

September 2020



PABLO SACCINTO
PHOTOGRAPHY

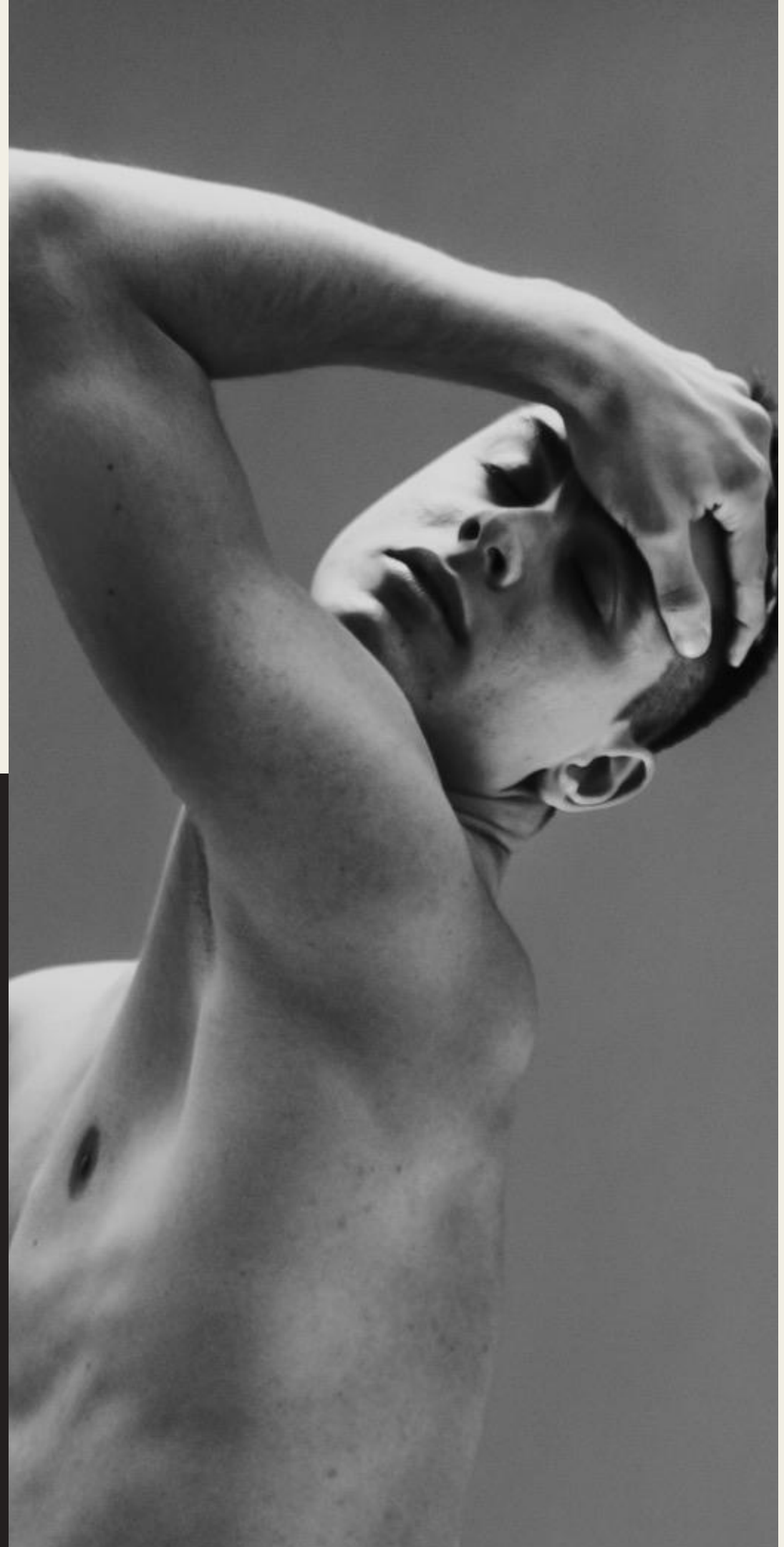
Photography Basics

A beginner's guide

Course Outline

WHAT WE'RE COVERING

- 1. Composition
 - 1.2 Rule of Thirds
 - 1.3 Leading Lines
 - 1.4 Background
- 2. Point of View



COMPOSITION





September 2020



Today's Discussion

Choosing a point of interest is the first and most important step in composition, if there is no point of interest, there is no image. (Since the photograph won't tell me anything)

