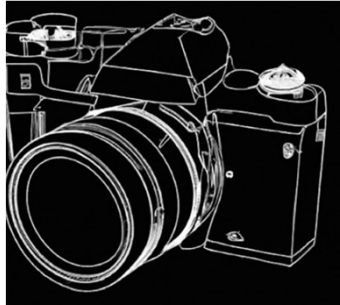


How to Become a Great Photographer (PART 2 of a 3-part series)



by Clem Wehner

Part 2- Mastering Composition



Now Showing

- Professional Composition Techniques**
- How to Apply Techniques**

**With a little knowledge
you can take great photos
with any camera!**



"It's what's in your head, not what's in your hand."





Tip

Get down on your subject's level.

Don't shoot down on people and animals

not this

photo by Clem Wehner



this

photo by Clem Wehner



Move yourself down to their level

not this

photo by Clem Wehner



this

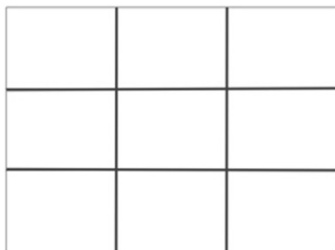
photo by Clem Wehner



Tip

Use “Thirds”

1. Divide image (in viewfinder) into thirds each way.
2. Place center of interest at an intersection of lines.



Position the subject using Thirds

OK

photo by John Powers



better

photo by John Powers



Using Thirds

OK



better



Using Thirds

Both good

photo by Clem Wehner



photo by John Powers



Not Thirds, but still good

photo by John Powers



photo by Clem Wehner

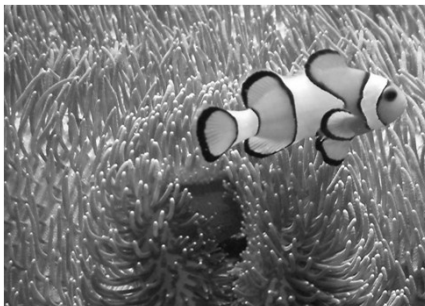


Tip

Plan placement of subject
Leave room in front of moving subjects

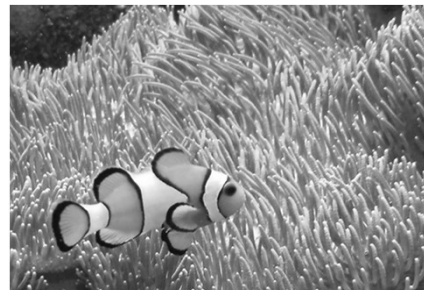
not this

photo by Clem Wehner



this

photo by Clem Wehner



Give the subject room to move

not this



this



Leave space in front of moving subject

not this



this



If it's supposed to move, leave room

not this



this



Tip

Watch for distractions

Avoid branches, objects thru image, etc.

not these



this

photos by Clem Wehner

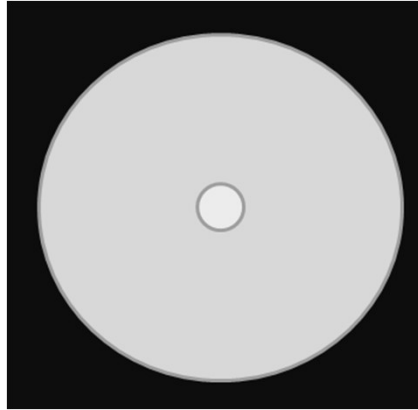


WHY DID THE PHOTOGRAPHER NOT SEE THIS ?



