

KYOTO

GRAPHIE

international

photography festival

Introduction to Photography
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017

Photography 4 key concepts

1. Composition
2. Perspective
3. Elements of Art
4. Subject matter



Composition

1. Understand

Composition: the arrangement of objects and elements in an artwork.

Photographers often use the rule of thirds to create balance.



Rule of thirds: a guiding principle for composing an artwork, whereby the image is divided horizontally and vertically into thirds creating nine equal portions that guide the placement of subject matter

Composition

2. Observe & analyse

Divide the images into thirds, horizontally and vertically. See how the main subject is lined up on the intersections or in spaces.

- Are your eyes drawn to a particular section of the image?
- How are the photographs similar or different in composition?
- Why do you think each artist has chosen this composition?

Composition

3. Create

- Choose an object or a person as your subject.
- Take 5 pictures using the rule of thirds and in each photo place the object or person in a different section of the composition.

Composition

4. Evaluate

Sit with 2 or 3 other people and share the photographs you have taken. Discuss:

- How did you use the rule of thirds as a guide for each photograph?
- Which photograph is the strongest? Why?



Torii on the Cliff, from the
series Headland
© Akiko Takizawa
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



Torii on the Cliff, from the
series Headland
© Akiko Takizawa
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



The golden age of Japanese
photography (1860-1875).
Collection Christian Polak
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013



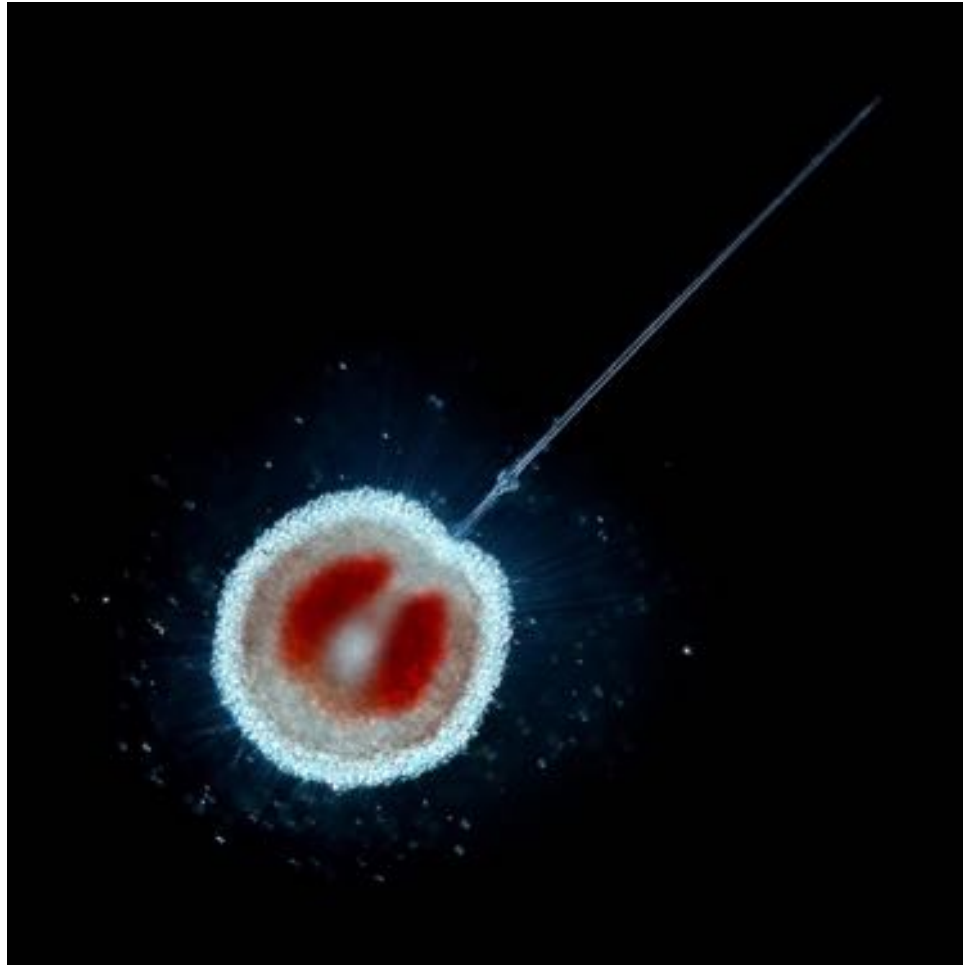
The golden age of Japanese
photography (1860-1875).
Collection Christian Polak
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013



