

I Know There's a Picture in There Somewhere!

Photo Composition 101

Janet Caughlin
www.workshopbooks.com
Janet_Caughlin@mac.com

What is Good Composition?

- Directs & holds attention to the picture
- Graphic elements convey only one idea
- Aesthetically pleasing arrangement
- Lead the viewer to
 - Main idea
 - A mood or feeling
 - Share their viewpoint

What about students?

Enjoy taking pictures, some will become great, most will have a lifetime hobby
Want to improve - take pictures, read about photography, view pictures

Subject Placement - What are the guidelines?

One Main Subject

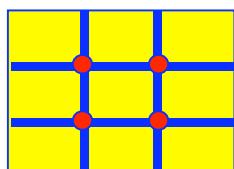
Can be complimented with secondary, less important subjects that may clarify the picture

Avoid the "Bulls-eye" Syndrome - Can center if...

- Single person in front of a plain background, especially if looking at camera
- Single person outdoors without attention creating elements
- Single building
- Piece of art



Tic-Tac-Toe Rule of Thirds



Horizon is not in the middle!

- Decide which is more important & attractive
 - Something at the top
 - Something at the bottom
 - Make that part bigger
- Water Will Run Out of the Lake - Keep the horizon level



Subject should stand out

A different color or direction can be very distracting

Include a frame



The magic hours: early morning, late afternoon

Action shots

Decide where you want to take the shot - Finish line, Spot where the animal will appear
Press shutter half-way down & wait

Lines Are Important

Lines can lead the eye
Vertical lines: Active; Feeling of motion; Dynamic,
especially if repetition of lines
Horizontal lines: Restful; Peace & quiet; Especially if
repetition, cover a large portion of picture



Where is it going?

Leave space in front of a moving subject (so it can go there)

Leave space in the direction a subject is facing

Uneven numbers are better

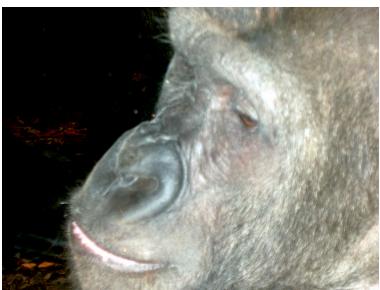


Repetition



Notes:

Closer is Better



Different Angles

Look down
Climb up
Walk to your subject
Lay on the floor

Funny Pictures

Check the area for distractions

Try new things