

# **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

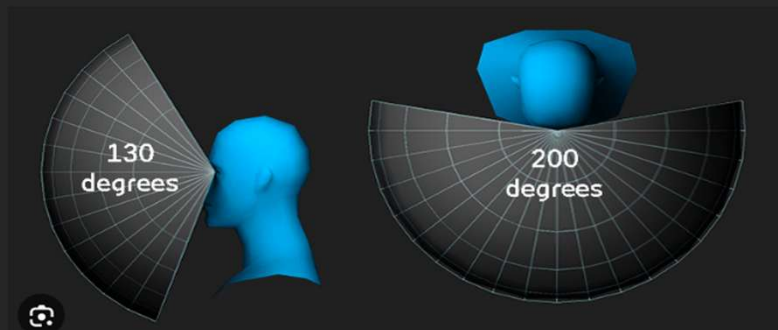
## How to SEE and take great photos

### 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”.

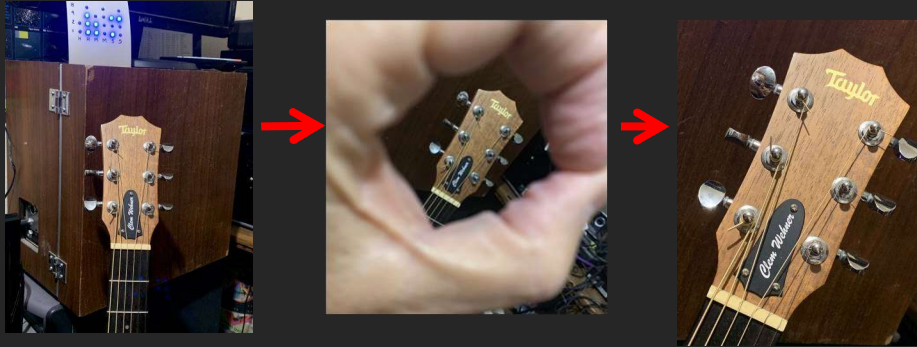
“Zoom in” with your eyes



## 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**

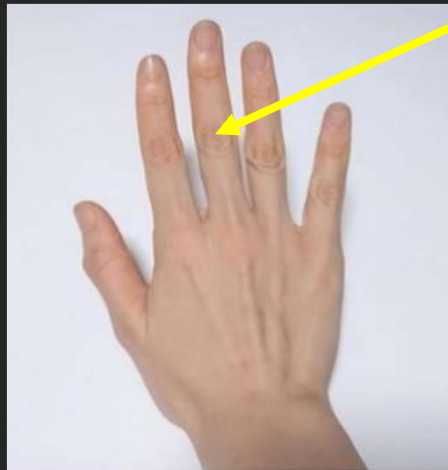
### **2. Focus Time**

## PROBLEM: Central Focus

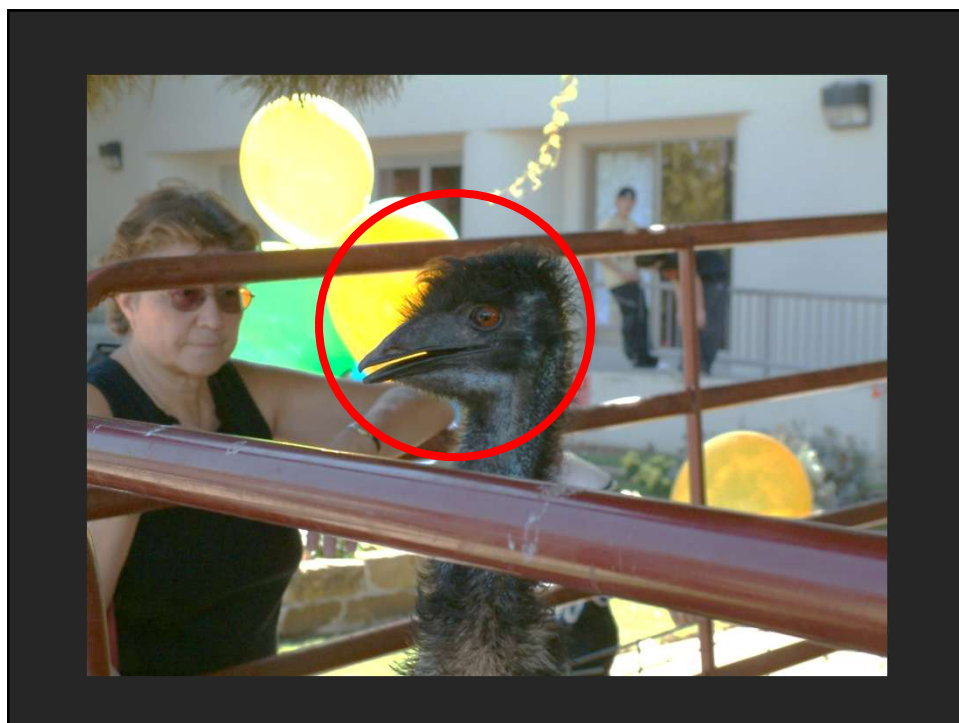
The human eye can only focus on the **center** of the field of view