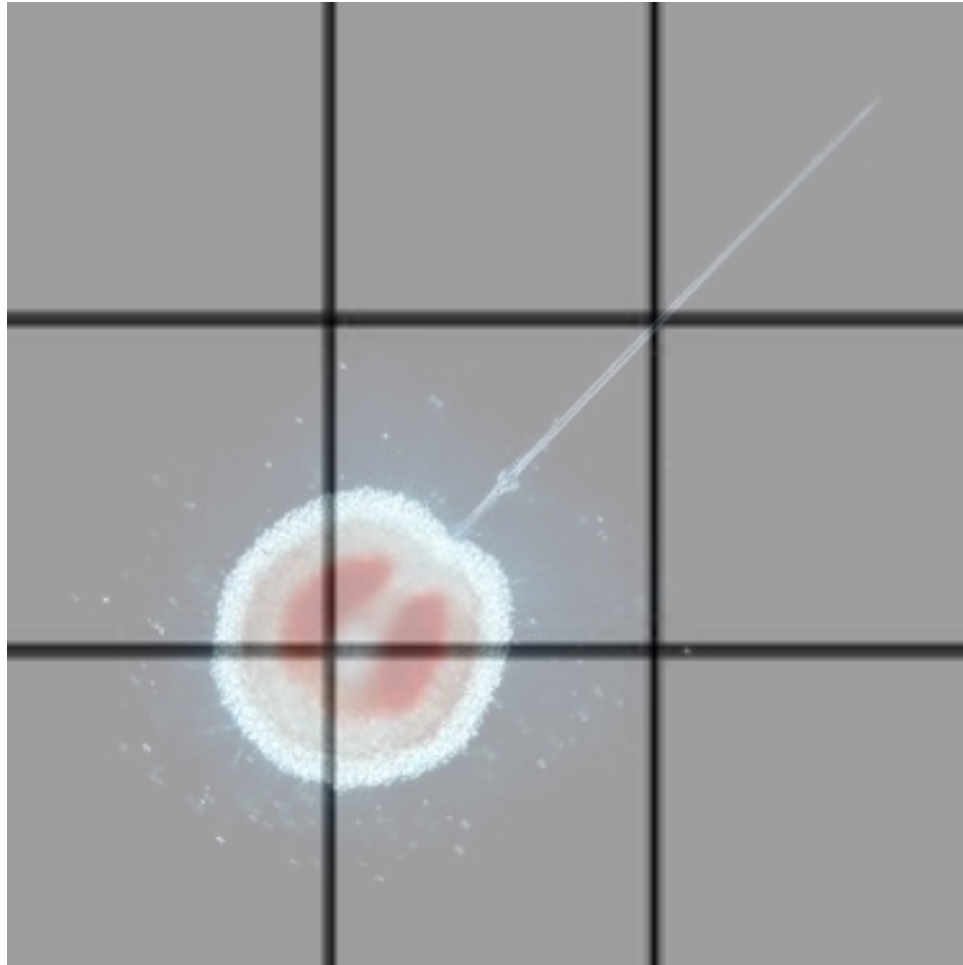
Igor Stravinsky, composer and conductor, New York, 1946 Arnold Newman / Getty Images
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Igor Stravinsky, composer and conductor, New York, 1946 Arnold Newman / Getty Images
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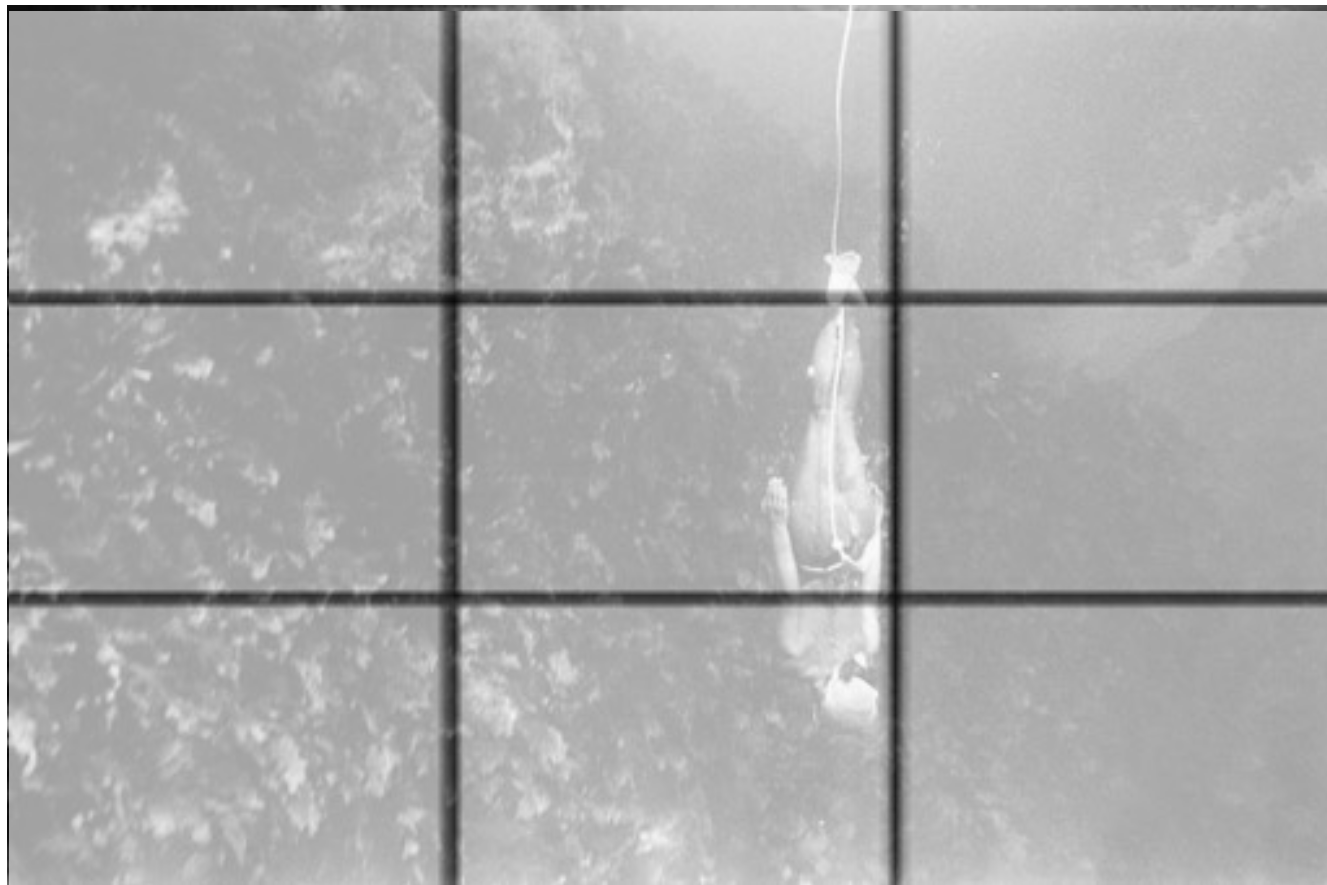
The radiolarian *Spongodiscus biconcavus* from Shimoda bay,
2015 © Christian Sardet and
The Macronauts
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016