September 2020

I. COMPOSITION

Composition is the form we choose to place the objects or subjects inside the “frame”

Depending on this placement would be the focus of attention of the image we are making



1.2 Rule of Thirds

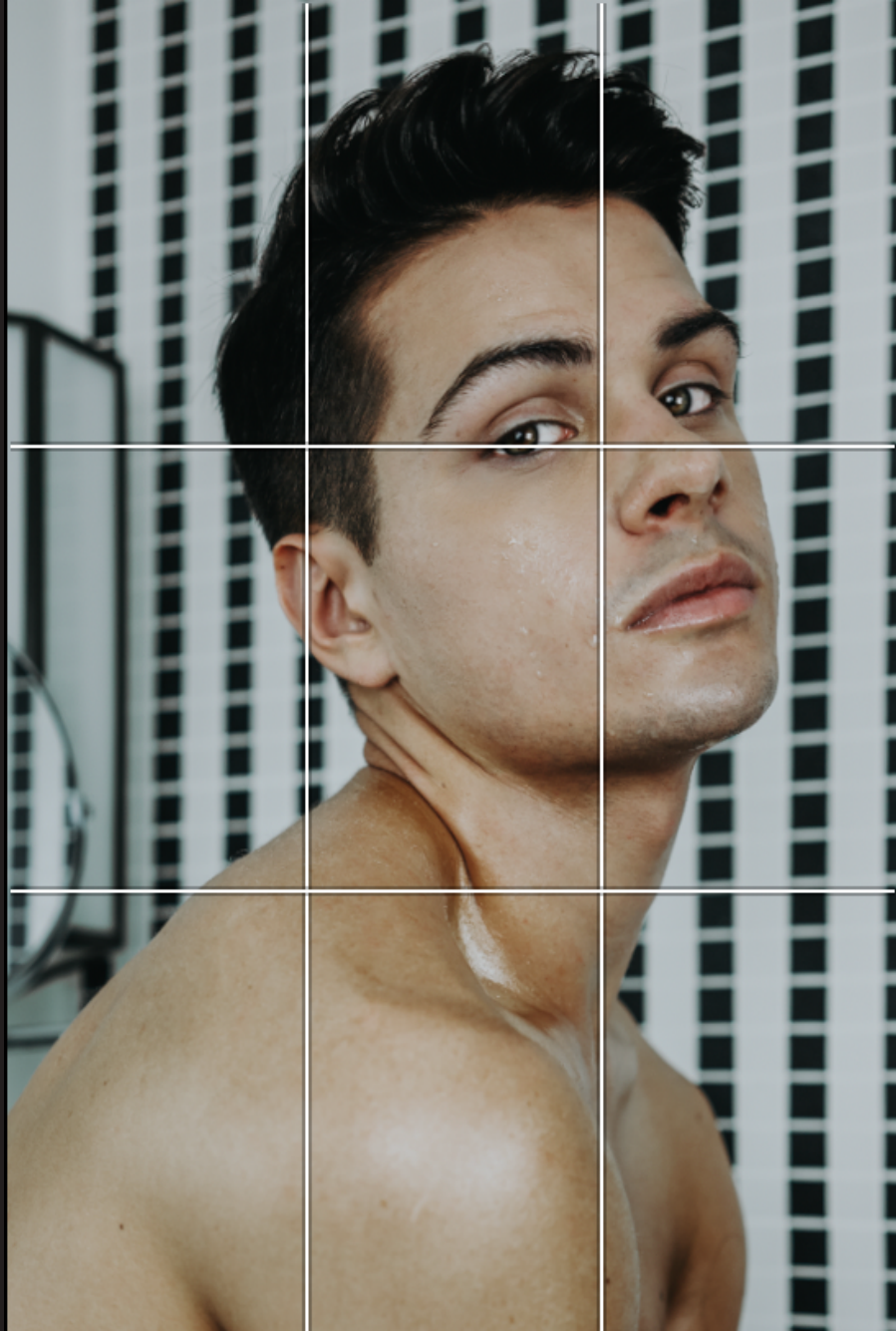
It is surely the best known composition rule in photography, It consists of dividing the frame in three proportional sections both vertically and horizontally.

The theory is that it creates a more balanced photo and allows the viewer's eye to drift around more naturally. There are many studies showing that people's eyes tend to go to one of these intersection points first rather than dead centre.