CLEAR FIELD OF VIEW

The eye can only focus on the very center of the field of view



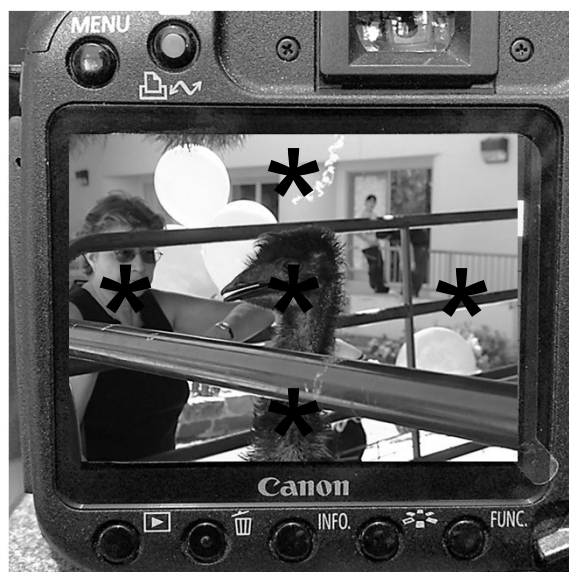


MOVE your eyes to see other parts of the scene





MOVE YOUR EYES TO CHECK ALL AREAS OF SCENE



Crop to eliminate distractions

Zooming in often helps

not this

photo by Clem Wehner



this

photo by Clem Wehner



ZOOM IN TO ELIMINATE CLUTTER

SNAPSHOT



PORTRAIT



Generally, the subject should fill about 60% of the scene

Zoom in to emphasize the subject.