The radiolarian *Spongodiscus biconcavus* from Shimoda bay,
2015 © Christian Sardet and
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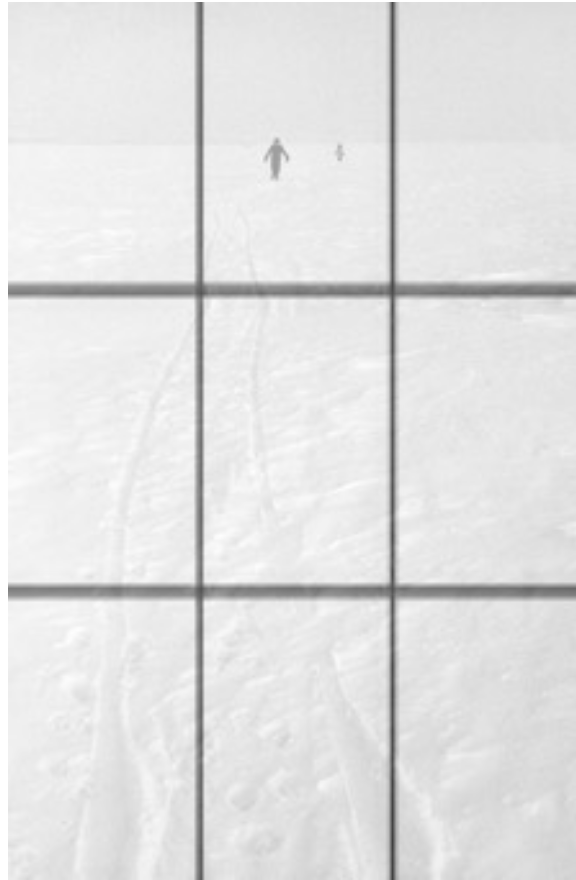
Fosco Maraini, The
Enchantment of the Women of
the Sea, Japan, 1954 ©2015
MCL – Vieusseux – Alinari
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



Fosco Maraini, The
Enchantment of the Women of
the Sea, Japan, 1954 ©2015
MCL – Vieusseux – Alinari
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



Marc Riboud, Alaska 1958
© Marc Riboud
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



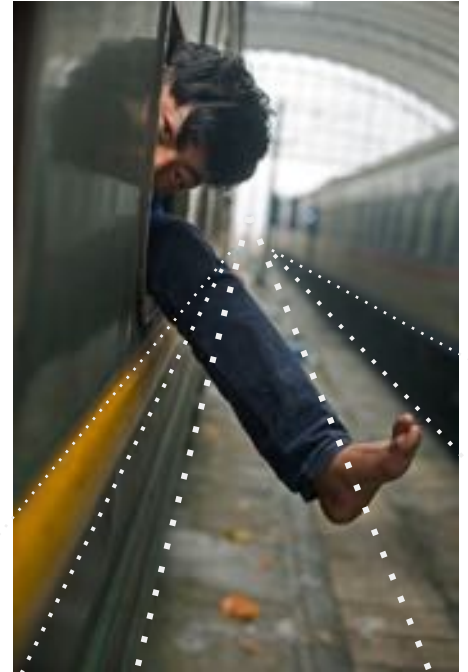
Marc Riboud, Alaska 1958
© Marc Riboud
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015

Perspective

1. Understand

Perspective: how three-dimensional objects and spaces are represented in a two-dimensional art form to achieve the illusion of depth and distance

Artists decide what point-of-view they would like the image to be taken from, considering how they would like to show depth and distance in the image



© Qian Haifeng

Perspective

2. Observe & analyse

Point of view: where is the viewer positioned to look into the image?

- *Birds-eye view*: from above looking down
- *Worms-eye view*: low to the ground, looking across or up
- *Face-to-face* : at eye-level

Perspective

3. Create

Choose an object and photograph it from different perspectives.

- Imagine you are a bird looking down at the object.
- Imagine you are a worm looking at the object.
- Face your object at eye level.