Depending on the type of shoot you want to do, that means placing one part or another at one of the crossing points of the different sections. For example, in a close-up you can place an eye and the corner of the lip to enhance the look and gesture of the mouth, or, in a long shot, the area of the character that you want to highlight better.



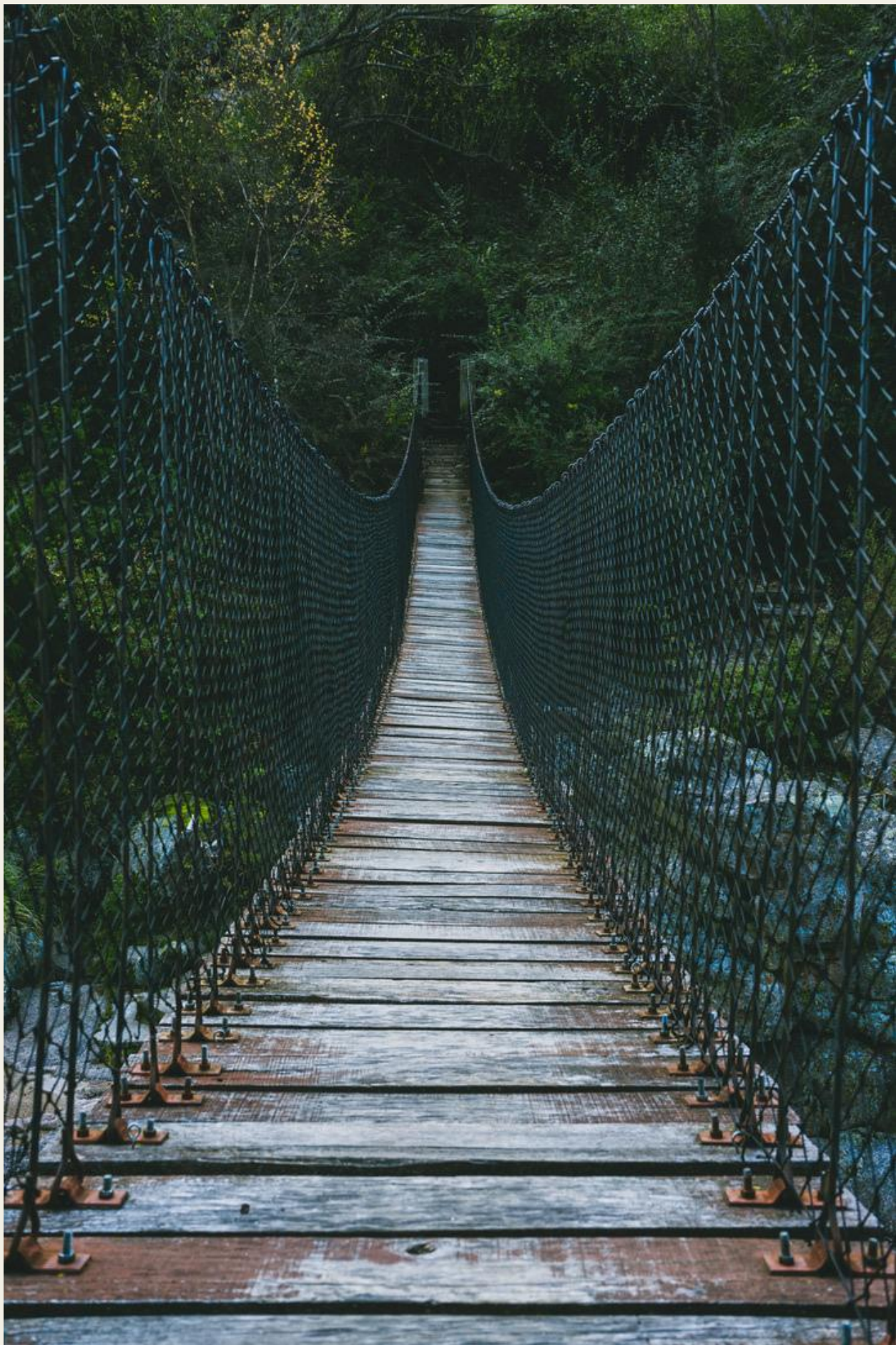
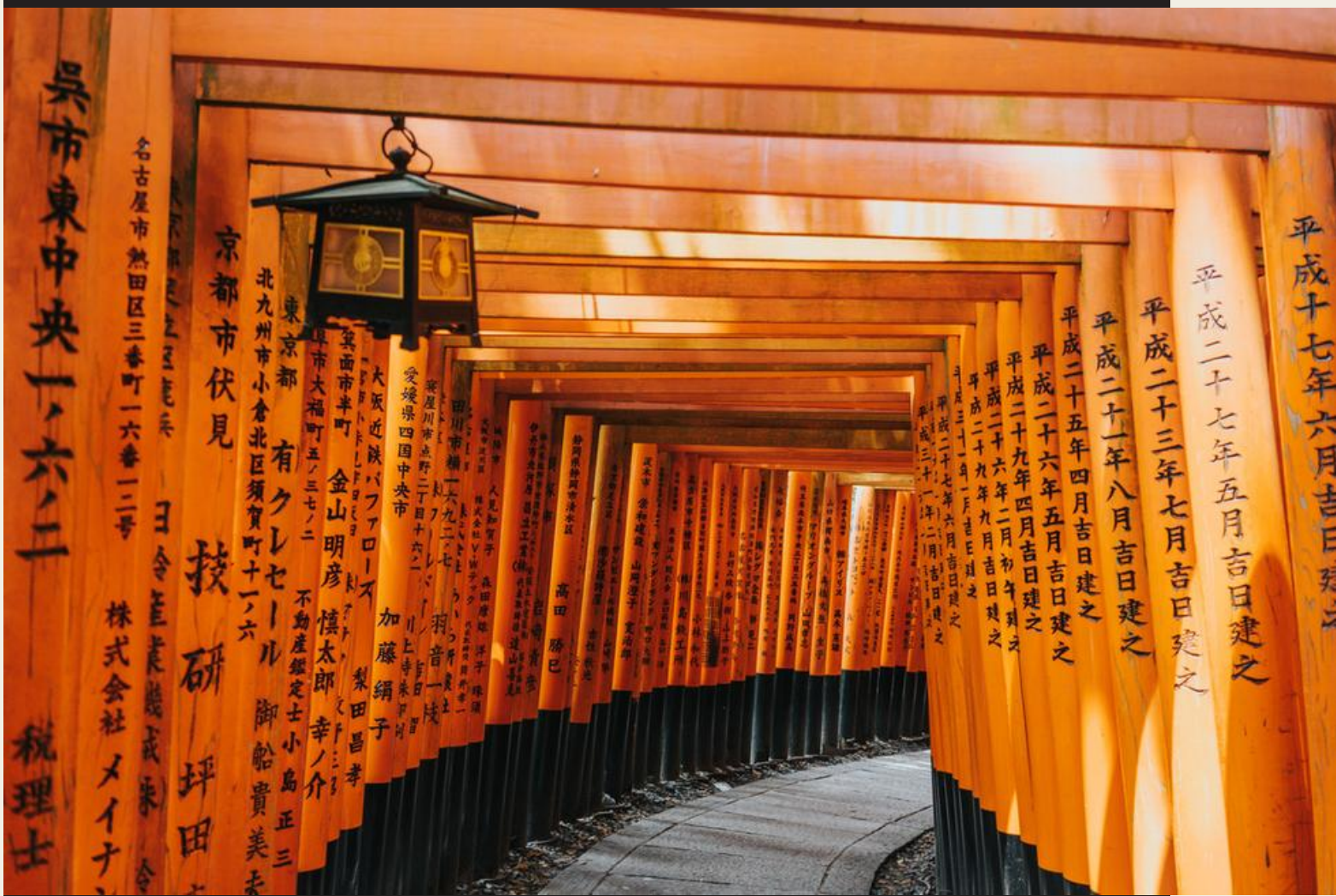
September 2020



