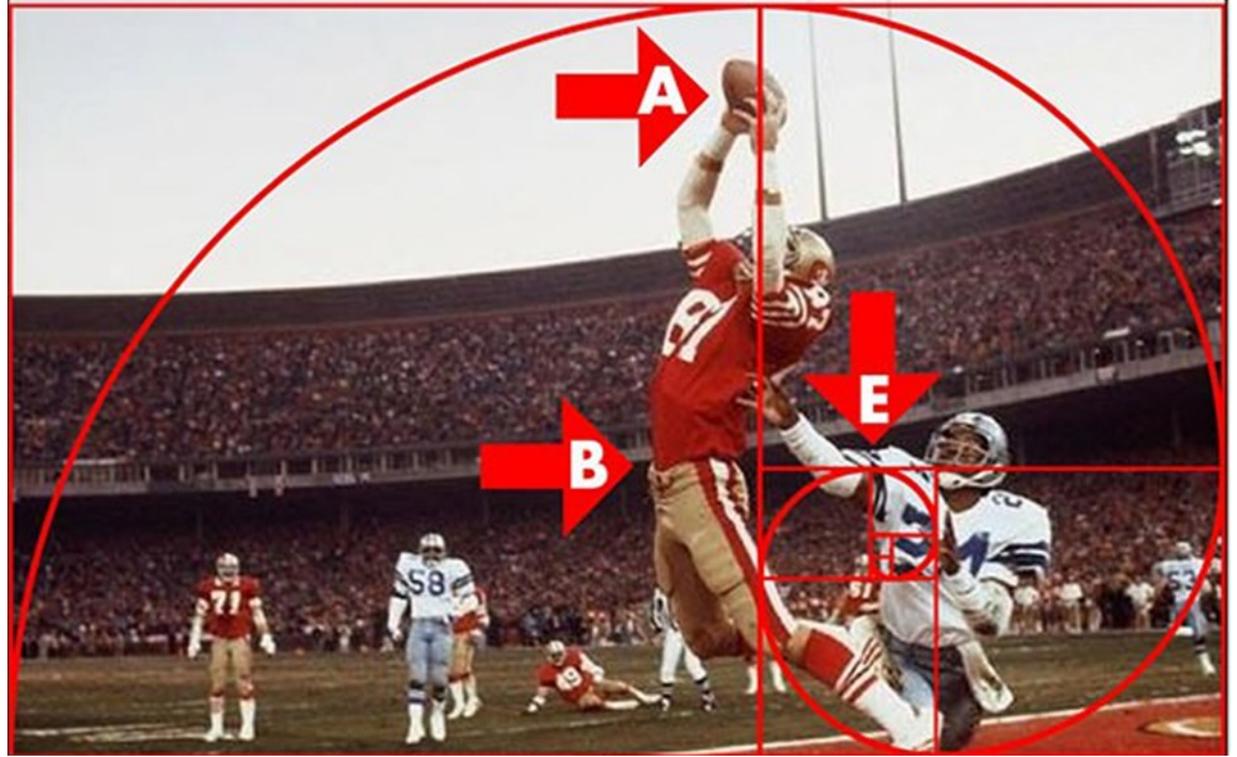
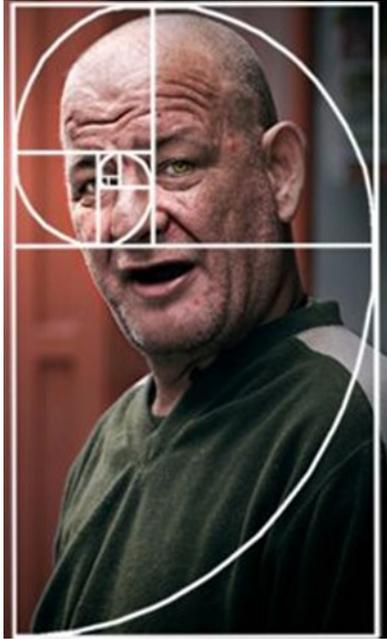
Composition Type

Golden Ratio

What is it?	Composition strategy based on the "Golden Ratio"- basically it's a mathematical formula that is also found in nature all the time! It's a quick guide to achieving more natural balance in your composition.
Effects	Helps you activate your entire picture plane in a more purposeful way. It helps you achieve balance between open and closed space within your picture.