Perspective

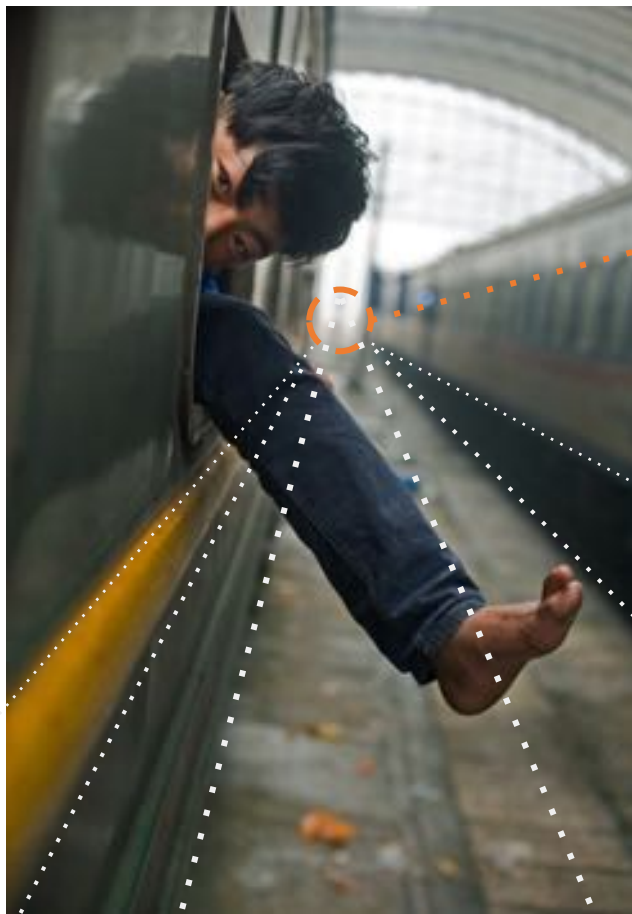
4. Evaluate

Sit with 2 or 3 other people and share the photographs you have taken. Discuss:

- Which do you think is the most interesting perspective? Why?
- How does the perspective change the way we see and understand the object?



Qian Haifeng, 2013 February 27th, from Chengdu
to Shanghai, No. L1018 Spring Festival Travel Rush
Temporary Train, 2013
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016



Vanishing point

1-point perspective:
the depth of the image is drawn from 1
point on the horizon - the vanishing point

Qian Haifeng, 2013 February 27th, from Chengdu
to Shanghai, No. L1018 Spring Festival Travel Rush
Temporary Train, 2013
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Eikoh Hosoe
Kamaitachi 8 (on a fence).
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013



Eikoh Hosoe
Kamaitachi 8 (on a fence).
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013



● Vanishing point



Early morning train in Japan, 1964

© Nicolas Bouvier

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013



Early morning train in Japan, 1964
© Nicolas Bouvier
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013



The Eye of Lovae, # 535 ©
René Groebli, courtesy
Galerie Esther Woerdehoff
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The Eye of Lovae, # 535 ©
René Groebli, courtesy
Galerie Esther Woerdehoff
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Francis Wolff, John Coltrane at his
“Blue Train” session of September
15, 1957. © Mosaic Images LLC.
KYOTOGRAFIE 2015

The **perspective** of this photograph positions the viewer as though they are sitting on the ground, looking up to the man's face



Francis Wolff, John Coltrane at his "Blue Train" session of September 15, 1957. © Mosaic Images LLC. KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



Diorama Map Kyoto 2003 ©
Sohei Nishino
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014

The **perspective** of this photograph positions the viewer above the scene, so we are looking down at the city from birds-eye view.



Diorama Map Kyoto 2003 ©
Sohei Nishino
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014



Emmy and Ben in bed, series
Emmy's World, 2013 ©
Hanne van der Woude
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The **perspective** of this photograph positions the viewer above the scene, so we are looking down at the people from birds-eye view.

Emmy and Ben in bed, series
Emmy's World, 2013 ©
Hanne van der Woude
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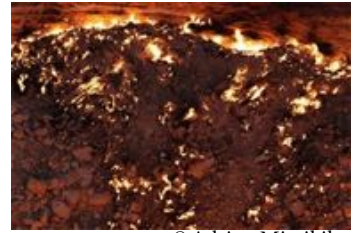
Elements & Principles of Art

1. Understand

Elements of Art: *line, shape, form, colour, tone, texture, space and light* - the 'ingredients' of an artwork.

Principles of Art: *pattern, repetition, balance, contrast, movement, emphasis, rhythm and unity* - achieved by the application of the elements of art.

Aesthetic qualities: *the particular visual qualities achieved through the application of the elements and principles of art and the materials and techniques used by the artist.*



© Adrien Missikika



© Werner Bischof



© Christian Sardet

Elements & Principles of Art

2. Observe & analyse

Observe the types of lines, colours, shapes, textures and patterns you see in the photographs.

- How would you describe these visual qualities (aesthetics) of the photograph?
- How would you describe the quality of light?
- How have the photographers used the elements of art to create a particular visual effect, feeling or mood?

Elements & Principles of Art

4. Evaluate

Sit with 2 or 3 other people and share the photographs you have taken.

Discuss:

- Which photographs are the most interesting?
- Choose 3 photographs that are the most successful and discuss the characteristics that make them the strongest.

Elements & Principles of Art

3. Create

Take 7 photographs, each focused on a different element or principle:

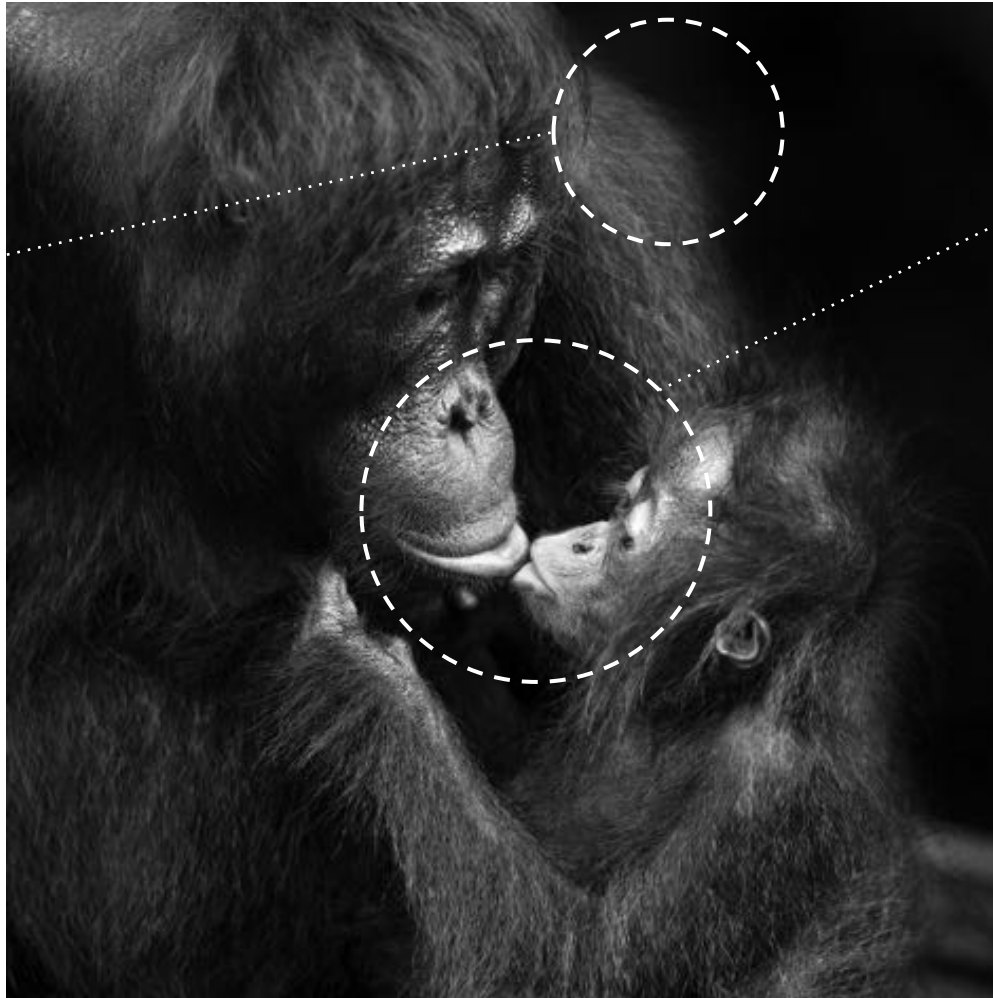
- Line
- Shape
- Colour
- Texture,
- Pattern
- Repetition
- Light

Extension: take additional photos focused on combined elements & principles: eg. repetition & line, pattern & shape, light & texture



Camp Leakey, Borneo, from
the Primates series, 2015
© Isabel Muñoz
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017

The **texture** of the hair against the smooth, solid background brings **emphasis** to the figures



High **contrast** is achieved by the use of **light**, which draws our attention to the centre of the image, creating a clear **focal point**

Camp Leakey, Borneo, from
the Primates series, 2015
© Isabel Muñoz
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Silk Drying 2, Kyoto, Japan 1951
© Werner Bischof / Magnum Photos
KYOTOGRAFIE 2014

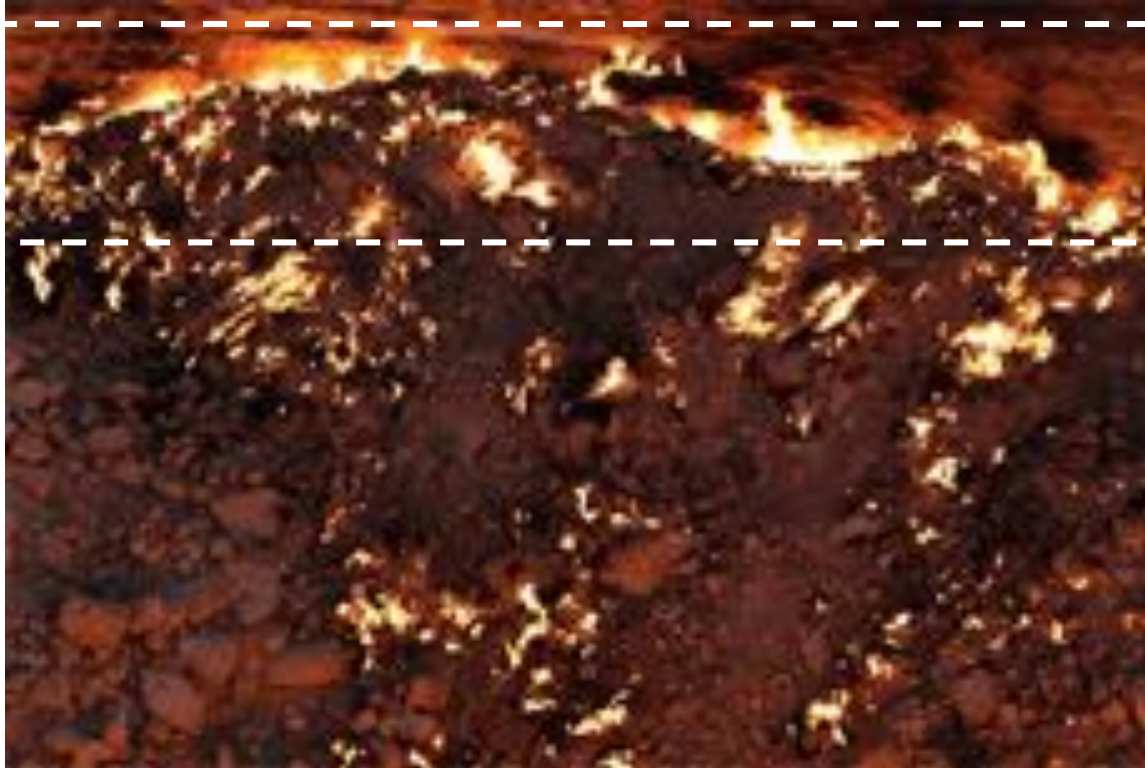
The **repetition** of long, flowing **lines** creates **rhythm** and **movement** in the photograph