1.3 Leading Lines

This is another very traditional rule of composition that ties in very closely with Rule 1. We want to look for lines within our image that draw the viewer's eye into the scene rather than away from it.

These can be physical lines such as fences or walls or more metaphorical lines such as shadows, or even a hand pointing into the image. Many subjects can be used for leading lines, and they can really add a sense of depth to a photograph.



Rule of odd Numbers

Studies have shown, and I actually have no idea why, that people prefer odd numbers over even numbers when looking at something. For some reason people feel more at ease when looking at photographs with an odd number of subjects, so it's something we can utilize to further enhance our photography composition.

Obviously there are some areas where this just doesn't work, such as wedding photos to take one big example. However, a lot of other scenes can use this guideline, such as including just three trees instead of four, or getting a candid group shot of five people instead of six.

This might not seem like such a big change, but I guarantee that now I've put it in your brain you will start to notice it everywhere!



**BONUS TIP: BREAK THE
RULES AND HAVE FUN!**

1.4 BACKGROUND

An effective background will add to the story, providing valuable information about your setting, and helping to dramatically enhance your photo. You should focus on the background as much as you do the subject. After all, the background is part of your picture, and is often what will make the difference between a snapshot and a powerful composition.



1.4 BACKGROUND

Backgrounds should be used to highlight your subject in a context that helps them to stand out, without being overwhelming. Fortunately, finding the right background for your images isn't hard, with a bit of practice you will soon be adept at judging backgrounds, and identifying backgrounds that work with the composition at hand.



HOW DO I MAKE MY BACKGROUND INTERESTING?



As well as lighting up the background and providing interesting detail, the subject is also lit up in a way that don't typically see. Use the lighting to illuminate your background and provide a point of interest. Arrange your lights so that they provide details to the most important parts of your background.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD BACKGROUND?

A good background can surround, support, and emphasize the information you wish to present. A poorly chosen background can overwhelm the rest of the design, making the other elements difficult to see, or make the other elements feel untethered and unrelated.



EFFECTIVE BACKGROUNDS THAT IMPROVES YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

2020

1. Keep it simple for a powerful composition.
2. Fill the frame
3. Use lines to convey a sense of depth
4. Use contrasting backgrounds
5. Blur the background
6. Use the background to tell the story



Keep It Simple For A Powerful Composition

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Objects in the background often compete with the subject for attention. In most cases, this produces a less-than-desirable effect. If you find that your background is too busy, try moving your subject in front of a plain wall, the sky, or something equally simple. A background that is simple and unobtrusive will help to draw the focus onto your subject, and will highlight their emotions, features, and expressions.



Fill The Frame

2020

Sometimes, filling the entire frame with your subject is the best way to work with your background. A close up of your subject can often help you avoid any unnecessary and distracting background elements. Just make sure the subject you are shooting will work well with this technique and that you aren't cropping out a valuable part of your picture.



Use Lines To Convey a Sense of Depth

Effective compositions often use lines to draw the viewer's eye to the subject. Background lines can also be used to create a sense of movement in your images, or to convey a sense of distance or depth. Converging lines that disappear into the distance are a great example of lines that help to draw the viewer into the image, while adding a sense of depth. Just take care to avoid unintentional and intrusive background lines. Avoid horizon lines or telephone lines that run directly behind your subject's head, and make sure there are no competing lines running in different directions. Distracting lines will only confuse the scene at hand and will serve as a distraction.