Golden Ratio Examples



7

Composition Type

Point of View

What is it?

Being mindful of the position you are viewing your subject.

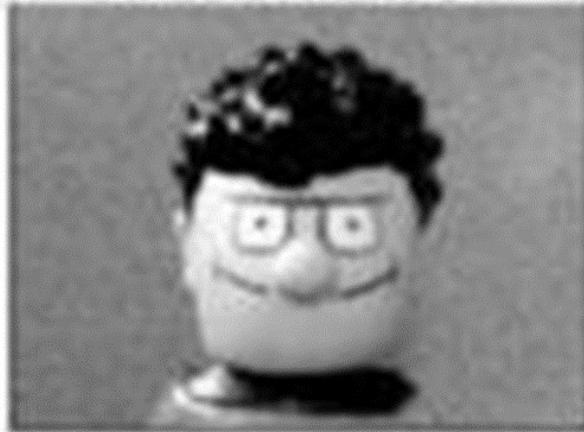
Effects

1. Low View: looks like the viewer is slightly looking up at the subject literally and figurately ;
2. Eye-Level View: on level with the subject; equals
3. High view: looking down on a subject both literally and figuratively.
4. Worm's-Eye View: Dramatically looking up at your subject, on the ground looking up at your subject
5. Bird's-Eye View: Dramatically looking down at your subject from above
6. Canted (Dutch Angle): usually looking strait on at your subject but tilling the window you're observing it form; adds some dramatic angles to your composition can add excitement or anxiety to it as well (it's why you see it a lot in scary movies or when they want to add some extra drama to scenes).