## Try it!



Look here







**Slow down**

**Look all around**



## 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**

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*by Fran Wehner*

- 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 Duggan*



*by Lee Alexander*



*by Debbie Duggan*

## 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



A good day and a bad day



## Small parts of ordinary things



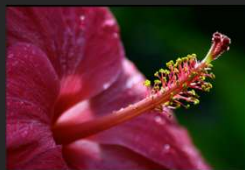
*by John Powers*



*by Dawn Muncy*



*by Dawn Muncy*

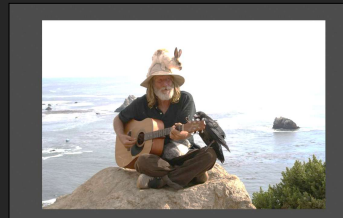


*by John Powers*

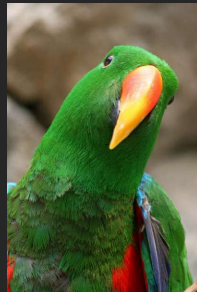
## Scenes that stir emotions



## Humorous scenes



## Animal faces



*by John Powers*



*by Clem Wehner*



*by Dave McGowen*



*by John Powers*



*John Powers*

## Pairs of things



by Linda Moon



by Kathy Thalman



by Anita Freeman



by Debbie Duggar



## Parts of people



## Close-up images



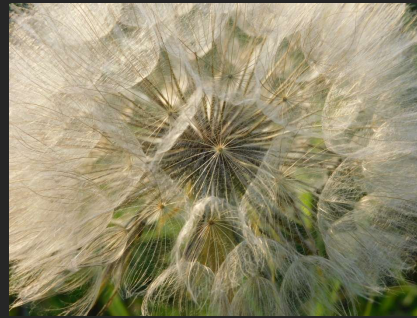
*by Dawn Muncy*



*by Clem Wehner*



*by Clem Wehner*



*by Michi White*

## Scenes that tell a story



*by Fran Wehner*

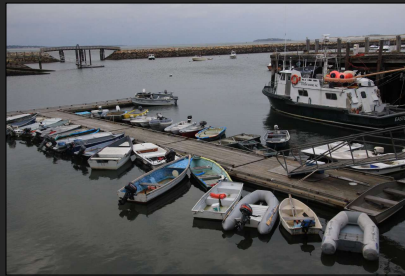


*by Dave McGowen*



*Water Taxi*

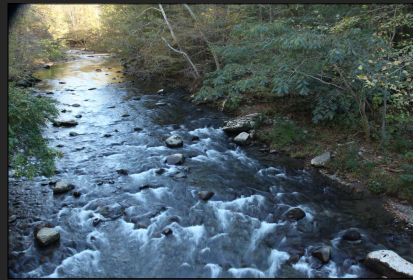
## Things on a diagonal



*by Clem Wehner*



*by Clem Wehner*



*by Clem Wehner*

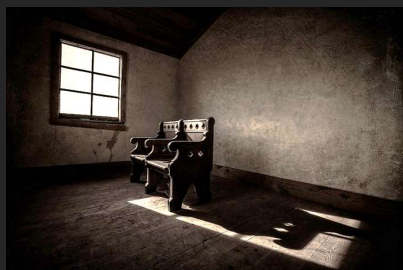
## Interesting shadows



*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 Ramsey*



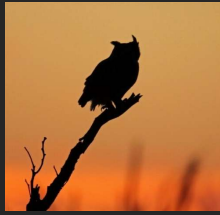
*by Dave McGowan*



*by Marilyn Ramsey*



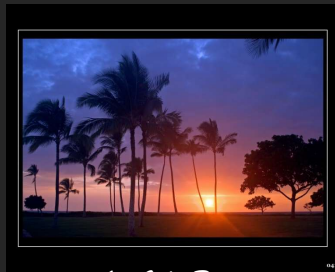
## Silhouettes



by Cindy McIntyre



by Jodie Gisinger



by John Powers



by Kathy Gray

## Things in motion



Kenny Seals

by Kenny Seals



by Clem Wehner



by Michi White

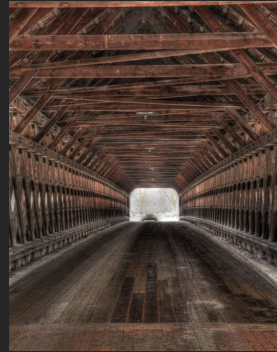
## Things with Depth



*by Kathy Thalman*



*by Benton Nickles*



*by Ray Miller*

## Unusual things in nature



*by Chris Wehner*



*by Jimmie Monk*

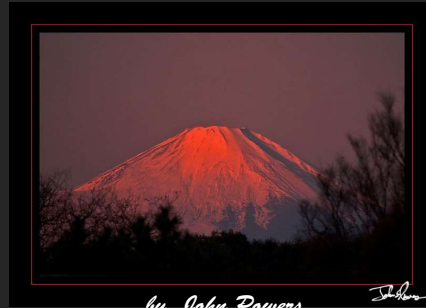


*by Rex Walker*

## Beautiful things



*by Kathy Odiorne*



*by John Powers*



*by Randy Van Duin*



*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”



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