photo by John Powers



photo by John Powers



Tip

Compose to give a sense of scale

Put something in the foreground or zoom out

ok

photo by John Powers



much better

photo by John Powers



Compose to give a sense of scale



Tip

Compose to Show Depth

Use foreground objects

good



much better



Photos by John Powers

Use foreground objects to show depth

photo by Clem Wehner



Use wide angle and get close to show depth



Use perspective to show depth



Tip

Try vertical and horizontal compositions

photo by John Powers



photo by John Powers



Try vertical and horizontal compositions

photo by Clem Wehner



photo by Clem Wehner



Try vertical and horizontal compositions

photo by Clem Wehner



photo by Clem Wehner

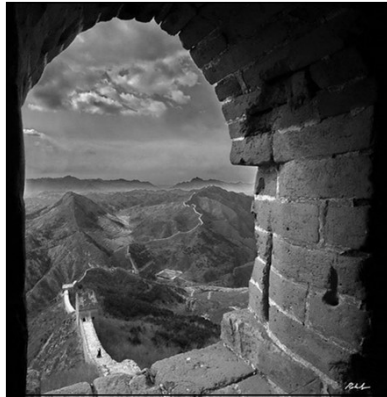


Tip

USING **FRAMING** **IN PHOTO**
COMPOSITION

Framing in composition

Use objects in the photo to “frame” the main subject



Framing in composition



Framing in composition



Tip

The Horizon

Put it off center



Don't put the horizon in center

not this

photo by John Powers



this

photo by John Powers



Put the horizon off center

not this
Centered



Upper third

these



Lower third

Tip

Try some UNUSUAL ANGLES for added interest

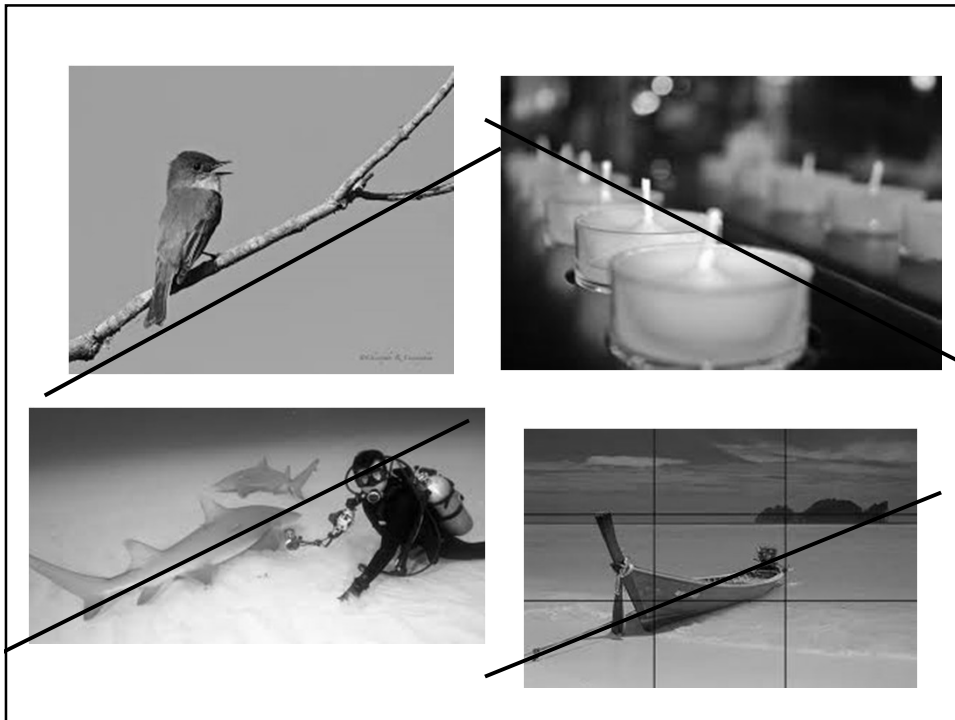
photo by Fran Wehner



Tip

DIAGONAL COMPOSITION





Some scenes have a *Natural Diagonal* composition





Straight on

Diagonal





Straight on

Diagonal



Straight on

Diagonal





Straight on

Diagonal



To compose a “diagonal” presentation:

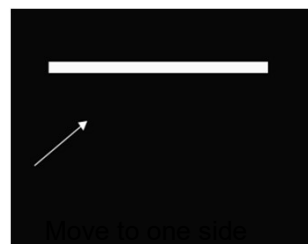
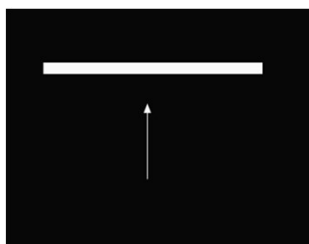


**Move to one side of the subject
Don't tilt the camera!**

Tilting the camera only makes a tilted subject



Creating a Diagonal Composition



To create a diagonal composition:

1. Move to one side
2. Shoot at an angle to the subject



Tip

HOW TO USE
S- CURVES

IN COMPOSING PHOTOGRAPHS

**An S-Curve is an imaginary line
in a *photo* in the shape of an S**





- S-curves are soothing
- The eye enjoys following "S" curves
- They add grace and balance
- They create dynamic images
- They give a sense of rhythm and movement









Using S-curves in portraits

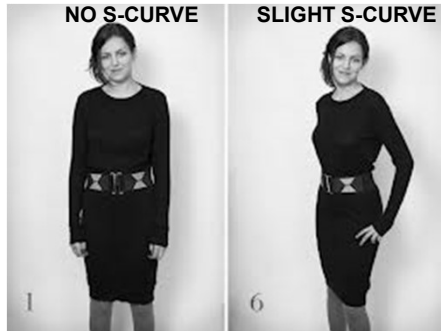
Understanding the use of S-curves is ESSENTIAL in portraits of women