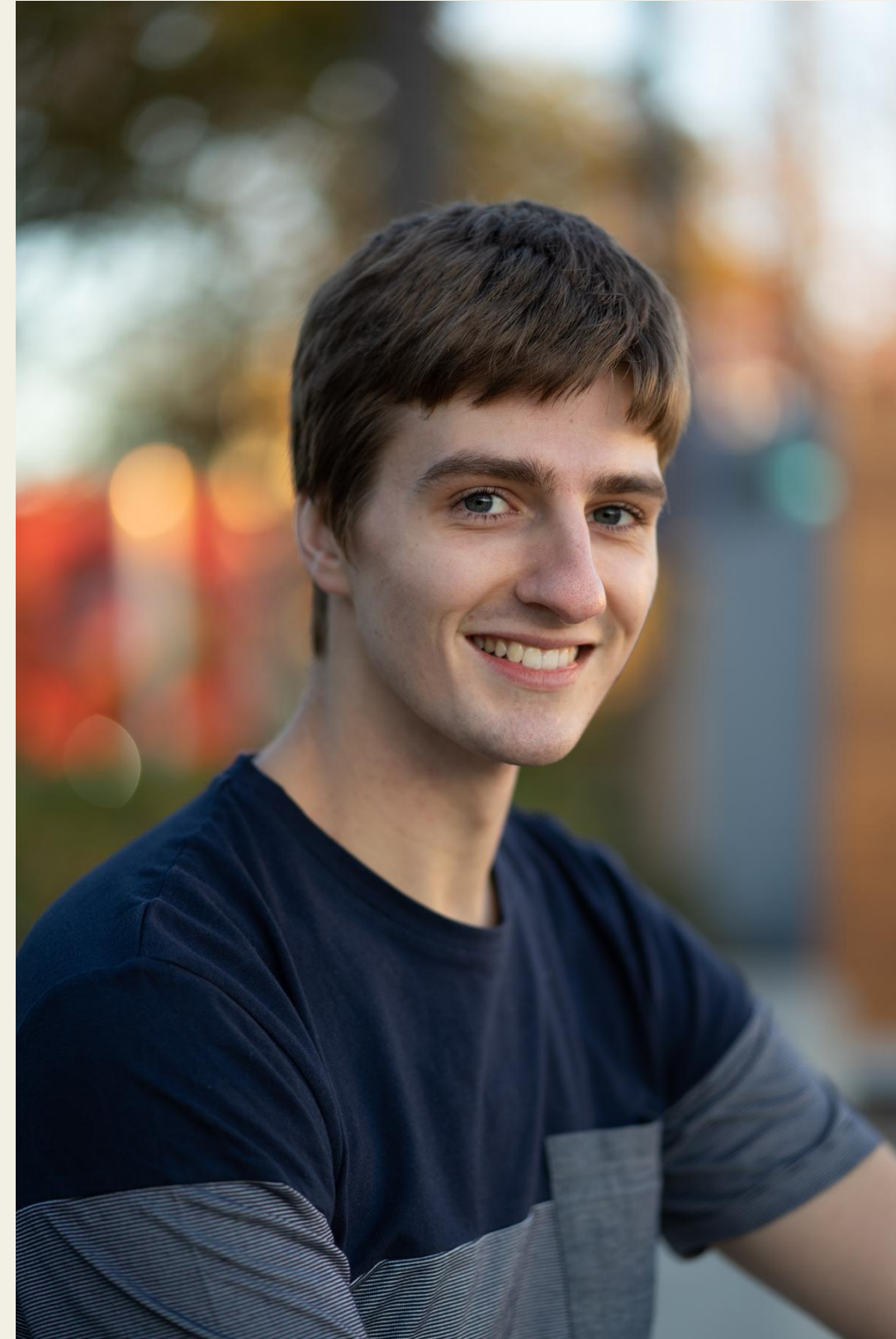
Use Contrasting Backgrounds

Contrasting backgrounds are a great way to add drama and excitement to your image, and are a great way to draw the focus onto your subject. When most people think of contrast, they think of black and white, but while tonal contrast is easier to spot in black and white imagery, there is plenty of tonal contrast in color as well. When composing your images, look for backgrounds that contain varying shades and tones, and use colors that contrast with your subject to offset your subject and add visual interest to your photos.



Blur the Background

One of the best ways to handle a distracting background is to blur it. The easiest way to throw the background out of focus, is to adjust your depth of field by using a wide aperture, and leaving some distance between your subject and the background – the more distance you leave, the more blur there will be. Try starting with an aperture of about f/18 and working your way down, once you reach f/4 you should notice your background starting to blur. Look out for opportunities to use a wide aperture to create background bokeh, a beautiful background element for your compositions.



Use the Background to Tell Your Story

Powerful photos always tell a story. Backgrounds can be an excellent way to enhance your images, and an effective way to help you tell your story. Whether you are outside in a scenic location, at a busy market, or a dimly lit street corner, including the background as part of your composition can help to set the scene and give your viewers a glimpse into the context of your photo.



2020

2. POINTS OF VIEW

23

RPA Summer 2020

In relation to photography, ‘point of view’ refers to the position the camera is in when viewing a scene. Are you laying on the ground, looking up at your subject? Are you flying in a helicopter, looking down at the landscape below? Or are you simply standing and looking straight-on at your subject? Whether you’re looking up, down, or straight-on changes the scene dramatically, and changes the way that the viewer interprets the final photograph. Subjects can be dramatically distorted simply by where you place your camera. A blade of grass can look like a skyscraper, and a skyscraper can look like a tiny little house. It all depends on your point of view!

BIRD EYE

This could be taken from up in the sky, such as when flying in a plane, or could simply be taken by standing on a ladder, slightly above your subject.

BECOMING THE SUBJECT

From the point of view of the person interacting with the subject.



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EYE LEVEL

Eye level angle are commonly used.

The camera is held by the photographer and shoot at the same high level with the eyes of the subject we are going to photograph

WORM'S-EYE VIEW

Photographing from below is sometimes referred to as “worm’s-eye view”, as if you were a worm looking up at the world around you. As you can imagine, this makes all subjects look very large, even if they are very small in reality.

BIRD EYE



BECOMING THE
SUBJECT



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EYE LEVEL



WORM’S-EYE VIEW

