

Learning to “See”



by Clem Wehner

- **Developing your “eye”**
- **Seeing what others miss**
- **Recognizing opportunities**

Why can some people get really great pictures of ordinary things?



***Look at the ordinary
and
See the extra-ordinary!***



Dewitt Jones

Extra-ordinary Images of the Ordinary



Dave McGowen



Nils Axelsen



Marilyn Rumsey



Fran Wehner

HOW

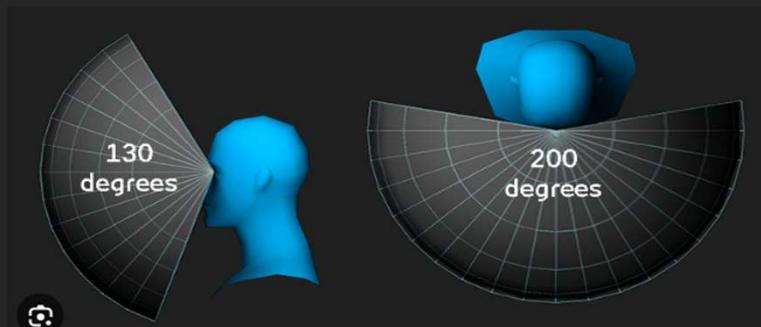
How to SEE and take great photos

1. Observe in cropped-down view

2. Look carefully at the detail
3. Know what kinds of things make good subjects
4. Decide what you want to photograph
5. Consider possibilities for improvement
6. Compose using techniques of good composition
7. Take the shot
8. Evaluate your image, improve it, and redo if needed

Humans see in wide angle

- About 200-degree wide FOV
- Too broad a view, too much info
- Tends to keep us from seeing the possibilities



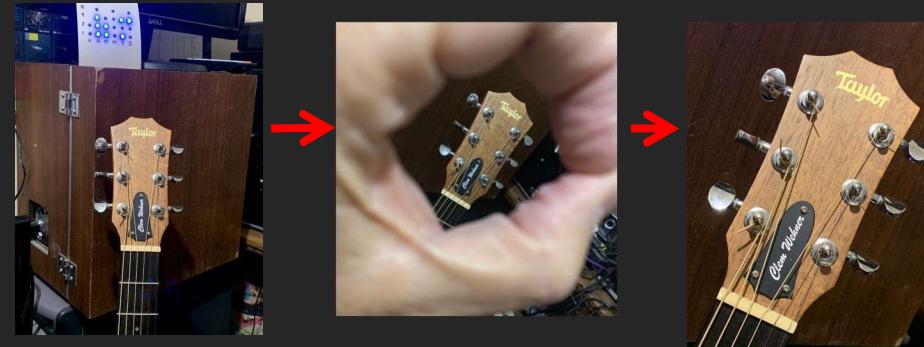
Learn to look at things “cropped down”.
“Zoom in” with your eyes



Cropping Tool



Look at subjects using a “cropped down” view.



Try it!