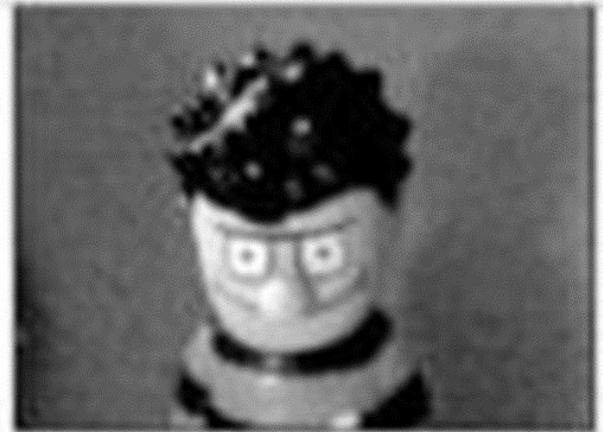
Point of View Examples



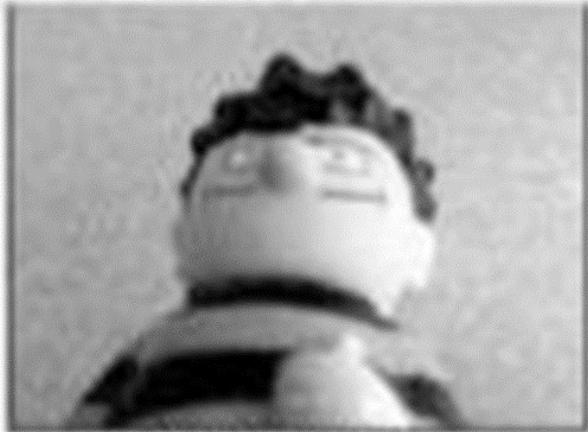
Low



Eye-level



High



Worm's eye



Canted



Bird's eye

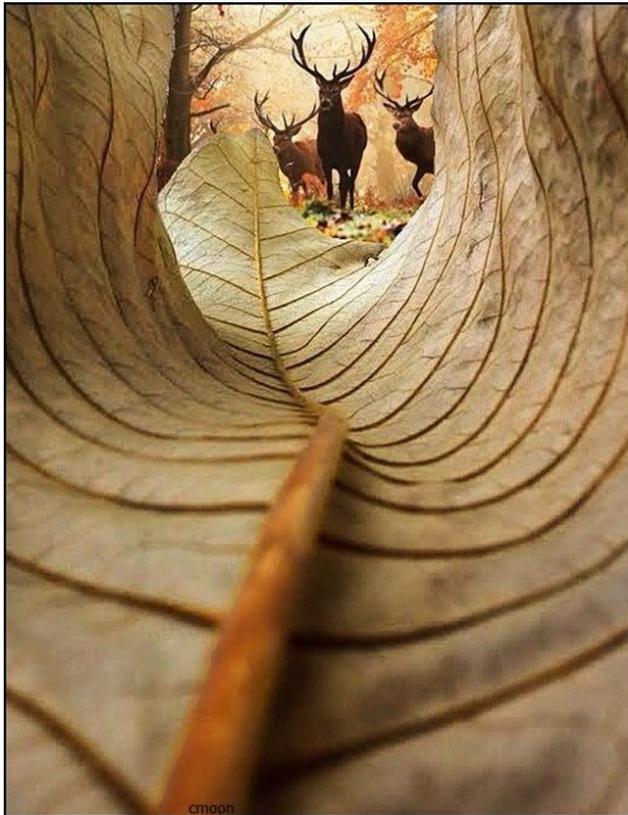
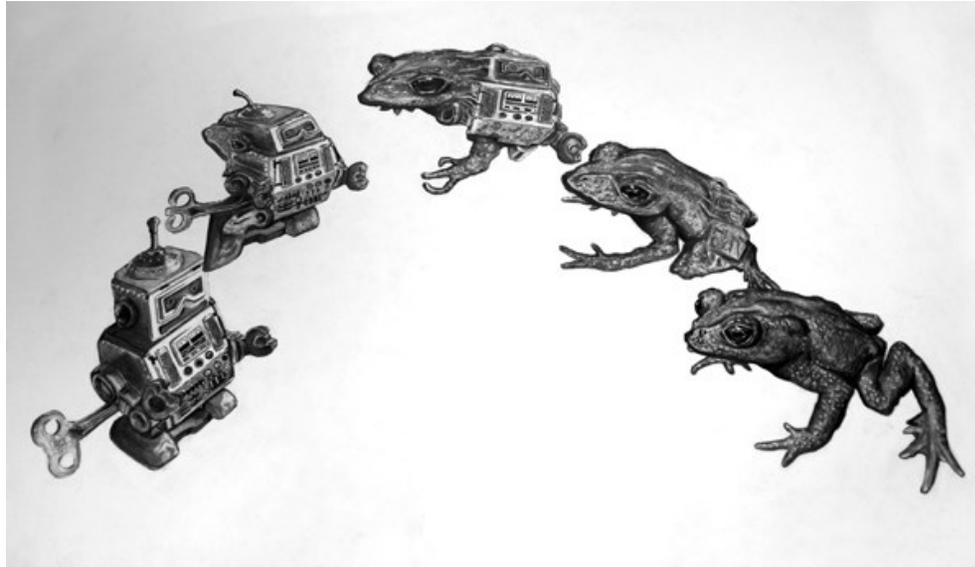
8

Leading Lines

(AKA Visual Passage)

What is it?	Using roads, paths, or other elongated lines/shapes to lead you through a composition.
Effects	<p>Seen a lot in landscapes because it's a technique to guide your viewer from the foreground, through the middle ground to the background; can be roads, rivers, fallen trees, etc.</p> <p>Viewers will subconsciously follow elongated lines and shapes as if they were arrows or an actual path to follow throughout your composition.</p> <p>It's a way of more naturally engaging your viewer to look at your artwork as if they were actually in it.</p> <p>When used more abstractly, it can be used to show implied lines and/or visually represent change over time.</p>