Silk Drying 2, Kyoto, Japan 1951
© Werner Bischof / Magnum Photos
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014



Adrien MISSIKA, Darvaza, 2011,
Centre national des arts plastiques
© Adrien Missika / CNAP / photo :
Galerie Bugada & Cargnel
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014



A strong, defined **line**,
like a rugged mountain
range, clearly divides
the **space** within the
photograph

Adrien MISSIKA, Darvaza, 2011,
Centre national des arts plastiques
© Adrien Missika / CNAP / photo :
Galerie Bugada & Cargnel
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014



RongRong & inri , Tsumari
Story, 2014

© RongRong & inri
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015

A strong source of **light** is used to create a distinct **contrast** in **tone**.



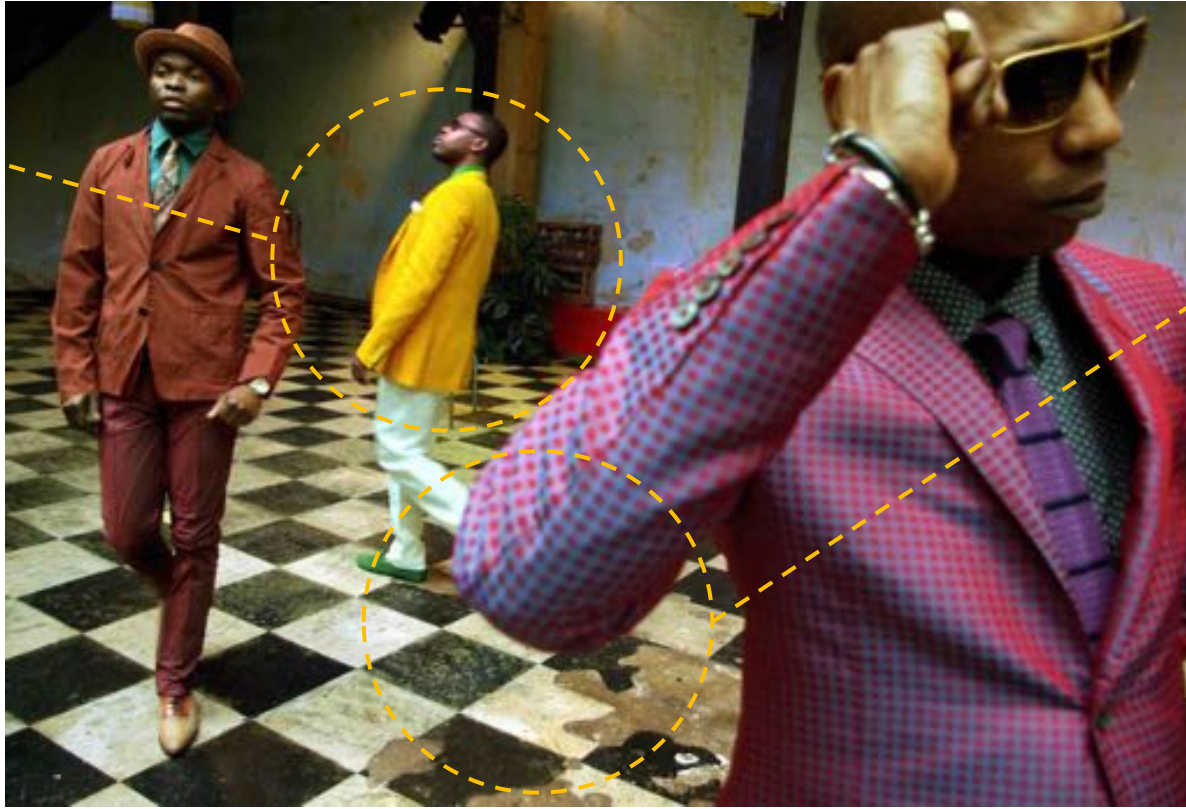
The **repetition** of strong vertical and diagonal **lines** divides the **space** and frames the **focal point** near the centre of the image.

RongRong & inri , Tsumari
Story, 2014
© RongRong & inri
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



Baudouin Mouanda ,
The 'sapeurs' of Bacongo,
2008 © Baudouin Mouanda
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015

The artists choice to use bright **colours** brings **emphasis** to the men amongst the dull **tones** of the setting.