How to SEE and take great photos

1. Observe in cropped-down view

1a. Understand limitations of human eyes

2. Look carefully at the detail

3. Know what kinds of things make good subjects

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PROBLEMS WITH HUMAN VISION

1. Central Focus

2. Focus Time

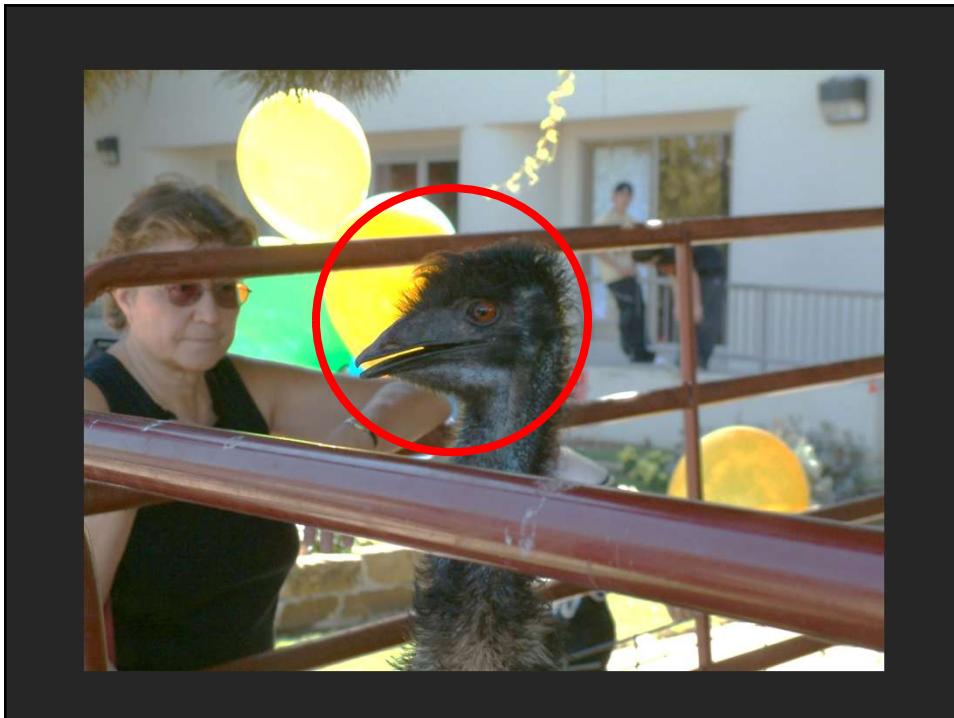
PROBLEM: Central Focus

The human eye can only focus on the **center** of the field of view



Try it!









Slow down

Look all around

Look around in here



Before pressing the shutter

PROBLEM: FOCUS TIME

$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 second

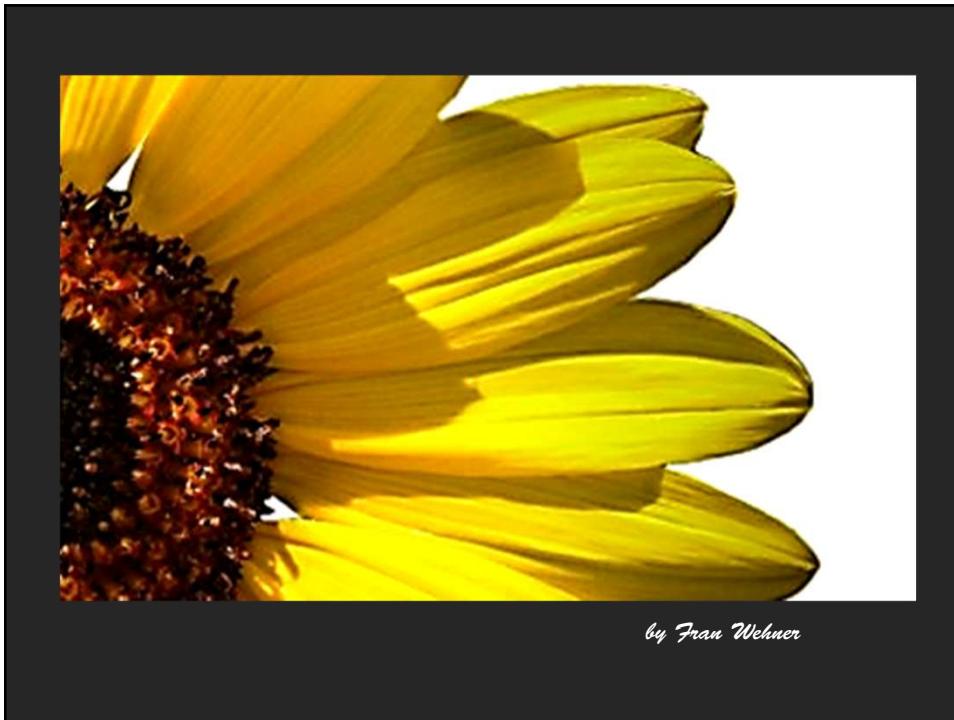


**To see it clearly,
you have to look right at it**

**Your eyes must be
stopped and not moving**

How to take great photos

1. Observe in a cropped down view
- 2. Look carefully at the detail**
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- A flower
- Shapes
- Shadows
- Highlights
- Gradients
- Colors
- Tones
- Angles
- Patterns
- Textures
- White space



MORE?



A PHOTOGRAPHER'S EYE



- Sees cropped down
- Sees detail

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S BRAIN



Knows what makes a good subject

How to take great photos

1. Observe in cropped-down view
2. Look carefully at the detail
- 3. Know what things make good subjects**
4. Decide what you want to photograph
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What to look for:

- Repeating patterns
- Unusual patterns
- Things people don't often look at
- Symmetry
- Contradictions
- Small parts of ordinary things
- Shadows
- After the rain
- Late-day lighting
- Unusual shapes
- Unusual lighting
- Old things
- Very young things

Photo opportunities!