Without S-curves you get unflattering images

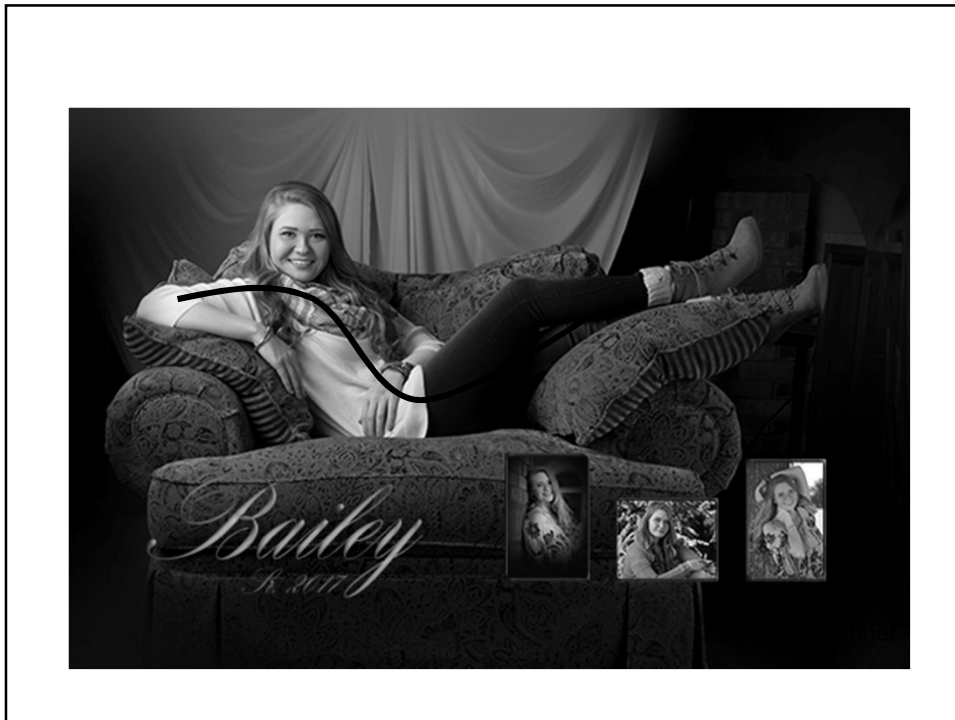
NO S-CURVE

SLIGHT S-CURVE

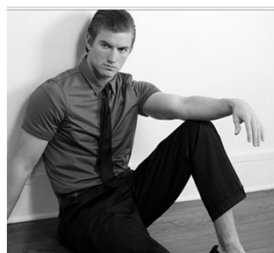