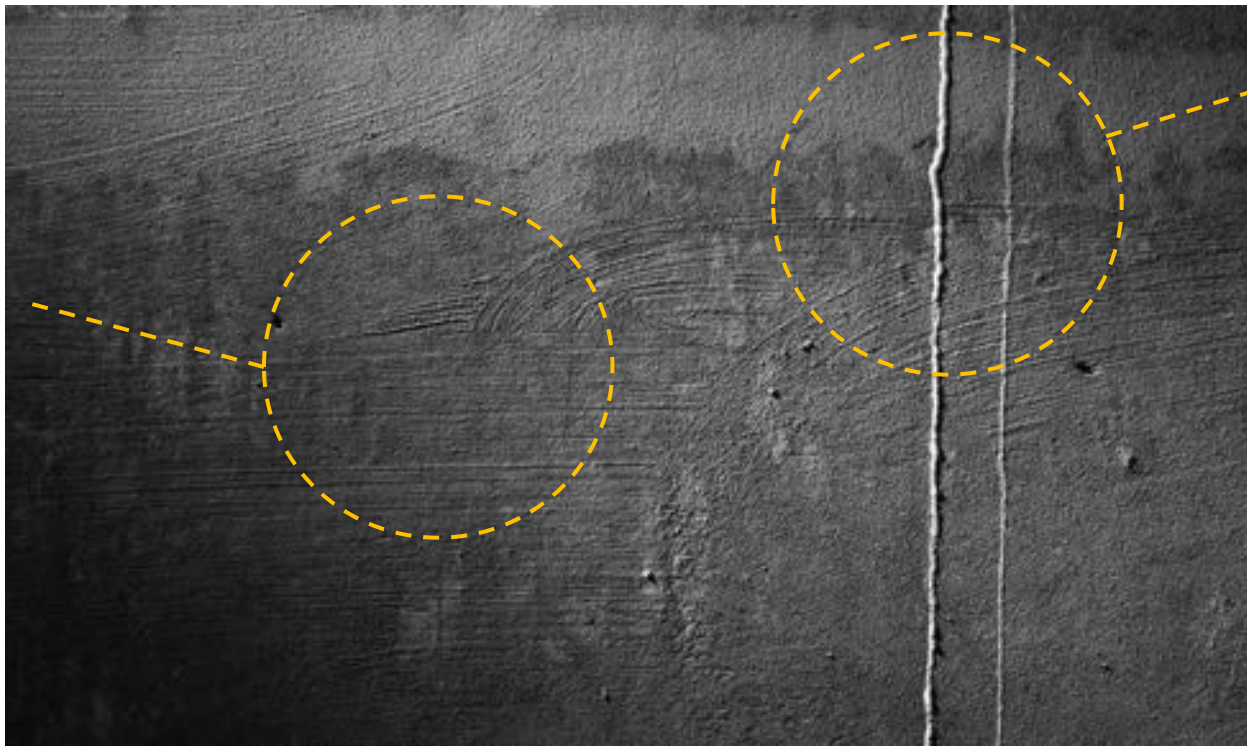
The **patterns** on the clothing and the floor create a sense of energy and **rhythm** in this photograph.

Baudouin Mouanda ,
The 'sapeurs' of Bacongo,
2008 © Baudouin Mouanda
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



Light by Erwin Olaf
presented by Ruinart, 2015
© Erwin Olaf for Ruinart
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The rough **texture** of the cement wall, highlighted by the soft **light**, brings the image to life, making it seem as if we could really feel the gravel surface.



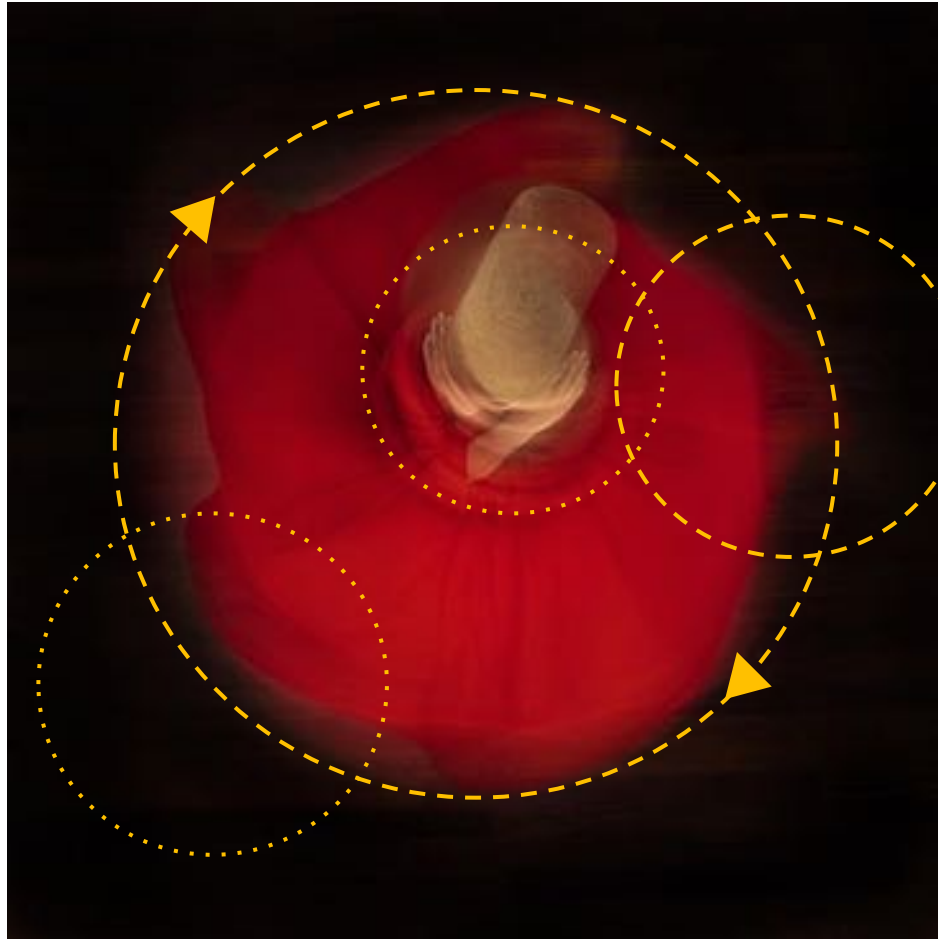
Two distinctive vertical **lines**, a **contrast** of white on dark grey, carve the image into tall rectangular **shapes**.