Photo opportunities!

- Low angle views
- Colorful things
- Humorous scenes
- People photographed from unusual angles
- Things you might walk on
- Things that are close
- Close-up images
- Animals faces
- Animals faces that mimic human expression
- Close-ups of animal faces
- Parts of people
- Unusual angles
- One-of-a-kind things

Photo opportunities!

- Things on a diagonal
- Animals around other animals
- Things that show depth
- Pairs of things
- Gentle things
- Beautiful things
- Strange things
- Images that stir emotions
- Images that tell a story
- Silhouettes
- Things light is shining through
- Interesting shadows
- Things people identify with
- Fleeting moments

Some Examples
**of what some photographers have done
 to turn the ordinary into extra-ordinary!**



Look for:
Repeating patterns



by Dawn Muncy



by Anita Freeman



by Lee Alexander



Unusual patterns



by Dawn Muncy



by Dawn Muncy



by Clark Smith



by Clem Wehner

Repeating elements



by Michi White



by Debbie Duggar



by Lee Alexander



by Debbie Dugger

Things people don't often look at



by Dawn Muncy



by Dawn Muncy

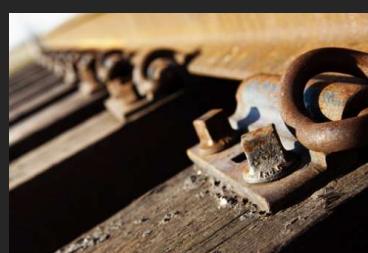


by Fran Wehner



by Dawn Muncy

Unusual angles



by Dawn Muncy



by Fran Wehner



by Dawn Muncy



by Chris Wehner

Symmetry or duplicates



by Clem Wehner



by John Powers



by Clem Wehner

Contradictions



Small parts of ordinary things



by John Powers



by Dawn Muncy



by Dawn Muncy



by John Powers

Scenes that stir emotions



Humorous scenes



Animal faces



by John Powers



by Clem Wehner



by Dave McGowan



by John Powers



by John Powers

Pairs of things



by Linda Moon



by Kathy Thalman



by Anita Freeman



by Debbie Duggan



Parts of people



Close-up images



by Dawn Muncy



by Clem Wehner



by Clem Wehner



by Michi White

Scenes that tell a story



by Fran Wehner



by Dave McGowen



Water Taxi

Things on a diagonal



by Clem Wehner



by Clem Wehner



by Clem Wehner

Interesting shadows



by Dawn Muncy



by Debra Gauthier



by Mandy Lundy



by Clem Wehner

Gentle things



by *Rebecca Boudin*

Animals around other animals



by *Michi White*



by *John Gill*

Reflections



by Waylen Knapp



by Fran Wehner



by Bill Matthey

Colorful things



by Marilyn Rumsey



by Dave McGowen



by Marilyn Rumsey



Silhouettes



by Jodie Gisinger



by John Powers



by Kathy Gray

Things in motion



by Kenny Seals



by Clem Wehner



by Michi White

Things with Depth



by Kathy Thalman



by Benton Nickles



by Ray Miller

Unusual things in nature



by Chris Wehner



by Jimmie Monk



by Rex Walker

Beautiful things



by *Kathy Odiorne*



by *John Powers* 



by *Randy Van Duinen*



by *Dawn Muncy*

MORE POSSIBILITIES

- Strange things
- Things light is shining through
- Parallel things
- Fleeting moments
- Things you might walk on
- One-of-a-kind things
- After the rain
- Late-day lighting
- Unusual shapes
- Unusual lighting
- Old things
- Very young things
- S-curves

How to take great photos

1. Observe in cropped-down view
2. Study the detail
3. Know what things make good subjects

4. Decide what you want to photograph

5. Consider possibilities for improvement

6. Compose the scene, and take the shot
7. Evaluate it, improve it, and reshoot it

Summary

- 1. Look all around the scene**
- 2. Crop down your view**
- 3. Stop, focus, study detail**
- 4. Recognize opportunities**
- 5. Explore the possibilities**

Homework Assignment -1

“Looking” exercise

- Look around your world**
- Focus on specific things**
- Study the detail**
- Repeat**

Homework Assignment -2

“Seeing” exercise

- Pick an opportunity (see list)**
- Look around to find examples**
- Repeat**

- Start with “Parallel Things”**

Parallel Things



That's how you learn to SEE
and become a great photographer!