Leading Lines aka Visual Passage Examples



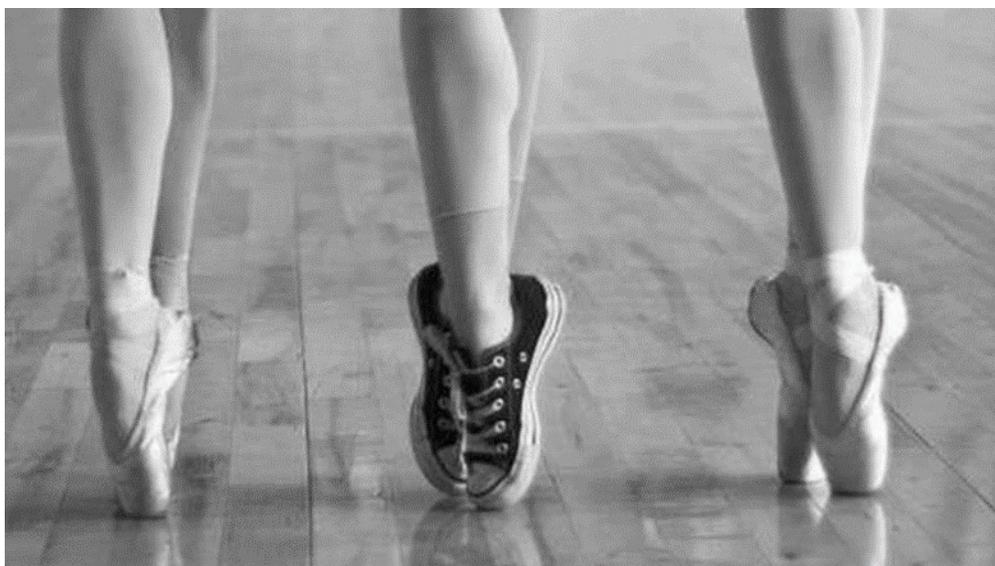
9

Composition Type

Rule of Odds

What is it?	Having an odd number of subjects in a composition.
Effects	People are naturally drawn to unusual or uneven compositions and is a simple way to create visual interest in a composition. The numbers themselves can be symbolic and add an extra layer of depth to your visual message.

Rule of Odds Examples



10

Composition Type

Rule of 3rds

What is it? Arranging things in your composition so they occupy 1/3-2/3rds of your picture plane

It helps break up your picture plane so things are less likely to be too centered on your picture plane.