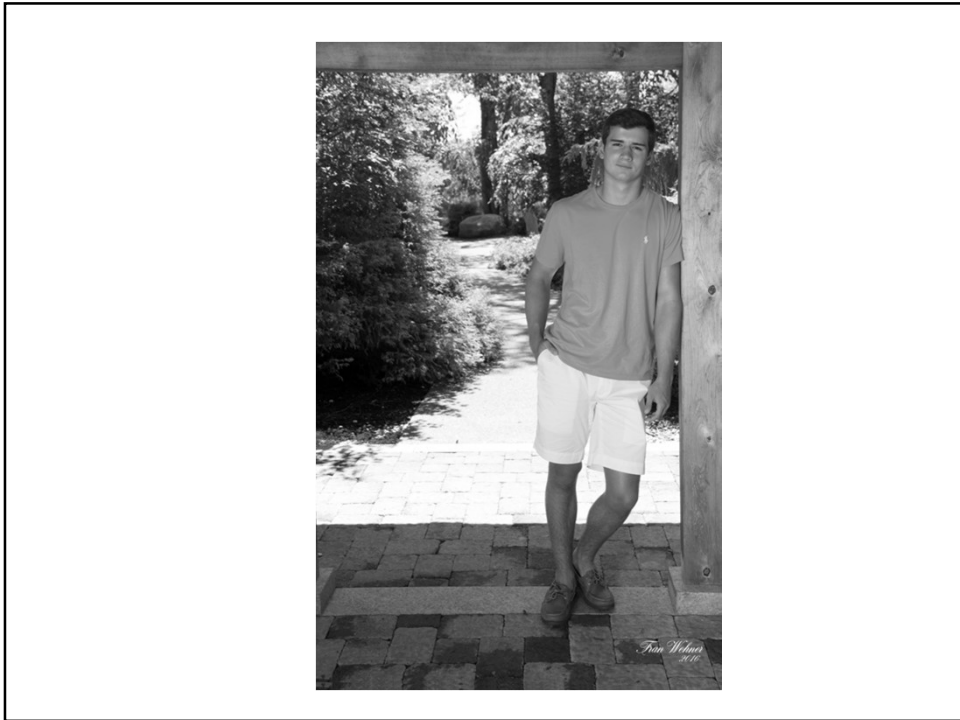






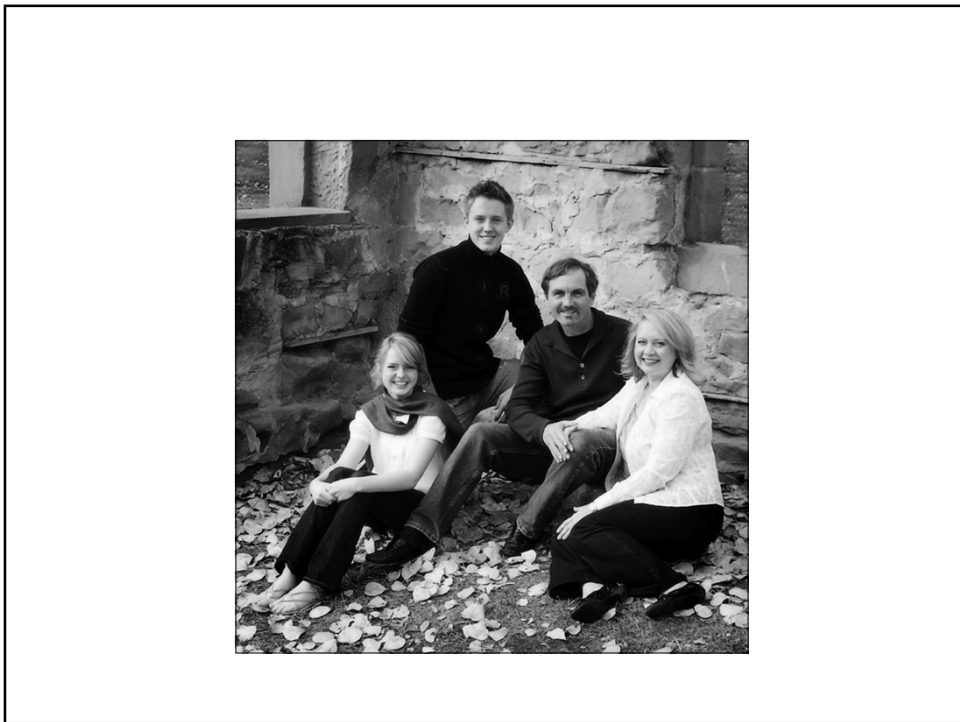
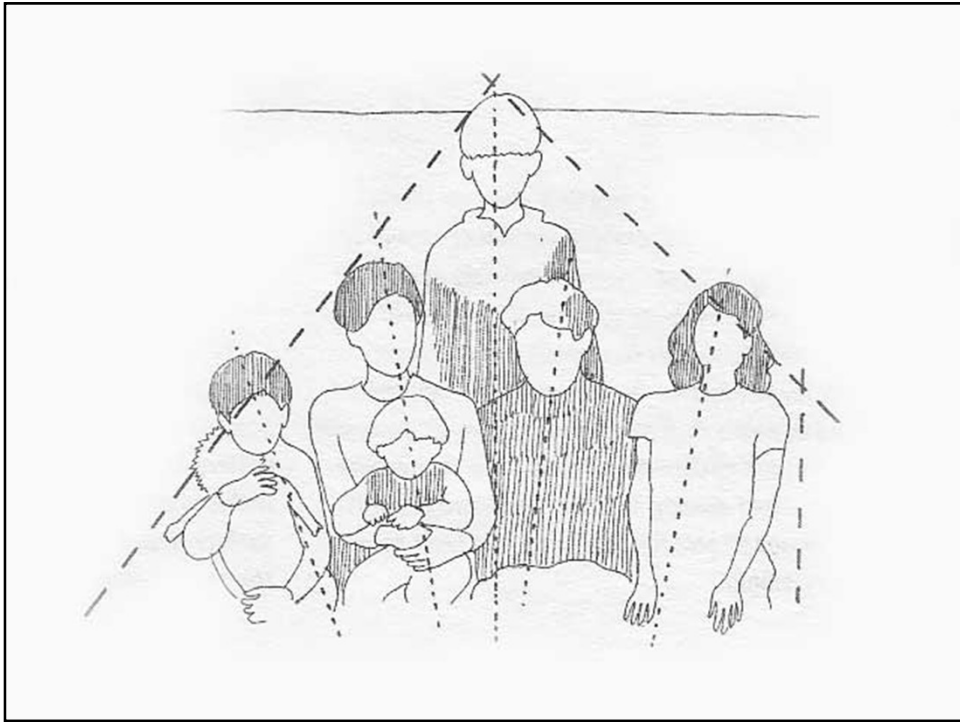
Men are NOT posed in S-curves