Light by Erwin Olaf
presented by Ruinar, 2015
© Erwin Olaf for Ruinar
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Isabel Muñoz, Istanbul,
Turquie, from the Mevlevî
series, 2008 © Isabel Muñoz
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Repetition of circular **shapes** - spiralling from the centre - and the striking **contrast** of **colour** against the black background holds our attention and leads our eye around the image.



Gentle transition between **tones** of red create a sense of **movement**

Isabel Muñoz, Istanbul, Turquie, from the Mevlevî series, 2008 © Isabel Muñoz KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017

Subject matter

1. Understand

Subject matter: the objects or imagery used to convey the subject and meaning of an artwork



© Thierry Bouët



© Tadashi Ono



© Robert Capa / Magnum Photos

Subject matter

2. Observe & analyse

Take some time to observe the objects used in the photograph. Look around the whole image and observe other details.

- What is the main subject matter the artist has chosen to use?
- Is it in close detail or far away?
- How have they chosen to position the main objects in the photograph? Is there emphasis on a particular focal point or is the focus more general?
- What do you think the artist want us to know or think about when we view this work? (meaning, interpretation)

Subject matter

3. Create

Give each student a subject/concept (home, food, travel, family, outside, inside, nature, growth, etc.).

Select subject matter that will convey that concept and take 5 different photographs.

- Think about composition, perspective and how you apply the elements and principles of art.
- Think about the focal point of each image. Where do you want the viewer's eye to be drawn?
- Look for details, get closer and closer to capture your subject matter in different ways.

Subject matter

4. Evaluate

Sit with 2 or 3 other people and share the photographs you have taken.

- Look at the subject matter of the photographs: what theme/concept do you think the photographer was exploring?
- How have *composition, perspective*, and the *elements and principles of art* been used to help convey meaning or feeling in the photographs?
- Has the theme/subject been conveyed clearly? What could be done to improve the photographs?

Final discussion

- What makes a successful photograph?
- Choose 3 photographs that are the most successful and discuss the characteristics that make them the strongest.

The same theme can be expressed using different **subject matter**.



Thierry Bouët, Boy - 25 minutes old., 2008
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Subjects, themes:

- Life
- growth
- Hope

What other **subject matter** could be used by an artist to show these themes?



Robert Mapplethorpe, Tulip, 1984

© Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation. Used by permission.
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Untitled 2012

© Rinko Kawauchi (Nature in Tokyo)
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014



From the 247th to 341st Day, Tohoku © Tadashi Ono
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013

What is the **subject** ?

Subjects: **destruction, human impact, nature and man-made**



Chris Jordan, Unaltered stomach contents of a Laysan albatross fledgling, Midway Island, 2009. KYOTOGRAPHIE 2015



19 August 1993 Mihama fukui Pref. © Taishi Hirokawa
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014

What **subject matter** have the artists used to show these themes?



Royal White Tiger (2012) © Tim Flach.
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014

What is the **subject** ?

Subjects, themes: The animal kingdom, power and vulnerability, connection, portraiture



Ya Yun, a giant panda from western China
© Tim Flach. KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014



Série Primates, 2015
La Vallée des Singes, Romagne, France © Isabel Muñoz
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017

What is the subject or theme of this photograph?



Chris Steele-Perkins, *Refugees in the desert, Jordan, 1990*
The Sha-alaan One camp, is the worst camp. They have orderly food lines with thousands of refugees waiting calmly for food distribution from the “Charitas” charity organization.
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Subjects: Exile, refugees, immigration, misery

What **subject matter** have the artists used here to show the same theme?



Civilians returning home, Pont L'Abbé, France, June 15th, 1944
© Robert Capa / International Center of Photography /
Magnum Photos. KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016



Immigrants emerge from the camp for another attempt to cross the Channel and enter in Britain illegally. Sangatte, France, February 29th, 2001
© Patrick Zachmann / Magnum Photos . KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017 School Competition

The KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival is held every year, over four weeks during spring in Kyoto.

In 2017, the theme is **LOVE**.

Exhibitions are held all over the city. Hosted in various traditional and modern spaces. KYOTOGRAPHIE brings people together of all ages, cultures and backgrounds through photography.

KYOTOGRAPHIE would like to include your unique perspective of our city and culture in the festival. Through this competition we hope you can express your creativity and individuality!

What does LOVE mean to you?

Love is the emotion that binds all of us.

Love signifies caring, faithfulness, devotion and hope.

Love comes in all shapes and forms.

Love can be our feelings for others: a friend, a parent, a sibling, or a pet.

Love can also explain our devotion to our country or culture. It can be a passion for a place or an activity.

Lets take your own photograph !

Explore your own interpretation of this powerful emotion in a photograph.

Suggested approaches:

- What I love - who I love - how I love
- Love & Peace, Love & Tolerance, Love & Difference, Love & War, Love & Family, Love & Hate
- Love of Place, Love of Nature, Love of Country, Love of Culture

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