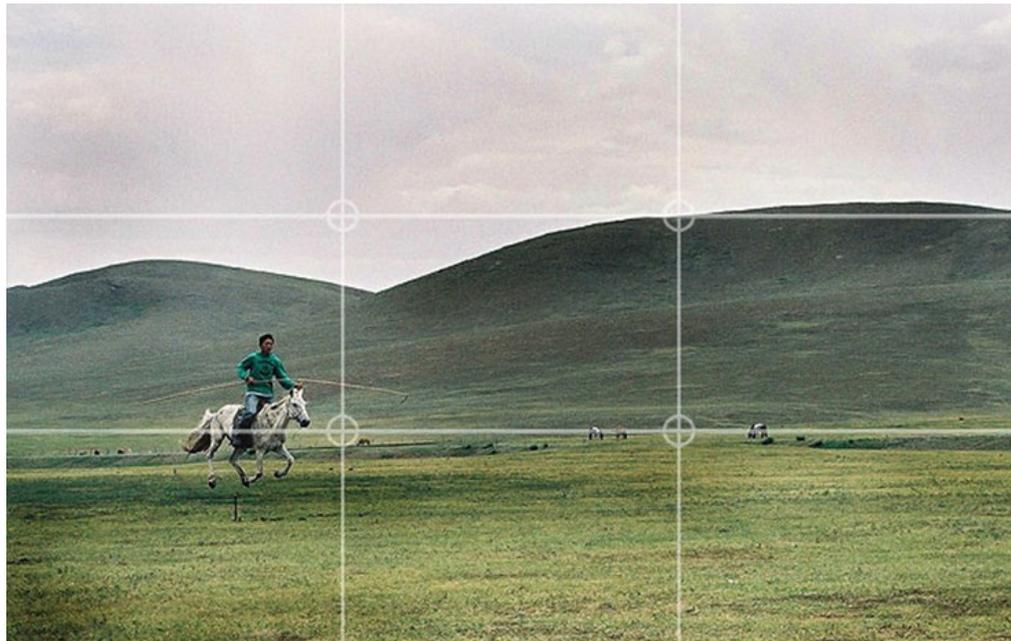
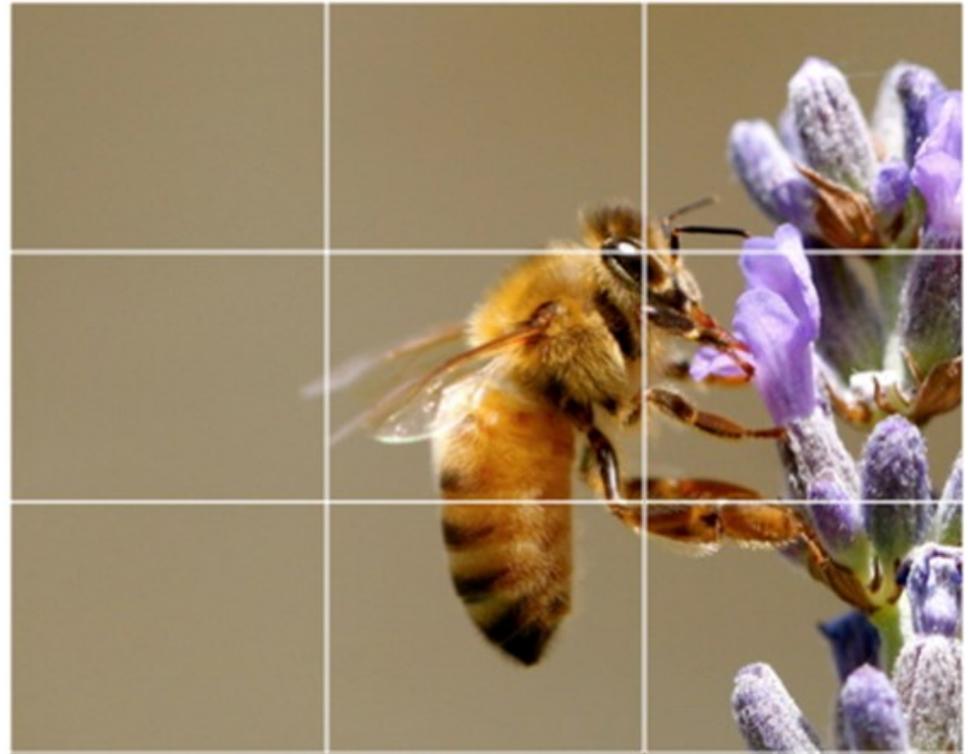
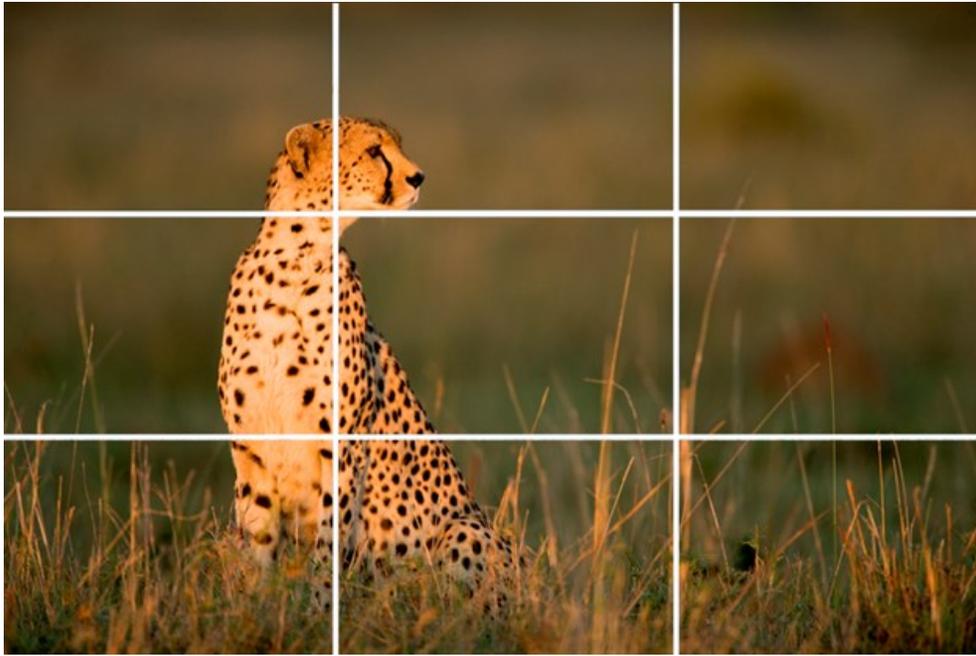
Mrs. Schmit "Rule of 3rds" uses that rule more as a way to check for variety in your composition- it helps create balance between the visual activity in your picture plane.