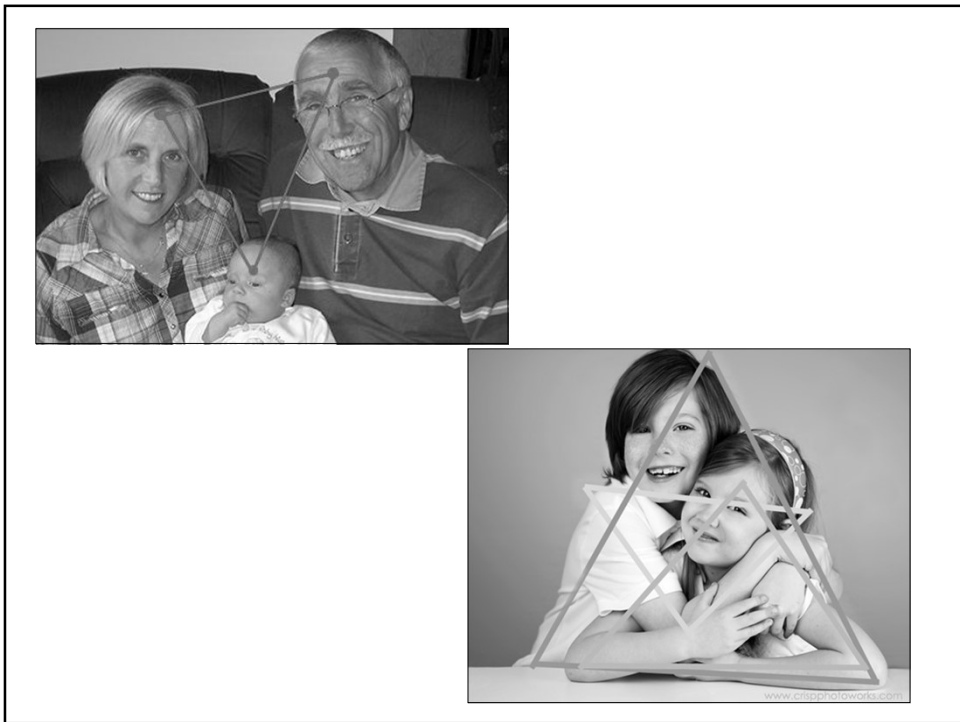


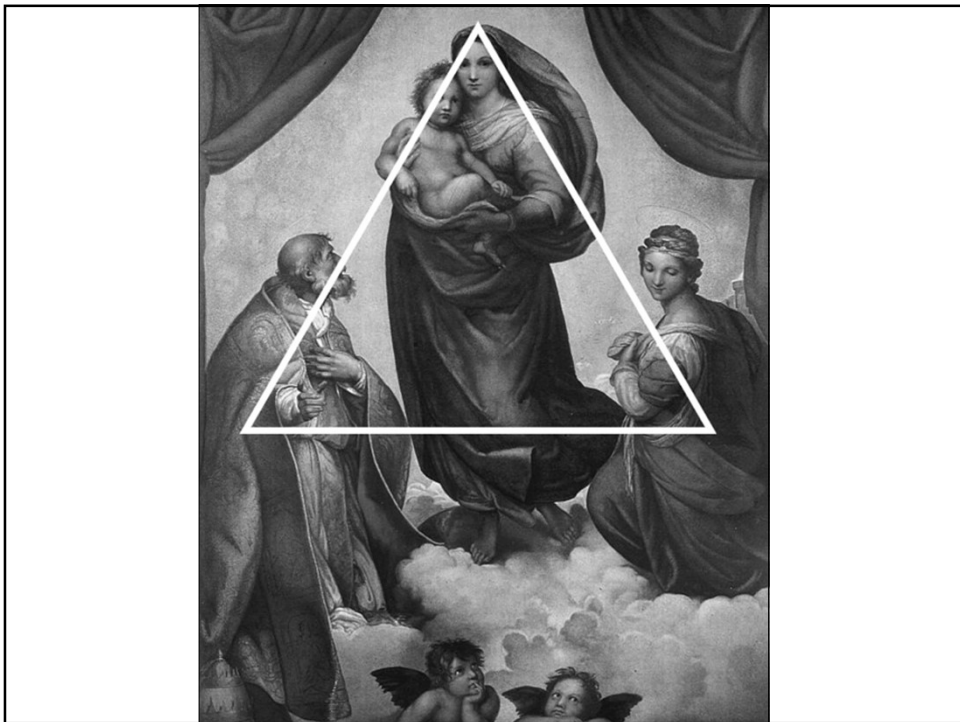


Tip

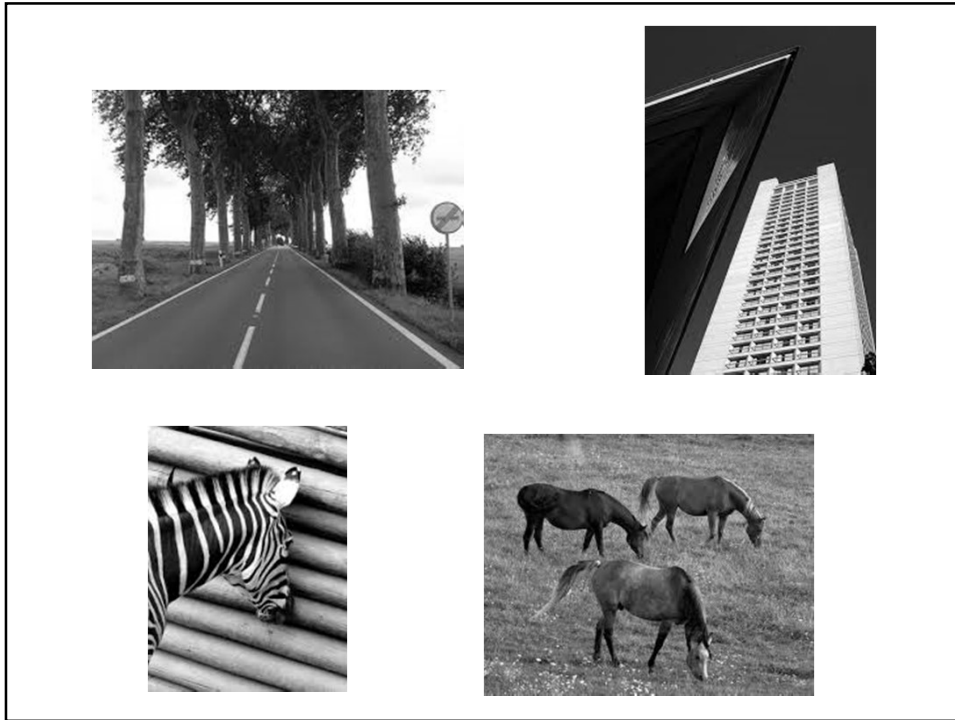
HOW
TO USE
TRIANGLES
IN COMPOSING
YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS











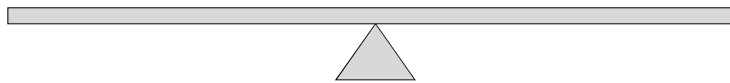




by Debbie Duggar

Tip

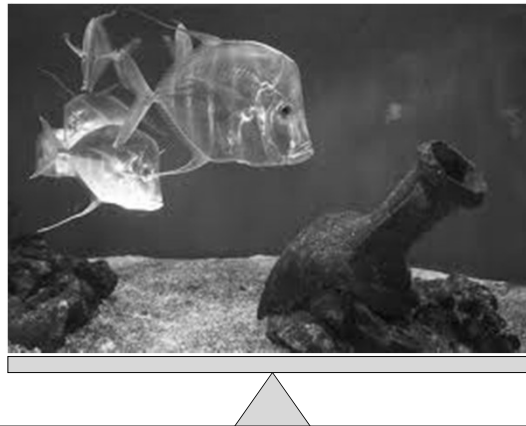
B A L A N C E



IN PHOTO COMPOSITION

BALANCE:

Composing the image so that similar weight is on each side.



UNBALANCED



Using “Thirds” can make an image more interesting, but can create a void on one side



UNBALANCED



To keep balance, compensate for each element with a counter-weight



Counterweights can be different subjects, colors, or levels of contrast.



BALANCED OR UNBALANCED?



BALANCED OR UNBALANCED?



BALANCED OR UNBALANCED?



BALANCED OR UNBALANCED?



BALANCED OR UNBALANCED?



Learn with practice!

- Get on subject's level
- Use "thirds"
- Leave room to move
- Eliminate distractions
- Zoom in closer to subject
- Give a sense of scale
- Compose to show depth
- Vertical & horizontal
- Framing
- Placement of horizon
- Unusual angles
- Diagonal composition
- S-curves
- Triangles
- Balance the images

Part 3- Improving and Perfecting Images



Coming soon

- What Makes Images Great
- Objectively Evaluating Your Images
- Making Creative Improvements

"That's all folks"

Porky Pig (1935)