Effects

It's the most common and straight forward composition tool. It makes creating a visually "nice" picture however it's difficult to communicate a visual story if you only rely on this technique.

Once you understand this technique you'll start seeing it everywhere. It's usually the "obvious" composition to start with.

Rule of 3rds Examples



11

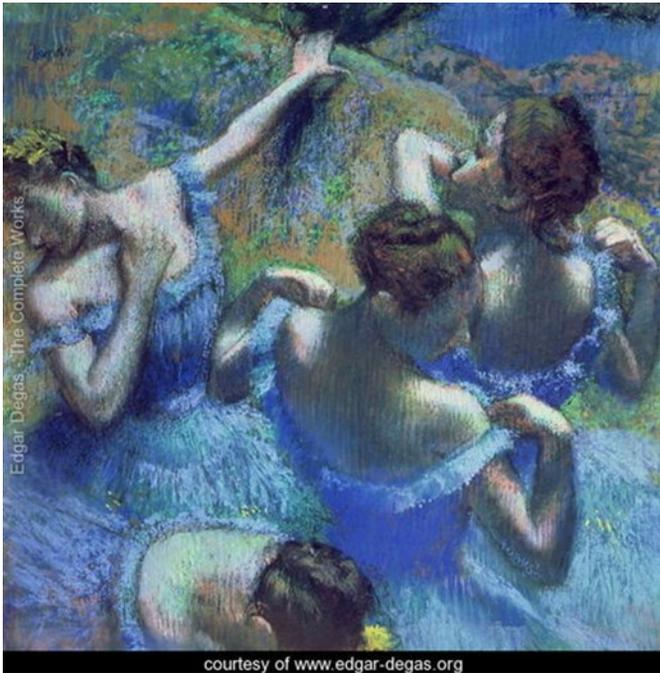
Composition Type

The Shapes

(Triangular, Circular, etc.)

What is it?	Arranging things in your composition that creates implied lines with in your composition. These implied lines are what create "The shapes" like triangles, circles, squares, etc.
Effects	<p>It specifically directs the viewer to se things in a specific order. This movement usually follows a shape like a triangle or circle.</p> <p>If you have people in your composition, what they are looking at in the picture can create some of these implied lines; elongated shapes can create the same effect.</p> <p>It's a great tool to used if you want to create a specific narrative in your composition.</p>

The Shapes Examples



courtesy of www.edgar-degas.org



JARED PLATT

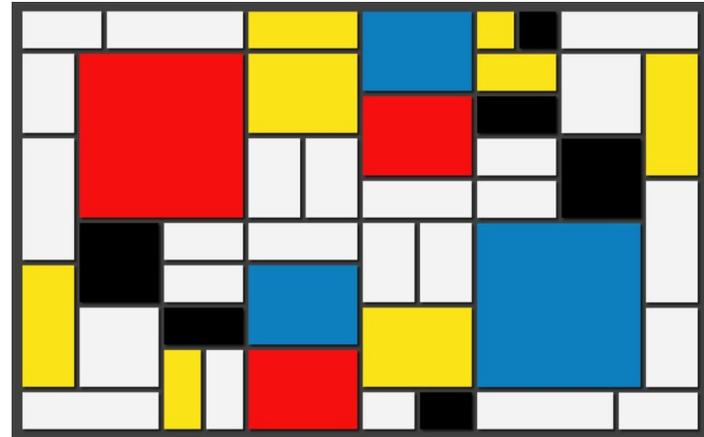
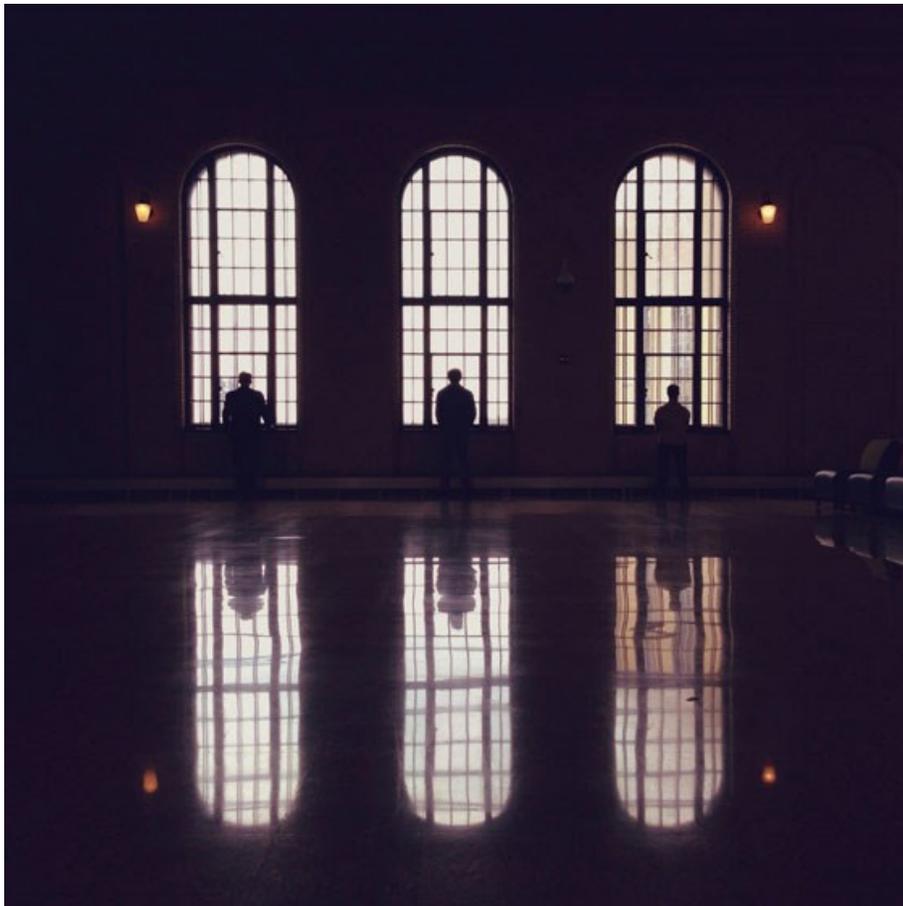
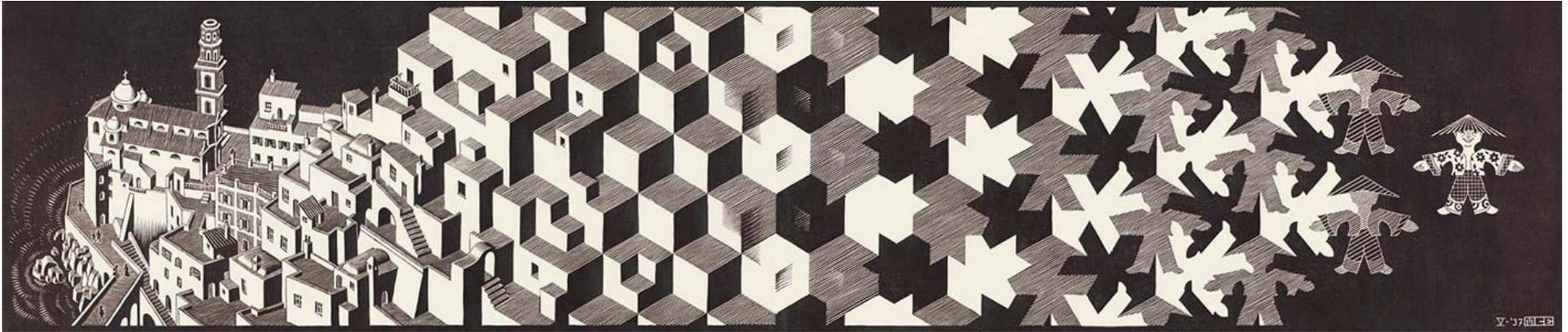
12

Composition Type

Symmetry/Pattern

What is it?	The symmetry and/or pattern is the subject of your art.
Effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mathematical/regular structure = order, relaxing, stable2. Organic/freeform = chaos, nervous, energetic, unstable3. Regular repeating organic structure = from chaos you can find order or vise versa4. Gradual transition from one pattern to another = change over time, metamorphosis

Symmetry / Pattern



<https://cdn.iphonephotographyschool.com/wp-content/uploads/Symmetry-iPhone-Photography-60.jpg>

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